

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Camp Creek School, Otoe County District ^{No.} #54
and/or common Camp Creek School, Otoe County District #54

2. Location

SE of Nebraska City on SR 3

street & number Nebraska City, Nebraska Rural Route 3 — not for publication
city, town Nebraska City *vic.* vicinity of congressional district First
state Nebraska code 31 county Otoe code 131

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name School District #54
street & number Rural Route 3
city, town Nebraska City — vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Otoe County Courthouse
street & number _____
city, town Nebraska City state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ federal state county local
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Facing south onto 8-Mile Road, which runs east from Highway 73 & 75, the Camp Creek School is a one-story rectangular building of soft red brick, with three windows on the east and west sides, and a single brick chimney at the rear. It has a belfry containing a bell on the south end of the gable roof. A frame vestibule on the south contains a single door above which is a transom light.

The original woodshed has been removed from the rear of the building, probably in 1915, when a basement was dug out. The cellar entrance is from an outside door near the center of the east side of the building. At that time a pipeless wood/coal furnace was placed in the basement, where fuel was also stored. Between 1922 and 1924 a coat of stucco was applied over the bricks, which were deteriorating. Possibly at that time the ornamental top and edge of the belfry was removed and its roof replaced.

About 1935 a cistern was dug to contain water hauled from Nebraska City and a pitcher pump was installed in the building. Previously, water was carried in pails from the parsonage across the road. In 1975 indoor toilets were installed, replacing the two outdoor privies. From that time on Rural Water District #1 of Otoe County has supplied the water. The old wood/coal furnace has been replaced with an oil burner, recently converted to propane. The propane tank stands on the west side of the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870-1875 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Otoe County District #54, one of the few surviving one-room schools in Nebraska, is a link to the territorial beginnings of our state. Its long history illustrates the hardships and struggles of the pioneers and their determination to sacrifice to give their children better opportunities than had been theirs back in the eastern states from which they poured in as the land was opened up to settlement.

The school was the first home of the church around which developed the Camp Creek community grouped about a Congregational church and the Camp Creek Cemetery. The church is no more, a victim of the automobile and the Depression of the 1930's. The school house is still in use, but it will soon close and the district be dissolved because of declining enrollment in this day when the small family farm, too, is passing.

The second building of the Camp Creek School was a source of community pride, its neat red brick structure harmonizing with the style of the church a mile directly west, and meeting the recommendations of the county superintendent for suitable accommodations in which to educate the youth. In the early days, too, it was a community gathering place for spell-downs, amateur dramatics, box suppers, and other forms of simple and wholesome entertainment.

The building has been kept in repair and has been remodeled to meet changing concepts of the needs of teachers and students, but the essential structure remains, sturdy and useful as ever, after more than a century of service. Its history should not be forgotten by those who inherit the land which our forefathers developed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 18 sq. rods, 2 1/8 acres

Quadrangle name Julian, Nebr., Mo., Iowa angle scale 1:24000

UMT References

ITEM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A

1	5	2	6	1	9	5	0	4	4	9	2	6	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Extreme southwest corner (2 1/8 acres) of SE 1/4, Section 23, Township 7 North, Range 14 East.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rosalie L. Fuller, Retired Professor of English

organization date April, 1980

street & number 2811 S Street telephone 477-3034

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Merrin W. Knecht

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Luce date 6/5/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: William A. Brubaker date 6-9-80
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

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