

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM

PAGE 1

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 CS 5335

Map Quad _____

Site Name East Gill School District 44

Map Quad _____

Site Name East Gill School and Township Hall

LTL ___ T. ___ N., R. ___ W., Sec. ___ QQQ ___ of the QQ ___ of the Q ___

LTL ___ T. ___ N., R. ___ W., Sec. ___ QQQ ___ of the QQ ___ of the Q ___

LTL ___ T. ___ N., R. ___ W., Sec. ___ QQQ ___ of the QQ ___ of the Q ___

LTL ___ T. ___ N., R. ___ W., Sec. ___ QQQ ___ of the QQ ___ of the Q ___

NAD _____ UTM _____ Zone _____

NAD _____ UTM _____

City: _____

Subsection
1 = N½
2 = E½
3 = S½
4 = W½
5 = NE¼
6 = SE¼
7 = SW¼
8 = NW¼

Street Number: _____

Street Name: _____

Urban Legal Description: _____

Total Number of Architectural Features: _____

Fieldwork Date: 09/15/2012

Reconnaissance Survey _____

Intensive Survey _____

Project & Principal Investigator:

Contracting Firm or Agency Completing the Form:

SHSND

Additional Information:

based on nomination questionnaire, fieldwork date is estimated

SHSND USE

Component _____ Study Unit _____ Verified Site _____ CR Type _____

Component _____

Component _____

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger Date Recorded: 11/04/2020

Form instructions: (1) Download; (2) Save A Copy; (3) Submit a paper copy of the form to the SHSND and upload the PDF version of the form and corresponding GIS shapefiles to the ND SHPO-run FTP site.

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM

PAGE 2 – Feature Data

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 CS 5335 _____

Complete one Page 2 for each architectural feature at the site.

Architectural Feature # 1

Construction Date 1898

Feature Date 1880-1900

Structural System _____

Original Owner's Ethnicity _____

Feature Type _____

Context _____

Primary Exterior _____

Secondary Exterior _____

Condition _____

Plan Shape _____

Style _____

Architect/Builder _____

Foundation _____ Stories _____

Roof/Cornice _____

Window _____

Dating Method(s) nomination questionnaire

Miscellaneous Information school closed in 1951

Feature Preservation Recommendation(s) (Check all that apply):

Individual nomination

Contributes to a potential district

No nomination potential

Will not contribute to a district

Potential district—feature would be a contributing element if other properties constitute a district

Thematic nomination potential

Component of a historic site or landscape

Moved (specify all applicable choices)—a) relocation occurred within a historic period; b) recreates original site, orientation, landscape, and spatial relationships; c) compatible in context with neighboring structures; d) relocation has damaged eligibility

Historical associations require further investigation

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger **Date Recorded:** 11/04/2020

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM

PAGE 3 – *Feature Data*

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 CS 5335 _____

Complete one Page 3 for *each* architectural feature at the site.

1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:

see nomination questionnaire for additional information

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Recorded By: _____ **Lorna Meidinger** _____ **Date Recorded:** _____ **11/04/2020** _____

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM

PAGE 4 – *Site Description*

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 CS 5335 _____

3. Site Area (ft²):

4. Description of Access and Site Setting:

5. Summary of ALL Site Features and Evaluation of Significance:

6. References/Comments:

Recorded By: _____ **Lorna Meidinger** _____ **Date Recorded:** _____ **11/04/2020** _____

Form instructions: (1) Download; (2) Save A Copy; (3) Submit a paper copy of the form to the SHSND and upload the PDF version of the form and corresponding GIS shapefiles to the ND SHPO-run FTP site.

NOMINATION QUESTIONNAIRE

In which county is this property located? Cass

What is the historic (or earliest) name of this property?
East Gill School District 44

What is the current name of this property?
East Gill School and Township Hall

I wish to nominate this property because (check all that apply):

- National Register listing will honor the history of this property
- I seek financial assistance in rehabilitating this property
 - This building is my primary residence
 - This is an income-producing property (commercial or rental)
- I wish to protect this property
- This property is threatened with demolition or destruction
 - Please list threat: _____

Where is this property located?

If in an incorporated city or village please list:

Street and number: _____

City: _____

If in a rural area please list:

Road or nearest road: Cass County 5

Name of township: Gill

Nearest village or city: Chaffee or Wheatland

Township, range, and section: Township 139, Range 53, Section 23

Do you know any of the following information:

The architect's name was: _____

The builder's name was: _____

The date of construction was: 1898



Significance of the property

Why do you think this property should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places? Please check one or more box below and briefly explain why the property is important.

This property illustrates an important aspect of local history through its:

- Ethnic history
- Social or political history
- Industrial or commercial history
- Agricultural history
- Transportation history
- Other

- It is directly associated with a person or people who made important individual contributions to local, state, or national history in this field: _____ . (Properties of this type should be associated with the person's *productive* life, not a birth place or childhood home).

It is distinctive for its architecture, artistic qualities, or engineering because:

- It is an important example of an architectural style
- It is an important example of vernacular (commonplace) or ethnic architecture
- It is an unusual or important kind of building or structure
- It has an unusual method of construction
- It is an important work of art
- It is the work of a master architect, builder, or craftsman

Please explain your answer(s) above; list your information sources. This property is important because:

See attached

East Gill School stands as a reminder of Country Schools. Built in 1898, it has stood in the same place, next to Cass County 5, for over 100years. It is part of the community. It was built like most country school, almost entirely of wood. It is in good, sound condition and has been checked structurally by building contractor, Charles Albright, Linchburg, ND.

The restoring of it is of interest to former students and Gill Township. We have had many favorable letters and comment since we begin restoring it.

Please list the source(s) of this information: "Rural Cass County" Book 1976

What alterations/additions/changes have been made since the building was built? Please check all applicable boxes and list pertinent details (what was the original material or configuration, where were details that have been removed, etc.)

- Additions
- Porches (added or removed) Replaced - wood
- Replacement doors and windows
- Replacement siding or residing
- Removal of decorative details
- Interior remodeling/updating Painted during school use
- Changes to roof Reshigled wood - sound - weathered - Paint would help
- Moved from original location (why? From where? When?)

Please give dates for major alterations.

Replacement of porch and Step 2011

What do you know about this history of this property? Significant community events, prominent people associated with the building, and the use of the property are all pertinent. Please list sources for information.

See attached

East Gill School District 44 is located on Cass County 5, in Cass County. It is 3 miles south of Interstate 94, at the Wheatland Chaffee Exit, number 324. It is the only rural school still standing in Cass County. It was organized in 1880, and the school was built on the South West ¼ Section 23 in 1898. It served upwards to 400 students in its time. The school closed in 1951. When the schools were consolidated in 1975, the school went to Central Cass School District 22. It was and still is used as the Gill Township Hall and voting place. The Gill Livestock 4-H Club always held their meetings there. The building was used for card parties, Anniversary parties and social events. The School was deeded back to Gill Township in 1998. There had not been any improvements or paint (inside) done in this time. At some time it was reshingled with wood shingles and painted (outside).

James C. Gill lived on Section 35, and in 1884 owned 4000 acres of land. He was elected to the 1891 Legislature. Relatives of his attended the school until 1946.

All information is found in the "Rural Cass County" history book 1976.

Photographs

A site cannot be evaluated without photographs.

Please submit clear, *recent* photographs that show all sides of the exterior of the structure, important interior spaces, and the site on which the structure sits.

Please label the photographs (directions are helpful - i.e. "North side of house.").

Photos can be submitted electronically to the address at the bottom; faxed photos are not acceptable. Photos will not be returned.

Map

Please draw a simple sketch map of the lot on which the property is located.

Include all structures, adjoining streets, and other major features. If the property is rural, a plat map, county map, or other detail map can be used; please mark the location of the structure about which you are writing.

Person completing the questionnaire:

Name: Marilyn McLean

Address: 14835 33rd ST SE
Wheatland, ND 58079

Telephone: 701-633-5245 - 701-361-1875

Owner Information, if different than above.

Please check if owner has been contacted about this questionnaire

Owner Name: Gill Township

Owner Address:

Owner Telephone:

Please return form and photographs to:

Historic Preservation Division
Attn: Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

701.328.2089



Front of East
Gill School
Facing South

Beginning -
East side



North Side
Scraped



North East Corner



East + North Painted



South Side



West Side



North West Wall
Windows - West
Stove



South Wall, Kitchen - Walls to be Scraped



Inside School

North Wall

Separation Fixed

Work Needed

Floor

Woodwork

Blackboards



By Amanda Gades

The school desks and chalkboard are gone from the East Gill School, but the memories have not faded of the one-room school house days.

"When I went to school there, all eight grades were taught by one teacher," said Marilyn McLean, Wheatland. "There were 25 students."

McLean, Hank Weber, Joan Schatzke and Kim Nelson comprise the committee working to restore the school.

They aim to obtain funds from grants and corporate and individual donors to paint the building's exterior, shingle the roof and install new windows, according to Hank Weber, committee chair.

"This is a great way to preserve history," said Weber.

Committee members have already been in contact with several businesses and groups about donating for the project, Weber added.

Remembering school days

The East Gill School District was organized in 1893 and the original building and horse barn were located just across the road in section 22 from its present location. In 1898, the local school board decided to build a new school house in the location where it now stands.

In the early years, children either walked, rode a pony or horse and buggy to school. The school continued until 1951 when reorganization and consolidation took place and students then went either to Wheatland or

... they shared, McLean said. "Mrs. Lawrence Butler made the most delicious buns. Mrs. Lloyd Lass made rice with sugar and cinnamon. Mrs. Edna Madsen made creamed eggs and the Pflingstens made macaroni hotdish."

Phyllis Koetz, who obtained her education in the East Gill one-room school house, went on to teach in a one-room school near Enderlin.

"One of things I did when I was a teacher that I learned when I was in school was that the older kids helped the younger kids when they had a question," said Koetz, of Leonard.

The current and future function

Since 1951, when the school closed, the building has been used as a community center and voting place. For many years the monthly meeting of the Gill Livestock 4-H club were held there. It has continued to serve as the official meeting site for the



Courtesy Photos

The Gill Township School is located three miles south of the Wheatland exit on Interstate 94. It is currently used for Gill Township officer meetings.

Chaffee Schools.

In operation for 71 years, an average of six or seven new first graders enrolled each year and it is estimated that between 400 and 500 students attended school there. The last teacher at the school was Mrs. Dorothy Buttke.

"My mom and three aunts including Dorothy Buttke attended the school," said Schatzke. "They have

very fond memories of the school."

Marilyn McLean, who received her education there, recalls the big Christmas programs, softball games in the spring, success at music competitions, the great teachers and the delicious food the mothers shared.

"Every mother had a favorite food

School house - Page A8



East Gill School Dist. #44, No. 1, Dress up Day, 1952.

township. Some school records are still preserved there. The building is structurally sound and is one of the last one-room schools still standing and being used in Cass County.

Thousands of one-room schools like East Gill once dotted the countryside and are part of our national heritage. Today, opportunities for

education are, for the most part, taken for granted and by preserving the building, it will serve as a reminder to future generations of the educational challenges that small rural communities once faced.

Cass County Reporter

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM
PAGE 1

Field Code MAC-73869-1

SITS# 32 CS 5335

Map Quad Chafee
Map Quad

Site Name
Site Name

LTL T. 139 N., R. 53 W., Sec. 23 QQQ 7 of the QQ 7 of the Q 7
LTL T. N., R. W., Sec. QQQ of the QQ of the Q
LTL T. N., R. W., Sec. QQQ of the QQ of the Q
LTL T. N., R. W., Sec. QQQ of the QQ of the Q

Subsection
1 = N1/2
2 = E1/2
3 = S1/2
4 = W1/2
5 = NE1/4
6 = SE1/4
7 = SW1/4
8 = NW1/4

NAD 1983 UTM 5187909 Zone 14N
NAD 1983 UTM 62696

City:

Street Number:

Street Name: 149th Ave SE

Urban Legal Description:

Total Number of Architectural Features: 1

Fieldwork Date: 07/28/2020

Reconnaissance Survey [checked] Intensive Survey

Project & Principal Investigator:

Project: Cass County Electric Cooperative: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for WO #73869 Cass Electric Line, Cass County, North Dakota; PI: Bill Bluemle

Contracting Firm or Agency Completing the Form:

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

Additional Information:

SHSND USE
Component 2 Study Unit 15 Verified Site 1 CR Type 2
Component
Component

Recorded By: B. Bluemle Date Recorded: 07/28/2020

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM
PAGE 2 – Feature Data

Field Code MAC-73869-1

SITS# 32 CS 5335

Complete one Page 2 for each architectural feature at the site.

Architectural Feature # 1

Construction Date _____

Feature Date 1880-1900

Structural System Wood Frame

Original Owner's Ethnicity Other

Feature Type 9 - School; Church school

Context Education

Primary Exterior Wood, Horizontal Siding

Secondary Exterior _____

Condition Good

Plan Shape Rectangular

Style Other Style

Architect/Builder _____

Foundation Brick Stories 1.0

Roof/Cornice Asphalt Shingles; Gable

Window 2 over 2 lite with aluminum storms

Dating Method(s) Documentation

Miscellaneous Information _____

Feature Preservation Recommendation(s) (Check all that apply):

Individual nomination

Contributes to a potential district

No nomination potential

Will not contribute to a district

Potential district—feature would be a contributing element if other properties constitute a district

Thematic nomination potential

Component of a historic site or landscape

Moved (specify all applicable choices)—a) relocation occurred within a historic period; b) recreates original site, orientation, landscape, and spatial relationships; c) compatible in context with neighboring structures; d) relocation has damaged eligibility

Historical associations require further investigation

Recorded By: B. Bluemle Date Recorded: 07/28/2020

**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM
PAGE 3 – Feature Data**Field Code MAC-73869-1SITS# 32 CS 5335**Complete one Page 3 for each architectural feature at the site.**

1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:

Feature 1 is the East Gill School. According to its associated sign, it was constructed c.1898 in the SE quarter of Section 23 to replace an earlier school in Section 22. It is a single-story gable-front building with white painted wood clapboard siding. There is a sign above the doors on the south façade that states "Gill Township, Est. 1884, East Gill School District." The building measures 32 feet north-south by 23 feet east-west. The roof is covered in newer asphalt shingles. The south façade has two steel six panel doors. The door to the west is accessed by a low wood deck with a metal railing along one side. The building has eight total windows, four each on the east and west elevations of the building. The windows are two-over-two-lite windows and have aluminum storm windows over them. There is an attached shed-roofed addition on the west half of the north elevation. The shed addition measures 6.5 feet north-south by 9.8 feet east-west. The addition is roofed in wood shingles; asphalt shingles are visible beneath. The addition has one wooden vertical plank door on the west elevation with a simple metal lift latch.

Overall, the building appears to be in good condition. There is some wood trim missing from the bottom foot and a-half of the northeast corner, and a few spots of peeling or missing paint.

The replacement of the original doors with steel doors, and application of asphalt shingles and aluminum storm windows have affected integrity of materials to some extent. Despite these minor modifications, the site retains all aspects of integrity.

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Recorded By: B. Bluemle Date Recorded: 07/28/2020

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM
PAGE 4 – Site DescriptionField Code MAC-73869-1SITS# 32 CS 53353. Site Area (ft²):

4. Description of Access and Site Setting:

From exit 324 off I-94, travel south for three miles on 149th Ave S. Stop 130' from the intersection with 40th St. SE. The site is located east of the road, and borders 149th Ave. SE to the west, and is approximately 300 feet south of Buffalo Creek. There are cultivated fields to the north, south and east.

5. Summary of ALL Site Features and Evaluation of Significance:

The site is the Gill Township School house built between 1880 and 1889. The schoolhouse is in excellent condition and retains all aspects of integrity sufficient to convey historic character.

Schoolhouses are an increasingly rare property type on the Great Plains. In North Dakota, they are among the earliest and also most basic public buildings in a community. Most rural and town schools were based on a popular plan with similar materials and methods of construction, wood-framed, gable-roofed, white schoolhouse with certain characteristic features including wood-paneled doors, lap siding, and window moldings, and have become ubiquitous on the state's landscape. They reflect vernacular building practices of a particular period when commercially-produced materials, including milled-lumber, millwork, and hardware were readily available (Gulliford 1984).

Rural schoolhouses, like the Gill School, served children from the agricultural community and their families, often doubling as a community hall and meeting place. One-room schoolhouses like this began to fall out of use in the early 20th century as reform movements sought to consolidate and standardize education throughout the rural United States. Abandoned, former schoolhouses are frequently found on private properties, converted to new use as an agricultural storage building. Others have been subject to demolition by neglect. Metcalf is not aware of the current number of in-situ one-room schoolhouses in the state that are in good condition and retain all aspects of integrity. Four other one-room schools have been documented in Cass County through the SHSND Country School House Project and while this is not the most ornate example, it is one of the best preserved (SHSND 2020). We find this particular site is a strong representative example of a late-19th Century one-room schoolhouse and recommends it be considered eligible under Criterion A for this historic association.

6. References/Comments:

Gulliford, Andrew (1984) *America's Country Schools*. Washington DC: Preservation Press.
R.L. Polk & Co. (1906) *The County of Cass, North Dakota*. R.L. Polk & Co. St. Paul, MN.
SHSND (2020) "Country School House Project" online database, <https://www.history.nd.gov/hp/schools/>
Accessed 8/26/2020.

Recorded By: B. Bluemle Date Recorded: 07/28/2020

NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Field Code: MAC-73869-1

SITS# 32

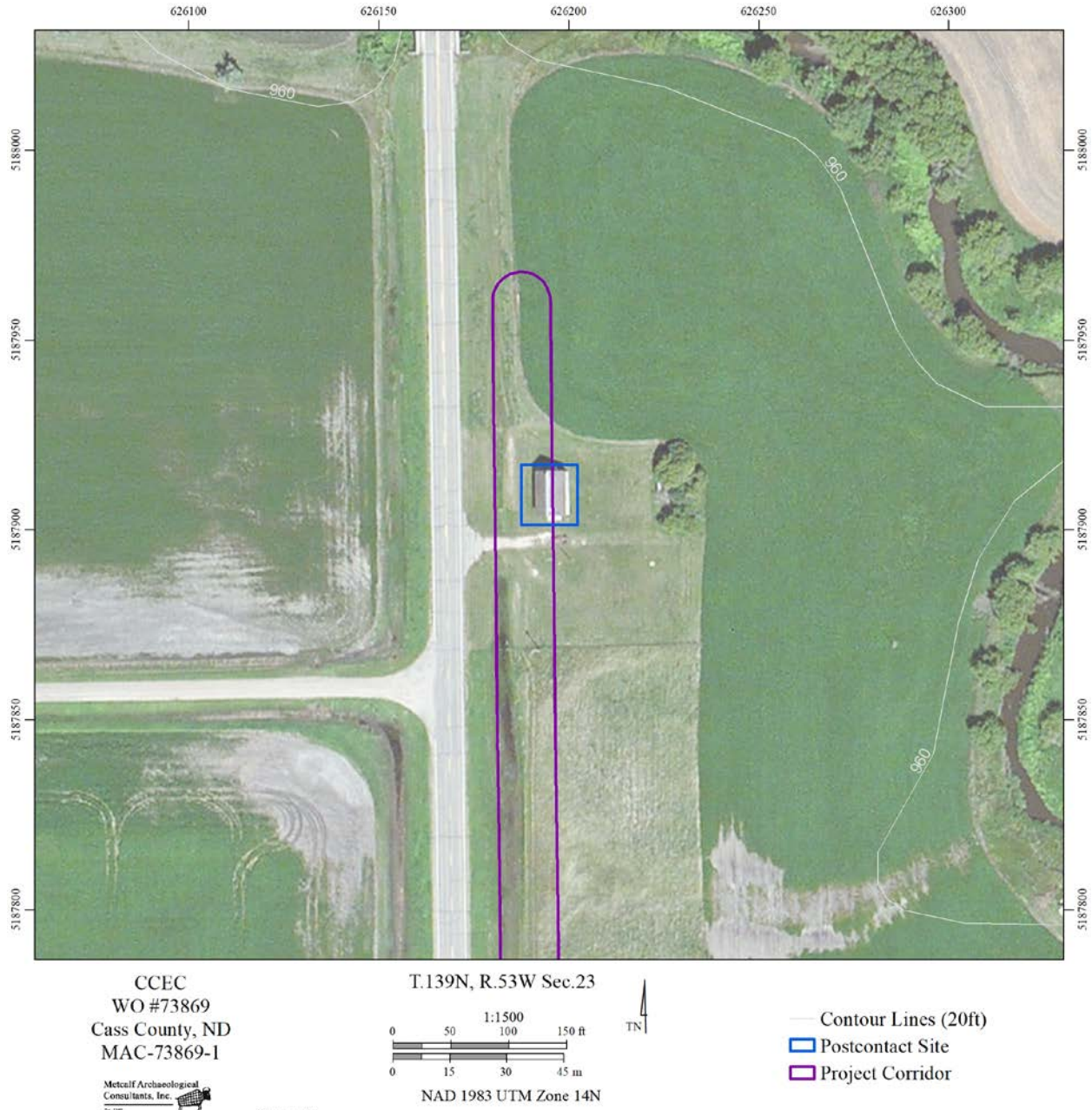


Figure 1: Sketch map for site MAC-73869-1.

NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Field Code: MAC-73869-1

SITS# 32



Figure 2: View northeast over southwest corner (Image #23).



Figure 3: View northwest over the southeast corner (Image #24).

NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Field Code: MAC-73869-1

SITS# 32



Figure 4: View southwest over northeast corner (Image #26).



Figure 5: View southeast over northwest corner (Image #29).

NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Field Code: MAC-73869-1

SITS# 32



Figure 6: View east over sign (Image #16).

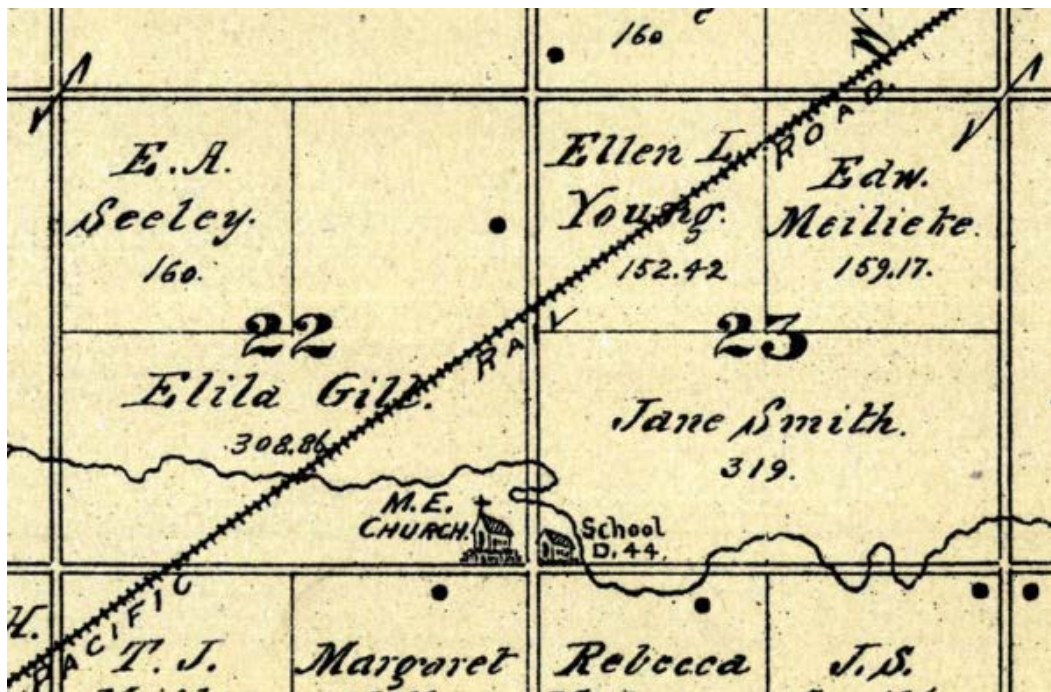


Figure 7: Excerpt from 1906 R.L. Polk & Co. Cass County Atlas depicting Gill Township, with location of Gill School in Section 23.

