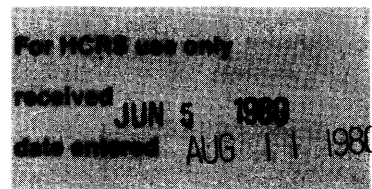


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 SILVER CREEK SCHOOL

and/or common COLLEGE PLACE SCHOOL or "LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE"

**2. Location**

street & number Sierra Road East (just East of Interstate #15) — not for publication

city, town Helena  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Western

state Montana code 30 county Lewis and Clark code 049

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

**4. Owner of Property**

name Helena School District #1

street & number 7 Allen Street

city, town Helena \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lewis and Clark County Courthouse

street & number North Ewing Street

city, town Helena \_\_\_\_\_ state Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Helena Abstract and Title Co. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October 22, 1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Helena \_\_\_\_\_ state Montana

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site

moved date February 17, 1980

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The little school is centered in the left half of the five acre parcel of land. The original brick-veneer building, built in 1888, measures 50' x 42'. A kitchen and 1 room addition were added in the 1920's. The main structure is basically the same as the time of it's construction. The belfry for the bell is gone, however, the original bell is in our possession and the belfry will be duplicated. The entrance was changed from the original plan - the original plan had the entrances directly into the boys and girls cloak rooms. The present entrance is into the teachers kitchen (between the cloak rooms). We hope to change it back to the original plan.

The school is located three miles North of Helena in a central valley location, accessible to all areas of the valley. It has been a popular location through past years for families and organizations for picnics, meeting and dances.

The school building appears to be in stable condition. The rock foundation needs some reinforcement, the roof needs shingles replaced and the rafters need reinforcement. The roof lines are good, the walls are straight, the floors are level and the building is solid. It needs paint, wiring and some doors and windows replaced.

The building has not been kept in repair for the past 40 years. It was used by the community up until 15 years ago when the electrical wiring and the water pump went bad.

The time has come for decision whether to let it deteriorate or restore it while it is still possible.

# 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/ 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"/> 1900-1920	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Community Gathering
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

<b>Specific dates</b>	<b>Builder/Architect</b>
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

During the last decade of the 19th century and the first twenty years of the 20th century, the Little Red School House served the overall community needs of the rural Helena Valley, which was at that time far removed, both physically and socially from the town life of Helena, three miles away. It served not only the educational needs of the farming families many miles around, it also was the prime community gathering spot serving as meeting hall, dance hall, picnic center and more. In short, the Little Red School House was the focal point of the wide-spread agricultural community that surrounded it. Today, the area daily becomes more suburban in nature, and is rapidly losing contact with it's agrarian roots. Preservation of the Little Red School House can help restore the feeling of community of those turn of the century days, as it once again serves as a social and historical focal point.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Lewis and Clark County Superintendent of Schools files.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Helena Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

**UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

A 

1	2	4	2	9	2	0	5	1	6	7	7	0	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:** The property nominated is a rectangular lot 246' x 578'. The West line 246' lies parallel with the frontage road which lies parallel with Interstate Highway #15. The North line 578' lies parallel with Sierra Road East. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5 T. 10N. R. 3W.

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

state	code	county	code
None			
None			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Floy E. Peterson, Secretary Treasurer

organization Little Red School House, Inc.

date February 17, 1980

street & number 8866 Douglas Circle

telephone 458 9249

city or town Helena

state Montana

# 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 *[Signature]*

title *[Signature]* SHPO

date 5-29-80

For HCRS use only

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

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *[Signature]*

5/10/80

10/1/80