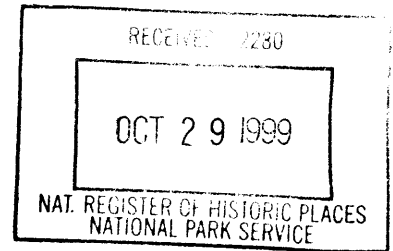


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1435



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Galena School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Block 13 Lots 1-5 Bryan Placer #913 Not for publication N/A

city or town Galena Vicinity N/A

state South Dakota Code SD county Lawrence code 081 zip code 57732

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

10-04-99
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register.
 other,
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall
Date of Action: 11/30/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Schools in South Dakota

Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota 1929-1941

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: _____
Recreation Meeting Hall
Culture Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete and Stone
Roof Wood Shake
Walls Wood: Weatherboard
Other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant Contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a Significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____
Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1882 to 1942 _____

Significant Dates 1882
 1942

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Built by W. V. Doyle.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- Designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (old school records, school board minutes, pictures)

Name of repository: Galena Historical Society Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre.

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>607938</u>	<u>4909025</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ross Wright/ Historic Preservation Intern
organization South Dakota State Historical Society Date June 15, 1999
street & number 900 Governors Drive Telephone (605)773-6001
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Galena Historical Society
street & number HCR 73 Box 535 telephone 605-578-1365
city or town Deadwood state SD zip code 57732

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

The Galena Schoolhouse sits on the hillside above the old silver and gold mining camp of Galena. Classes were held here continuously from 1882 to 1942 and the building has withstood the many ups and downs of this small community. At one time Galena had between 1,000-2,000 residents but today there are only 23 people living there year round. The Galena Schoolhouse has changed very little since it was built in 1882 to serve as the first school in Galena. The desks, books, blackboards, piano, organ, and pictures of Washington, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt remain as they were left in 1942.

The dimensions of the building are 24'10" by 40'8". The white clapboard sided building faces east and an open porch covering the front door and entryway was added in 1914. This porch has a gabled roof and there is simple supportive gable trim underneath it. The plain milled posts supporting the porch and stairs are covered with cedar shakes. A photo of the class of 1908 shows the original set of stairs coming from the front of the building while a photo of the 1912-1913 school year shows the stairs have been changed to their present location running off to each side. Vertical railings, vertical board, and batten skirting were also decorative elements on the porch. The rails and skirting rotted, were removed in sections, and are presently located in the school. Plans are to have duplicate railings made modeled after those stored in the school.

The original foundation is made of fieldstone and milled beams. It is approximately five feet tall and the stonework can still be seen from inside the unfinished basement. Some stabilization work had been completed sometime in the 1970's and extensive supportive concrete work with beam addition was done in 1992. A small south elevation entrance to the basement was reinforced and repaired at this time as well. A small shingled awning was placed over this entrance to help with drainage complications on the west elevation of the building's foundation.

The west and east elevation of the school each have three, two-over-two, double hung windows. Corner boards and fascia are made of plain milled boards and have no molding. There is a 6-½ feet long transom window divided into two panes above the double front door. The roof is a single front gable with cedar shakes and there is some gingerbread gable trim under the rafters. The north elevation of the school has no windows and is clapboard sided.

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The ceilings are approximately 14 feet high. There are cloak rooms at the entrance off to each side measuring 9 feet deep by 7 ½ feet wide. The remaining area is classroom space with a 6 foot deep elevated rostrum area in the front which was used for the teacher's desk. This area was also used as a stage and was wired for two flood bulbs. Interior windows, doors, and blackboards have fairly decorative moulding. All of the window and door surrounds are made of plain milled boards. There is 2 ¼" tongue and groove hardwood flooring throughout. The lower three feet of the interior walls have wide wainscoting, the next six feet have narrow wainscoting, and the remaining five feet of interior and the ceilings are lath and plaster. New blackboards were purchased for the school in 1914. The blackboards are four feet high and are located in the front of the classroom as well as on the sides. One special feature of the building is its flagpole that has stood watch over the school since 1914.

Very few changes have been made to this building over the years. The building was wired for electricity in the late twenties however there is currently no power in the schoolhouse. There is an ornate bell tower which was re-shingled and repaired in 1988. Signs reading 1882 and District No. 9 are located above the front porch underneath the gable. There was an original chimney just behind the bell tower along the roof's ridge line that branched off in two directions within the attic. This chimney joined at the vertex of the roof and then protruded out from the attic space forming an "upside-down Y" shape. Workers in 1988 found it to be unstable and disassembled it. A second chimney went up the southwest side of the building and had also deteriorated and was removed sometime after 1988.

There are two outhouses behind the school and they are identical to others in town built by the WPA. The design of each outhouse is typical of those found adjoining similar schoolhouses, but on the front side of each structure there is one small square window typical of outhouses constructed by the WPA. The girls' outhouse was extensively repaired by the Galena Historical Society in 1988. The boys' outhouse is on its side and is in need of a lot of work.

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Statement of Significance

The Galena School is significant under Criteria A and C. The important role the building played in the educational activities for the community falls under Criterion A. The school falls under Criterion C because it is a highly intact example of a late Victorian schoolhouse in South Dakota. The property falls under State Context IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement E. Government and Education Related Activities. The context for the significance of the Galena School can be found in the "Schools in South Dakota" multiple property documentation form.

The rectangular one-room schoolhouse is located on a wooded hillside on the south end of this silver and gold mining boomtown. The building was used continuously as a school from 1882 until the spring of 1942, when Galena's population dropped off dramatically due to diminishing deposits of gold and the inevitable mine closures that followed. According to school board minutes from 1882 the Galena School was at the time "one of the finest as well as one of the most substantial buildings in the country." The Galena Historical Society owns and maintains the building as an example of an early-day one-room schoolhouse. The Galena Schoolhouse is used today as a meeting place for Galena community residents and also serves its original purpose as a classroom for local Deadwood 5th graders for two days out of the year as they study the time period of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The year 1876 was an important one for the Black Hills of South Dakota because it marked one of the many gold rushes on the new American frontier. The biggest of these gold rushes occurred in California during 1848 and 1849. In 1864 prospectors passed by the overlooked Black Hills and went to Idaho in search of fortune. In 1874, General George Custer lead an expedition of wagons, military men, Indian scouts, cattle, a marching band, and two prospectors into the Black Hills. Custer's two prospectors discovered gold and the party returned to Ft. Abraham Lincoln in North Dakota with the news. A few prospectors returned in 1875 and the first claims in Galena appeared in that same year. The gold rush began in 1876 when the U.S. Government declared the Black Hills open to the white man.

Galena was named for the ore, lead sulfide, which was known to contain a good quality of silver and was plentiful in the area. Galena gulch is located in the Cambrian formation and is surrounded by forested hills with Bear Butte Creek meandering through the town along Main Street. Patented placer mines covered the creek areas found below the schoolhouse by 1878. The school is located in its original location on the Bryan Placer, Mineral Survey #913, town block #13, lots 1 through 5.

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The town consisted of mainly wood frame homes and some log buildings. There was an opera house in town that burned in 1880, a Methodist Church that was built in 1887, and a Catholic Church that was built in 1883. There were several saloons in town as well; some say as many as 13. Many of the miners lived in boarding houses. "In the summer of 1878, the first U.S. Mailbag in the keeping of the United States of America, arrived from Deadwood behind a tired group of oxen driven by Mr. N. Judson, the first mail carrier," (1). Galena had it's own newspaper for a time that operated under the name of the Union Hill Star. It is not known when exactly the paper began and ended, but the Galena Historical Society has in their possession a copy of the Union Hill Star from 1898.

As Galena grew, classes were held in DeLong's Hall and in an all purpose meeting hall located in Block 6 on Main Street which is no longer standing. School was also taught in a private residence for a while. The 1882 school board minutes read, "the last census of the district showed a total of 69 scholars over the previous enumerations. It is the design of the board to have from five to eight months of school this year taught by as good a teacher as can be procured." Also mentioned, "on the 11th day of April 1882, notice or advertisement for proposals of buildings were forwarded to the Deadwood Times with notice to publish for 30 days." Low bid was by W. V. Doyle, for \$1,135. Doyle's final bill was for an additional \$25 for "extra work" and an additional \$46.85 to pay for "fences and outbuildings."

The Galena Schoolhouse was dedicated September 26, 1882. The school itself is a 24'10" by 40'8" wood framed building with high ceilings and some bargeboard detailing. A dedication dinner and fundraiser was held in Brown's Hall with the 7th Calvary Band in attendance as well as the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Edwards. A sum of \$169.55 was collected at the dedication to go toward procuring a bell for the school. A 200-pound bell of "the very best metal" was purchased from a company in Troy, New York for the 1883 school year.

The Galena Historical Society has in its possession unpublished writings by former 1882 Galena school student, Seth Galvin. Much of the society's information about the school comes from his writings. Seth notes, "several school terms of the 80's and 90's were four to six months duration depending on the amount of school funds available for the district."

By 1883, over \$750,000 in silver was produced from the Richmond-Sitting Bull property located on the far (northeast) end of Galena. A court battle arose in 1883 that resulted in U.S. Supreme Court precedence known today as the Apex Law. Galena's Colonel Davey followed the vein he was working in his Sitting Bull

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Mine when he ran into some miners working the Richmond Mine. Many miners in Galena stopped working their claims and watched the case as it went to the Supreme Court. Mining was disrupted for 16 years and almost closed the town which in turn hurt school enrollment. This, however, was a milestone in mining law. "Thereafter, the law regarding vertical veins had to be modified to allow for the other means of legal boundaries for mines in which the veins followed an horizontal lead. Galena silver mines would be known for all times as the first great court battle to protect the owners of horizontal mineral veins," (2).

Galena School's enrollment always hinged on the success of the mines and therefore was always in a constant state of fluctuation. In 1895 the school had 13 students while in 1907 it had 57 students. A rough estimate of the average enrollment for the school from 1893-1940 is approximately 29 students.

According to the Belt Cities Directory of 1908-1909, which was a compilation of all of the businesses, professional firms, private citizens, city officials, churches, and secret societies arranged in alphabetical order throughout the Lawrence County area, Galena had 59 residents. This count excluded nearly all women and children. The directory also states that Miss Claudia Fagan was the teacher at the Galena Schoolhouse during that time.

The railroad came to Galena in 1902. At this time, Galena was booming again with its Union Hill Mining Group. The Burlington and Missouri Railroad extended its Deadwood Central rails into Galena in 1902. Union Hill and other mines made it feasible to bring in the railroad. Union Hill folded shortly after the railroad came to town, but other mines started up and the Galena spur kept going. Most of the mines folded by 1921, and in 1927 the seven miles of track were abandoned. It took three years to take up the entire track. The Burlington and Missouri track followed Bear Butte Creek from Galena Junction (Wild Bill's Campground) to Galena. The track was across Main Street and on the other side of the creek from the school. It was clearly visible from the schoolhouse.

One of the largest mining operators in the Galena District was the Branch Mint Mining Company with over 200 claims, a 20 stamp mill, and their own narrow-gauge railroad that ran from the mine to the mill. The mill was located at the far end of town near the Richmond-Sitting Bull property. The track followed Main Street on the side opposite the Burlington track, crossed Ruby Gulch just northwest of the school, ran on the hillside behind the school, then crossed a very high trestle a little further on at Terrible Gulch. The tracks then made their way up the hill to Hoodoo Mine and other Branch Mint properties. The Branch Mint was the hope of Galena for a time; the company put large sums of money into its development. However, the mining

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company went into receivership in 1912. The mine ran for a very short period of time but mineral deposits soon dried up along with the town and the school's students.

A few other operations kept the town going for several more years. The Gilt Edge, located about a mile west of town (just beyond the Hoodoo), operated fairly steadily from 1900-1901, 1905-1916, and again from 1937-41. The Richmond-Sitting Bull (later named the Double Rainbow) built a flotation plant in 1938 which was unsuccessful. The nearby Homestake mine in Lead, South Dakota returned to the Double Rainbow for a few years in the late 1960's. The Gilt Edge (Brohm Mining Company) is currently running heap leach operations on the old Gilt Edge and some Branch Mint holdings.

Lawsuits, the fall in silver prices, depression years, among other things caused this town to die. From 1937 to 1941, up to 70 men were employed at the Gilt Edge Mine, and many lived in Galena. There was an increase in student enrollment at the Galena School in 1940 when nearby Elk Creek School closed, however most people left town after the Gilt Edge Mine closed in 1941. When the Galena School closed in 1942, all of the students went to school at the Chicken Ranch (Wild Bill's Campground).

As the years slowly changed the town of Galena, the schoolhouse seemed to remain relatively untouched by time. Galvin wrote, "Still sits the schoolhouse by the road, a ragged beggar sunning. Much water has run under the bridge since those new school walls heard the song, 'There was an old man and his name was George the King, but our Uncle Sam bravely told him this thing. He would pay no tax on tea.'"

According to 94 year-old Wesley Groshong, a former student at the Galena schoolhouse from grades 1 through 8, "a high-powered salesman came around in 1913 and sold every school in the area a stove like the one the Galena School bought. It was about five feet high and four or five feet in diameter. It was coal burning and it was no good. We tried to burn wood in it a lot. It was located in the southwest corner of the schoolroom." The writing on the heating unit read: Favorite Underfeed Furnace, No. A731, Peck-Williamson, H & V Company. Wesley got \$15 a month as school janitor. Wesley added that there was a 60' well at the school, but "the water was bad so I hauled it from Ruby Creek; we had a ceramic crock with water valve, bubbler, on it." He worked at one of the mines in 1930; "there was electricity in town then." Wesley said, "Bill North and Charlie Feldhausen wired the school in 27 or 28." He added, "Galena was poor man's alley after the mines shut down."

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According to 79 year-old Clifford Sigdestad, a former student at Galena the furnace in the basement was installed during the 1930's after he left for high school. Both Clifford and Wesley said electricity was brought into town by the end of the 1920's primarily for the mines. Clifford said the WPA built the outhouses.

Most of the other old buildings were torn down as they became vacant. The Methodist Church steeple remains though it will probably not last much longer. Early in the 1940's the Catholic Church was torn down and its lumber was taken away and used for other buildings. Mrs. Harris Bentley has kept many school records over the years including the 1882 school-board minutes which were left in the school building after it closed. Mrs. Bentley had a special interest in the school. Her mother, Katie Doyle Harris taught two terms in Galena from 1883 to 1885. After Mrs. Bentley's death, Fred Borsch watched over the school. He was born in Galena in 1900 and died in 1981.

The Galena Schoolhouse is accustomed to getting attention. There have been attempts to move the school to Lead or Deadwood to make it into a museum and also attempts to buy the school for use as a summer home. Since the 1970's, the people of Galena have worked at maintaining the school and preserving it for future generations. The residents formed the Galena Historical Society, which is a group of citizens, former students, relatives of former students, and interested people dedicated to not only preserving the Galena Schoolhouse, but also the history of Galena as well. In 1997 the schoolhouse which was owned by the Lead-Deadwood school district was deeded to the Galena Historical Society.

For the last several years, the two Deadwood fifth grade classes each spent a school day at the Galena School in the fall. They tie their day in with books written by Laura Ingalls Wilder. While visiting the school the students dine on such foods as hard-boiled eggs and hardtack. The school building is a point of interest for many other local groups and tourists passing by as Black Hills State University classes and the Jeep Jamboree visit each year.

The Galena Schoolhouse is significant for a number of reasons. First, it is an excellent and intact example of a wood frame schoolhouse. Second, it has played an important educational role in the community of Galena and the surrounding area. Third, the Galena School is significant because it is the only remaining structure in Galena from its early founding. Fourth, the context for the significance of this school can be found in the "Schools in South Dakota" multiple property documentation form as well. Finally, the Galena schoolhouse was an important fixture of education over one hundred years ago and it continues that tradition today.

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References:

Belt Cities Directory of 1908-1909. Lead.

Handwritten memories of 1882 student, Seth Galvin

Fielder, Mildred. Silver is the Fortune. Aberdeen: North Plains Press Aberdeen, 1978.

_____. Railroads of the Black Hills. Superior Publishing Company-Seattle, 1960.

Johnson, A.I., Narrative. Silver, Past, and Future. No date given.

Klock, Irma. Yesterday's Gold Camps and Mines in the Northern Black Hills. Lead: Seaton Publishing Company, 1975.

Conversations with late family members and former students Rose North Borsch, Chester Borsch, Fred G. Borsch III, Wesley Groshong, and Clifford Sigdestad born and raised in Galena.

Old School records and school board minutes for Galena School in possession of Galena Historical Society. No date given.

Lawrence County Register of Deeds Office.

Galena School
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South Dakota
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A
(8-99)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Verbal Boundary Description

Block 13, Lots 1 through 5, Bryan Placer MS 913, Lawrence County, South Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Galena Schoolhouse is the traditional boundary that has stood since the school's construction in 1882 in the mining camp of Galena on Block 13, Lots 1 through 5 on the Bryan Placer.