

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 14 1985
date entered SEP 12 1985

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

1. Name

historic Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Multiple (see individual inventory forms) N/A not for publication

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of

state Idaho code 016 county Kootenai code 055

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see individual inventory forms)

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kootenai County Courthouse

street & number 501 Government Way

city, town Coeur d'Alene state Idaho 83814

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

See individual inventory forms.

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The buildings nominated for the Kootenai County Rural Schoolhouse thematic group include all National Register-eligible buildings in Kootenai County that served as schools in primarily rural communities from about the turn of the twentieth century to about 1935, when school district consolidation caused the abandonment of many schools.

Aside from their principal use as places of educational instruction, the buildings in the thematic group often served as their communities' social hall, and voting places and sometimes as places of worship. Along with the Kootenai County Courthouse, the schoolhouses nominated for the thematic group were the most important and frequently visited public buildings in the county.

Another characteristic shared by buildings in the thematic group is their close association with the initial settlement and early development of the communities they served. Those communities were scattered and sparsely settled logging and agricultural settlements begun during the late 1870's. Four of the schoolhouses in the group--McGuires, Upper Twin Lakes, Cedar Mountain, and Cave Lake--were evidently the first formal school buildings erected in their districts. They are referred to in this nomination as "first generation schoolhouses." Each of the other ten buildings in the thematic group was apparently preceded by one earlier school building. These ten buildings are referred to as "second-generation schoolhouses" and are designated by the Roman numeral "II" following their names.

The fourteen nominated buildings also share a third characteristic. They are examples of the variation in architectural styles, levels of workmanship, and choice of building materials during the period in which they were built and in service.

Each of the fourteen buildings in the thematic group has a distinct architectural identity. In addition, the rural schoolhouses share a number of physical characteristics.

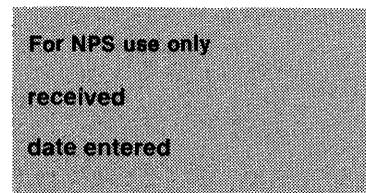
Five of the buildings are quite small, comprising 900 square feet of floor space or less; four of the buildings are medium sized, ranging from 950 to 1500 square feet. All of the small schools and most of the medium sized ones have one room. Five of the buildings are relatively large, from 2,000 to 3,000 square feet.

All of the buildings are essentially rectangular in plan. Three have entry wings projecting outward from the front elevation, one is essentially square in plan, and two others are square with wings. Most of the schools are gable-fronted.

All but one of the schoolhouses are one-story buildings; of these, three have additional floor space in a raised basement. Pleasant View School (II) is the only two-story building in the thematic group. Although it was not possible to inspect the interior of all buildings in the thematic group, of the ten for which information was obtained, six had but one classroom, two had two classrooms, one had three, and another had five classrooms. Over half of the schoolhouses have one form or another of a partitioned entry hall where the pupils' cloaks were hung and a water bucket was often kept.

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KOOTENAI COUNTY RURAL SCHOOLS THEMATIC GROUP OWNER'S LIST:

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Owner</u>
East Hayden Lake School	South side of Hayden Lake Road about one mile northwest of the intersection of Hayden Lake Road and Mokins Drive Road in T51N, R3W, Section 11, Lot 3.	Lubertus Vanderbilt Route 2, Box 274 Hayden Lake, ID 838345
Cedar Mountain School	Northwest corner of Parks Road and Lewellyn Creek Road in T53N, R3W, Section 4.	Lakes Highway District Box 669 Hayden Lake, ID 83835
Bayview School	South side of Careywood Road, about 1/2 mile west of Scenic Bay Bay in T54N, R2W.B.M., Section 34	Bayview Fire Protection District Bayview, ID 83810
Prairie School	South side of Prairie Ave., about 1/2 mile east of Meyer Road in the NE 1/4 Section 29, T51N, R4W	George L. Wood 6700 East Post Falls, ID 83854
Rose Lake School	Northwest corner of Queen Street and Highway 3, Rose Lake, Block 3.	Kootenai School District #274 Harrison, ID 83833
Lane School	East of the intersection of Lanz Road and State Highway 3, in Block D, Grimm's Addition to Lane, Idaho.	Runge Furniture Company 303 Spokane Avenue Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Pleasant View School	South side of Pleasant View Road, about 1/3 mile east of Carpenter, Idaho, in Tax 9025, SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 7, T50N, R5W.B.M.	Pleasant View Community Association 4725 W. Riverview Drive Post Falls, ID 83854
Cave Lake School	North side of State Highway 3, at the intersection with Willow Creek Road in Lot 2, Section 4, T47N, R2W.	Alfred D. Whalen Route 2 St. Maries, ID 83861

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Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group Owner's List (continued):

Indian Springs School	East side of State Highway 3. about 1/2 mile north of Rosewood Drive in the SW 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 17, T47N, R2W.B.M.	Kootenai School District #274 Harrison, ID 83833 AND Heirs of Knut Huseby c/o James T. Knudson 816 Sherman Avenue Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Lower Carlin Bay School	North side of Carlin Creek Road, about 1/4 mile east of Highway 95 A in Section 32, T49N, R3W	Denzel Watson E. 3795 Primrose Lane Post Falls, ID 83854
McGuires School	Approximately 200 feet north of the NW corner of Corbin Road and Old Highway 10 in Lot 29, Green- acres Plat.	John L. O'Neill, et. al. 1801 Manitou Boise, ID 83706
Cougar Gulch School	Southeast side of Cougar Gulch Road, about 1/2 mile west of Miller Road in the W 1/4 E 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 35, T50N, R5W.	Bruce M. Blackburn, etux. 9900 W. Cougar Gulch Road Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Bellgrove School	East side of Hamaker Road, about 1/4 mile north of Rockford Bay Road in the NE 1/4 of Section 1, T48N, R5W.	Belgrove Grange #369 Ed Joy, Treasurer Star Route Coeur D'Alene, ID 83814
Upper Twin Lakes School	North side of Twin Lakes Road, about 1/4 mile east of the west boundary line of Section 36, T53N, R4W; Lots 16 and 17, Lake Park Acres Tracts (SW 1/4).	Lakeland School District Rathdrum, ID 83858

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Patterns of window design and location vary among the buildings, but multiple windows are found on at least one wall of virtually all the schoolhouses.

Floor plans and use of space within the buildings also vary. Some of the schools had rudimentary cooking facilities, presumably so that hot lunches could be prepared for the school children. Some school buildings included private living quarters for the teachers, while others had detached teacherages. (No extant teacherages were identified in the survey.) It was also common for the teacher to board with a nearby family. In one one-room schoolhouse that no longer stands, a teacher reportedly converted the cloakroom into a bedroom and kitchen and adopted part of the classroom as her personal living room. There were only a few children attending the school at the time.

In the small- and medium-size schools, heating was usually provided by a free-standing wood stove, of which all but one in the thematic group were vented through interior brick chimneys. (Annual firewood supplies were usually acquired through contracts let by the local school district. Either the teacher or a pupil [who was paid a small sum to set the morning fire, haul water, and perform other custodial chores] got the stove going on cold mornings.) Some of the larger schools were heated by proper wood furnaces.

Indoor plumbing was uncommon, especially in the earlier period, and several of the schools still have associated outhouses. Water was obtained and stored in various ways. Wooden water buckets were filled at nearby springs, wells, or creeks. Some school sites in the countywide survey included masonry cisterns.

Thirteen of the schoolhouses are wood frame. The fourteenth school is a unique combination of concrete block, red brick, cement block covered with stucco, and poured cement. All but two of the frame buildings are sheathed with wood clapboard or shiplap siding; East Hayden Lake School (II) is covered with board and batten, and the McGuires school is faced with cobblestone. Three of the shiplap-sided buildings have gable ends finished with wood shingles. The use of wood frame construction is also typical of the ineligible and no-longer-extant schools studied; of those, only one brick school was found.

Half of the buildings in the thematic group, including all of the small and half of the medium-size schoolhouses, have gable roofs. The larger schools have either pyramidal or ridged hip roofs. Probably all of the roofs were originally covered with wood shingles; now half have been resurfaced with metal roofing and the others have asphalt shingles, wood shingles, or asphalt roll roofing.

Although the roof-top belfry is more frequently associated with the one-room schoolhouse is than any other design feature, only four of the buildings--all large schools--have them today. Judging from historical sources, a few other buildings originally had belfrys. More than half of the buildings in the thematic group have unadorned roofs.

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The schoolhouses in the thematic group fit into two general stylistic modes. One group, here termed "expressively designed," comprises schoolhouses that seem to reflect a conscious effort at aesthetic expression. Examples of such expressively designed buildings include those with features that are characteristic of a formal architectural style, such as the bungalow and Colonial Revival features of Rose Lake School (II). Eight of the fourteen schoolhouses in the thematic group incorporate various aesthetically expressive design features, including architectural elements commonly associated with the Romanesque, bungalow, and Colonial Revival styles.

Six of the smaller buildings in the thematic group suggest less of a conscious effort at aesthetic expression. This latter group is referred to as "utilitarian" because of the buildings' comparative economy in design and construction. Unlike the expressively designed buildings, which reflect a preference for aesthetic detail over economy, the utilitarian schoolhouses reflect a concern for providing shelter efficiently. Characteristics of these vernacular schools include: uniform window openings; the comparative absence of stylistic detail; simple gable roofs that are easy to build and shed water and snow efficiently; and the use of building materials that are structurally effective, inexpensive, and readily available and that do not require the skills and tools of a highly trained craftsman.

Although utilitarian design as defined above is largely a result of the designer/builder's (or owner's) attempt to simplify construction and minimize cost, it may also--to a lesser extent--reflect the existence of a local tradition of what a schoolhouse is supposed to look like. The importance of vernacular tastes in the design of these utilitarian buildings was probably limited, however, given the relative newness of the communities they served and the diverse cultural backgrounds of their respective populations. Additional research is required before this question can be satisfactorily answered.

Unlike the more expressively designed buildings that exhibit a diversity of architectural styles, the six utilitarian schoolhouses are remarkably uniform in scale, proportion, massing, and materials. Their strong similarities help define the Kootenai County example of the rural, one-room schoolhouse: a wood-frame, one-story, gable-front, rectangular structure with wooden shiplap siding and a steep wood-shingled gable roof. Square footage ranges from about 450 to 1,150 square feet. The typical school lacks a belfry and is in some cases without an entry porch and/or porch cover. The size of window openings is consistent, and windows are grouped to cover a large portion of at least one wall.

This rural school survey was conducted by David Osterberg, Kootenai County Historic Preservation Officer, from the summer of 1984 through the spring of 1985. The initial research objective was to establish an historical and architectural context for evaluating extant rural schoolhouses. This was done by identifying all structures that were used for public education in rural Kootenai County from the period of initial settlement in the 1870's through at least 1935.

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Information was collected from a variety of sources, including historical maps, tract indexes and deeds, county assessor's lists of rural school locations, contemporary newspaper accounts, historical narratives, and informant interviews. The initial research resulted in the identification of 131 different buildings, demolished and existing, that were used for school purposes during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first third of the twentieth century.

After as many of the historic schoolhouses as possible were identified, various types of descriptive information were gathered for each, including building location; dates of construction, use, and discontinuation; building alterations and additions; plan and dimensions; wall construction and siding materials; and roof design and construction materials. Principal sources of descriptive information included physical inspection of surviving schoolhouses and, for the schoolhouses that no longer exist, historic photographs, contemporary newspaper accounts, historical narratives, and informant interviews. The descriptive information was compiled on site forms, copies of which have been placed on file at the Idaho State Historical Society.

One concern of the school survey was to insure that the buildings selected for nomination were as geographically representative as possible. As the distribution chart illustrates, at least one schoolhouse was nominated from ten of the thirteen county study units, suggesting a fairly high level of geographical representation.

Representation of architectural styles and types was another major concern of the survey. That concern was more difficult to assess because it was not possible to acquire a full physical description of all 131 buildings once extant in the county. Depending on the category of architectural information sought--e.g., plan, style, construction--information was obtained for only 50% to 85% of the buildings identified. However, insofar as the information obtained about the 131 buildings does represent an accurate architectural context to which the 14 nominated buildings can be compared, the design characteristics of the nominated buildings appear to be fairly representative of the schoolhouse group as a whole. The principal exceptions include two types of buildings. First, the nominated group includes comparatively more of the larger and expressively designed school buildings and relatively fewer of the small one-room schoolhouses. Second, despite the surveyor's conscious effort to locate surviving examples of the first-generation log schoolhouse, none could be found.

As noted above, of the 131 school buildings identified in the countywide survey, 28 were still standing at the time of the survey. Thirteen of these buildings were eliminated from National Register consideration because of alterations, additions, or a move to an inappropriate site. One additional building was judged ineligible for a different reason: in the course of the survey it was discovered to have been built to serve as a store and only later served as a school building for a short period of time after the village schoolhouse had burned.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1907 - ca. 1935 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The buildings included in the Kootenai County Rural Schools thematic group are significant for their historic associations with education and community life during the initial settlement period of rural Kootenai County. They also offer a variety of perspectives on the conditions of early twentieth-century rural education. Finally, the school buildings are significant for the tangible information they yield about rural schoolhouse design and construction during the period of their use.

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The buildings included in the rural schoolhouse thematic group are significant principally for their representation of the styles and types of buildings that were created for formal educational instruction in rural Kootenai County during the first third of the twentieth century.

Eight of the buildings in the group offer examples of local interpretations of formal architectural styles, including Colonial Revival, Romanesque, and bungalow; six other buildings in the thematic group are representative of local variations on the vernacular one-room schoolhouse.

The buildings are also significant as examples of the variety of materials and type of construction used for rural schoolhouses in Kootenai County, including a preponderance of wood frame but also brick, concrete, and cobblestone. Other architectural information yielded by these buildings includes variations in fenestration, roof design, height, floor space, and plan.

After about the mid-1930's, changes in county educational policies led to the consolidation of rural classroom instruction into larger and better equipped school buildings in the major towns of Kootenai County. As a result, rural schooling was gradually discontinued over about a thirty-year period and new rural schoolhouses ceased to be built. The schoolhouses included in the thematic group are additionally significant, therefore, as surviving examples of a type and style of school building that has not been built for the past fifty years and is not likely to be revived in the foreseeable future.

In addition to their rural and often isolated locations, these buildings are also significant for the information they yield about the conditions of rural education in early twentieth-century Kootenai County, including the comparative predominance of single, multi-graded classrooms, live-in teachers, few hot lunch facilities, little in the way of educational equipment or formal athletic grounds, and the typical absence of indoor plumbing, electric lighting, and thermostatically regulated climate control.

Aside from their significance as places of instruction, the schoolhouses are also united by a secondary theme of significance: their close association with community events during the initial period of white settlement in rural Kootenai County.

Most of the buildings in the thematic group--eleven of fourteen--were erected during the initial quarter century of white settlement of their respective communities. Owing to a variety of circumstances characteristic of homestead existence, including geographic remoteness and the difficulties of travel, the early rural community residents tended to conduct much of their social and civic activity at the local level, with the schoolhouse frequently serving as the community social hall, and voting places, and sometimes as a place of worship, weddings, and funerals.¹

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For some rural communities the Christmas program in the schoolhouse was the premier social event of the year, drawing families from miles around;² in one, the schoolhouse dance reportedly afforded valued opportunities for the denizens of nearby lumber camps to mix with the homestead families.³ Even after consolidation and the discontinuation of rural classroom instruction, a number of the schoolhouses continued to be used as the local Grange Hall, Farmers Union building, or community center.

In all, the rural schoolhouses commonly served "as the glue that held the communities together"⁴ and, along with the county courthouse, were probably the most important and frequently visited public buildings in the rural county residents' lives.

¹Olive Merritt Edmister. "Hoo Doo Valley" in The Way We Were: A History of Early Schools in Idaho, (Idaho Falls: Idaho Falls Chapter of the Retired Teachers' Association, 1976), p. 62.

²Alice Carnie, "Happiness is . . ." in Ibid., p. 58; Nancy Mae Anderson, "They were Different and Yet the Same," in Ibid., p. 65.

³Thelma Fitzsimmons Wilson, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, telephone conversation with David Osterberg, January 9, 1985. Notes on conversation on file in Idaho Historic Sites Inventory, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise.

⁴Louis Anderson, "The Little Red School House" in The Way We Were: A History of Early Schools in Idaho, p. 57.

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DISTRIBUTION CHART OF SCHOOLS SELECTED FOR NOMINATION

Study unit	Schools in county-wide survey	Schools still extant	Schools nominated to National Register
Prairie			
West	15	2	2
East	14	5	1
North	9	2	2
Central	11	5	2
Eastlake			
Upper	7	1	0
Central	7	1	1
Lower	7	2	1
Coeur d'Alene River			
Upper	12	3	1
Central	9	2	2
Lower	8	0	0
Westlake			
Upper	9	3	1
Central	15	2	1
Lower	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0*</u>
Totals	131	29	14

*the only school extant in the Lower Westlake study unit is moved and radically altered.

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"Kootenai County School Locations." Copy of file, Recorder's office, Kootenai County Courthouse, Coeur d'Alene, n.d.

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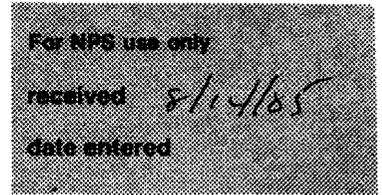
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Workman, Cathleen. "Schools Were Unifying Force Here." The Harrison Searchlight, July 1972, pp. 11-13.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Kootenai County Rural Schools Thematic Resources
State IDAHO

Cover _____ 9/12/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Bayview School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

2. Bellgrove School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

3. Cave Lake School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

4. Cedar Mountain School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

5. Cougar Gulch School III

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

6. East Hayden Lake School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

7. Indian Springs School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

8. Lane School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

9. McGuires School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

Attest

10. Pleasant View School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/12/85

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Name Kootenai County Rural Schools Thematic Resources
State IDAHO

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Prairie School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/12/85

Attest

12. Rose Lake School II

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/12/85

Attest

13. Upper Twin Lakes School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/12/85

Attest

14. Lower Carlin Bay School II ~~Submitted May 1985~~

~~Submitted May 1985~~

~~for Keeper~~
for Keeper

William B. Bushroy 7/24/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

15.

Keeper

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest