

# NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

## PAGE 1

Field Code HDR 14762

SITS# 32 GF 3554

### SITE IDENTIFICATION

Map Quad Emerado SE 1978 Site Name Fairfield Township school

Map Quad \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name \_\_\_\_\_

LTL \_\_\_ TWP 150 R 52 SEC 16 QQQ 7 QQ 6 Q 7

LTL \_\_\_ TWP \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_\_\_ QQQ \_\_\_\_\_ QQ \_\_\_\_\_ Q \_\_\_\_\_

LTL \_\_\_ TWP \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_\_\_ QQQ \_\_\_\_\_ QQ \_\_\_\_\_ Q \_\_\_\_\_

LTL \_\_\_ TWP \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_\_\_ QQQ \_\_\_\_\_ QQ \_\_\_\_\_ Q \_\_\_\_\_

UTM \_\_\_\_\_ 625966 \_\_\_\_\_ N

ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM \_\_\_\_\_ 5295775 \_\_\_\_\_ E

NAD 1927 \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

Subsection:
1 = N $\frac{1}{2}$
2 = E $\frac{1}{2}$
3 = S $\frac{1}{2}$
4 = W $\frac{1}{2}$
5 = NE $\frac{1}{4}$
6 = SE $\frac{1}{4}$
7 = SW $\frac{1}{4}$
8 = NW $\frac{1}{4}$

City: Fairfield Township

Street Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Name: Intersection of 23rd Street NE and 9th Avenue NE

Urban Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

### SITE DATA

Total # **Architectural** Features: 1

Fieldwork Date: 5/18/2011

Reconnaissance Survey  Intensive Survey

Project Title & Supervisor:

345kV Electrical Transmission Line from Center to Grand Forks, North Dakota. Kevin (Lex) Palmer

Report Title & Author(s):

Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation of the Proposed Route of a 345kV Electrical Transmission Line from Center to Grand Forks in North Dakota. Kevin (Lex) Palmer 2011

Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

### SHSND USE

Area of Significance 2 Ecozone 16 Verified Site 1 CR Type 2

Area of Significance \_\_\_\_\_ Ecozone \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Site \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Significance \_\_\_\_\_ Ecozone \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded By Kevin (Lex) Palmer Date Recorded 5/18/2011  
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM  
PAGE 2—Feature Data**

**Field Code** HDR 14762 **SITS# 32 GF 3554**  
**Complete one Page 2 for each architectural feature at the site.**

**Architectural Feature #** 1

Construction Date _____	Feature Type <u>9</u>	Condition <u>6</u>
Feature Date <u>3</u>	Context <u>7</u>	Plan Shape <u>5</u>
Structural System <u>25</u>	Primary Exterior <u>26</u>	Style <u>Other Style</u>
Original Owner's Ethnicity _____	Secondary Exterior _____	Architect/Builder _____

Other Information:

Foundation Concrete Stories 1

Window Most original windows and openings intact

Roof/Cornice Gable

Dating Method(s): Professional judgement, 1927 Brock & Company Fairfield Township map

**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, & spatial relationships; c) compatible in context with neighboring structures; d) relocation has damaged eligibility
- Historical associations require further investigation

**Recorded By** Kevin (Lex) Palmer **Date Recorded** 5/18/2011  
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM****PAGE 3—Feature Data**Field Code HDR 14762SITS# 32 GF 3554**1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:**

The schoolhouse foundation consists of poured concrete. The building has a north-south orientation, with a mudroom on the south portion, the central building core, and a rear shed-style portion located on the north segment. The exterior is clad with horizontal wood siding with a coat of white paint. The mudroom has a steep-pitched side-gable roof with a wide eave and is clad with tabbed composition shingles. The mudroom east elevation has a missing door in the entry, the south elevation has a two-light fixed wood window, and a closed off window opening in the gable end. There are no wall openings in the mudroom west elevation. The central building core south elevation has the mudroom joined to it, and a wood louver opening in the south and north gable ends. The central core east facade has a window bank with six 2/2 light double-hung wood windows that retain little of the original glass, and have been covered with plywood; the west elevation has no wall openings. The north shed-style portion joins the north elevation of the central building core, and has a low-pitched shed roof with no eave, clad with tabbed composition shingles. This segment has a boarded-up window on the east elevation and a fixed wood window with missing glass in the west elevation. A brick chimney is present on the south end of the roof in the east roof exposure. The interior is in poor condition, and is clad with lathe and plaster. A broken blackboard is present on the west wall.

Early North Dakota schools utilized various building materials, however the bulk of them were of wood construction and painted white, like this school house (Henke and Albers, 1998:iv). The Fairfield Township one-room school house mirrors North Dakota school house establishment and abandonment trends. One-room school houses became more prevalent during the early 1900s as immigration increased. Predictably, the number fell with the 1930s Great Depression. One source notes that many one-room schoolhouses closed due to economic hardships (Henke and Albers, 1998:63). This trend continued due to subsequent economic recessions and the twentieth century trend of Americans moving away from rural areas to urban centers. From 1935 to 1960, North Dakota one-room school houses declined in number, and during the 1960s this type of school building closed to the point that only two percent of North Dakota student attended school in them (Henke and Albers, 1998:v).

The 1927 Brock & Company Fairfield Township map depicts the school on land held by Anna Johnston. The 1920 Federal census indicates that Anna was seven years old and the daughter of James and Alice Johnston, and she was one of seven children. The land was obviously owned by James and Alice. James Johnston was born in Iowa in 1874, and is listed in the census as a farmer. His wife Alice was also born in Iowa in 1883 and had no listed profession. Historic USGS maps provide some data on the subject property. The 1934 Emerado quadrangle map depicts the school house as "School No. 2." Deed information indicates that the property transferred to Lloyd F. Leake in 1951, and the school building is listed as being school number 82. Beyond this point, there is no further information on the property ownership from Grand Forks County deeds. A 2006 obituary for Lloyd Leake located on Ancestry.com indicates that he grew up in Emerado on the family farm, attended Grand Forks Central High School, and pursued training in Industrial Arts at the Wahpeton State School of Science. He taught school at Belcourt, North Dakota and Wahpeton and then became a full-time farmer with his wife for nearly 65 years in Emerado. He served on a variety of boards in the local area, and passed away in 2006. The 1978 USGS Emerado SE quadrangle labels the building as a "Town hall," which suggests that it had been converted to this use by the Fairfield Township by this point. The abandonment of the building must have been after this point.

Background research conducted at the University of North Dakota Grand Forks Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections and North Dakota State Historical Society in Bismarck did not uncover any relevant information on the school house.

Recorded By Kevin (Lex) Palmer Date Recorded 5/18/2011  
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM  
PAGE 4—SITE DESCRIPTION**Field Code HDR 14762SITS# 32 GF 3554**Complete one Page 4 for the entire site.**

## 2. Owner's Contact Information:

Unknown.

## 3. Access (to rural areas):

From Grand Forks, drive west to the intersection of Highway 81 and Highway 2. Continue west on Highway 2 for 14.4 miles. Take the exit toward Grand Forks Air Force Base/Emerado. Drive 0.2 miles and keep left at a fork, follow signs for Emerado. Turn left onto Highway B3 and drive 1.1 miles. Continue onto 25th Street and drive 8.0 miles. Turn left onto 9th Avenue NE and drive 2.1 miles to site.

4. Site Area (ft<sup>2</sup>): 700

## 5. Site Description:

The site is located in a flat agricultural field immediately north of 9th Avenue NE. The remains of a concrete sidewalk are present on the southeast corner. The building's west elevation is being penetrated by trees growing into it. No artifacts were observed on the surface and there are no associated buildings around it.

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM  
PAGE 5—SITE DESCRIPTION**Field Code HDR 14762SITS# 32 GF 3554**6. Summary of All Site Features & Evaluation of Site Significance:**

The significance of this school building is in that it illustrates the early one-room county schoolhouse trend during the early 1900s in North Dakota associated with the immigration boom. The building is potentially eligible under Criterion A at the local level for its association with early twentieth century rural public schools in North Dakota. This building should only be considered as potentially eligible as part of a thematic one-room schoolhouse National Register nomination, and would not be eligible on an individual basis.

Archival background research did not uncover any linkages with individuals important in local, state, or national history and therefore the property is not eligible under Criterion B.

It is recommend that the building be considered as eligible to the National Register under Criterion C as an example of a wood one-room school house dating to the early 1900s. While abandoned, the building still retains a high degree of integrity and has not been altered since its establishment. These school houses reflected the permanence sought by new residents and were used in part to draw in new settlers.

The school house retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The abandoned condition of the building has influenced its physical integrity due to environmental factors with the loss of window glass and degradation of the original building fabric. The exterior maintains its original appearance and the interior design and materials are consistent with the original construction and include a slate chalkboard.

**7. References/Comments:**

Henke, Warren A. and Everett C. Albers. 1997. *The Legacy of North Dakota's County Schools*. Bismarck: North Dakota Humanities Council. 1927 Brock & Company Fairfield Township map. 1920 Federal census. 1934 USGS Emerado quadrangle. 1978 USGS Emerado SE quadrangle. Lloyd F. Leake 2006 obituary obtained on Ancestry.com accessed July 14, 2011.

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**NDCRS SITE FORM  
ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

Field Code HDR 14762

**SITS# 32GF3554**



May 18, 2011 view to northwest of south elevation and east façade.



May 18, 2011 view to southeast of north and west elevations.

**Recorded By** Kevin (Lex) Palmer

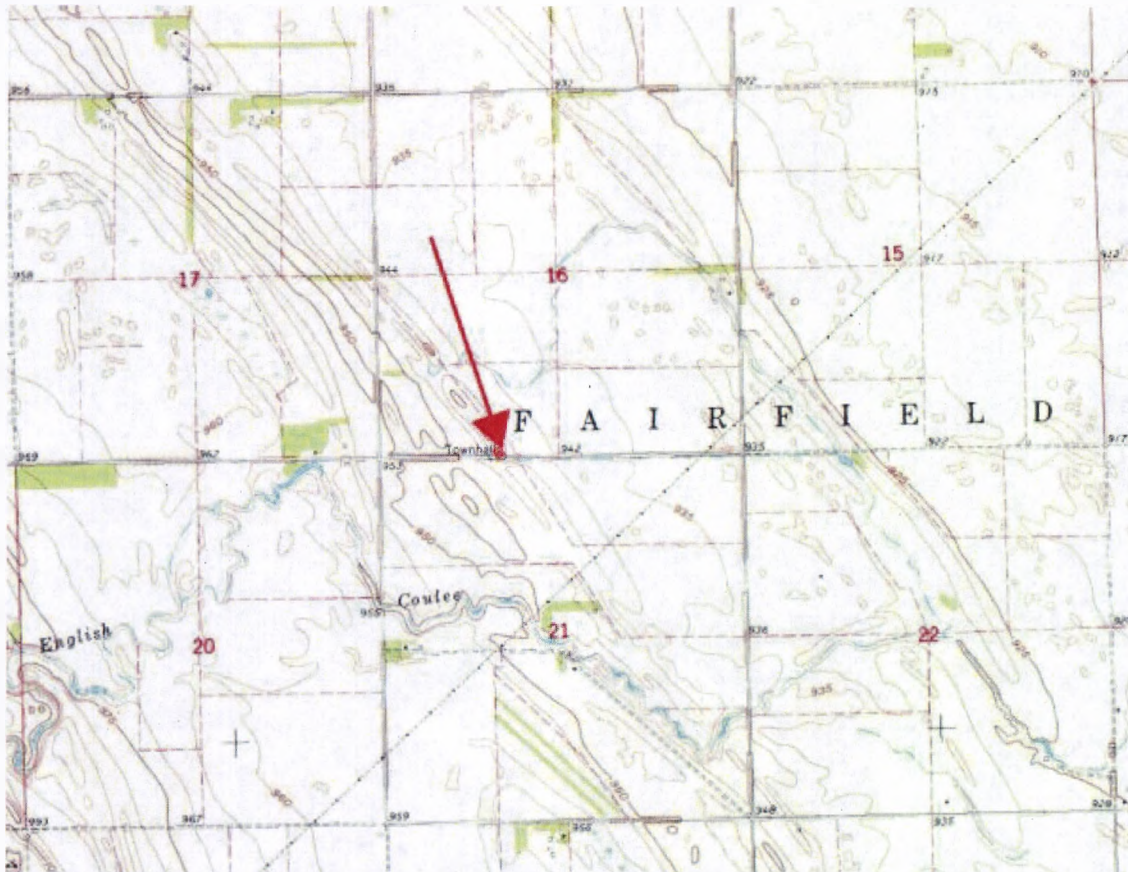
**Date Recorded** (05/18/2011)



### NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

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SITS# 32GF3554



Emerado SE 1978 T 150 N R 52W SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 16

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Date Recorded (05/18/2011)



### NDCRS SITE FORM ATTACHMENTS SECTION

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HDR 14762 Sketch Map

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Date Recorded (05/18/2011)