

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM

PAGE 1

UPDATE

Field Code WCWP-085a

SITS# 32 GF 3670

Map Quad NiagaraSite Name Niagara District #81 School

Map Quad _____

Site Name _____

LTL T 152 N, R 56 W, Sec 7 QQQ 7 of the QQ 8 of the Q 6LTL 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 1983 UTM 5316508 Zone 14NNAD 1983 UTM 584240City: Niagara

Subsection

1 = N½

2 = E½

3 = S½

4 = W¼

5 = NE¼

6 = SE¼

7 = SW¼

8 = NW¼

Street Number: _____

Street Name: Ransom Ave

Urban Legal Description: _____

Total Number of **Architectural** Features: 1Fieldwork Date: 11/21/2022Reconnaissance Survey ☒

Intensive Survey _____

Project & Principal Investigator:

Whiskey Creek Wind Project Architectural - Wade Burns (PI)

Contracting Firm or Agency Completing the Form:

Beaver Creek Archaeology, Inc.

Additional Information:

SHSND USE

Component _____ Study Unit _____ Verified Site _____ CR Type _____

Component _____

Component _____

Recorded By: Emilie S. Arnold Date Recorded: 02/15/2023

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** WCWP-085a**SITS# 32 GF 3670****Complete one Page 2 for each architectural feature at the site.**Architectural Feature # 1

Construction Date _____

Feature Date _____

Structural System _____

Original Owner's Ethnicity _____

Feature Type _____

Context _____

Primary Exterior _____

Secondary Exterior _____

Condition Excellent

Plan Shape _____

Style _____

Architect/Builder _____

Foundation _____ Stories _____

Roof/Cornice _____

Window _____

Dating Method(s) _____

Miscellaneous Information Relocated to present location in 1973**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) a relocation has damaged eligibility☐ Historical associations require further investigation**Recorded By:** Emilie S. Arnold **Date Recorded:** 02/15/2023

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NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM**PAGE 3 – Feature Data****UPDATE****Field Code** WCWP-085a**SITS# 32 GF** 3670**Complete one Page 3 for each architectural feature at the site.****1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:**

Feature 1 is the Grand Forks County School District #81 school. It was first recorded in 2017 by Kathy Wilner. The booklet "Niagara Community Historical Society, Niagara, North Dakota," published in 1973, provides a historical background for the school compiled by author Gerda Nelson, as well as describing how Feature 1 came to be relocated within the city limits of Niagara in 1973. It also provides an estimated year of construction for the school of 1889 (Nelson 1973:17).

During the current inventory, only the northwest, northeast, and southeast sides of Feature 1 were photographed from the public ROW. Compared to photographs from Wilner's 2017 recording, Feature 1 exhibits no change, other than a fresh coat of white paint for the building's wooden siding. Feature 1 lacks integrity of location, setting, and feeling as a rural school that has been relocated into an urban setting approximately 5 miles from its original location in Niagara Township's agricultural countryside. However, it possesses strong integrity of materials, workmanship, design, and association as a surviving example of a Niagara Township school constructed in the 1880s, giving it overall historic integrity. Feature 1 is potentially eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C as an extant example of its age and type, and it is also potentially eligible under Criterion A for historical associations with rural education in North Dakota and Grand Forks County.

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Niagara Community Historical Society

Recorded By: Emilie S. Arnold **Date Recorded:** 02/15/2023

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM**PAGE 4 – Site Description****UPDATE****Field Code** WCWP-085a**SITS# 32 GF** 36703. Site Area (ft²): 1,894

4. Description of Access and Site Setting:

The site is located southwest of the intersection of Ransom Avenue and 2nd Street on the BNSF railroad frontage within the city of Niagara.

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

The site consists of one historic feature: the Grand Forks County School District #81 school house (Feature 1).

School District #81 was established August 5, 1885, and a 1925 insurance report estimated that Feature 1 had been constructed around 1889 (Nelson 1973:10, 17). It was built in the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 11, Niagara Township. Review of available patent and Grand Forks County atlas records shows that the land the school stood on changed ownership several times. In or around 1973, the Niagara Community Historical Society approached the landowner at that time, William "Spud" Murphy, about preserving the school. Murphy donated the school to the historical society, which secured a site on Burlington Northern land in downtown Niagara, had a new foundation constructed by Johnson movers of Lakota, ND, and moved the school to its present location. The school was rededicated on July 29, 1973 "as a symbol of the one-room schools which once dotted the countryside of N.D." (Nelson 1973:9). The relocation of the school building in 1973 occurred almost exactly 50 years ago, coinciding with a rise in interest in local history on the eve of the American Bicentennial, and its current location in Niagara is itself on the cusp of historic age.

Because the site has not been fully documented, it is recommended unevaluated for the NRHP. However, Feature 1 appears to possess the historic integrity, architectural distinction, and historical significance necessary for potential eligibility for the NRHP under Criteria A and C.

6. References/Comments:

Nelson, Gerda. "Niagara Community Historical Society, Niagara, North Dakota," published 1973 (<https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/ndsl-books/id/4323>)
Digital Horizons (<https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/>)
Historic Mapworks (<https://www.historicmapworks.com/>)

Recorded By: Emilie S. Arnold **Date Recorded:** 02/15/2023

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Figure 1: Feature 1, view to the west.



Figure 2: Feature 1, view to the southwest.



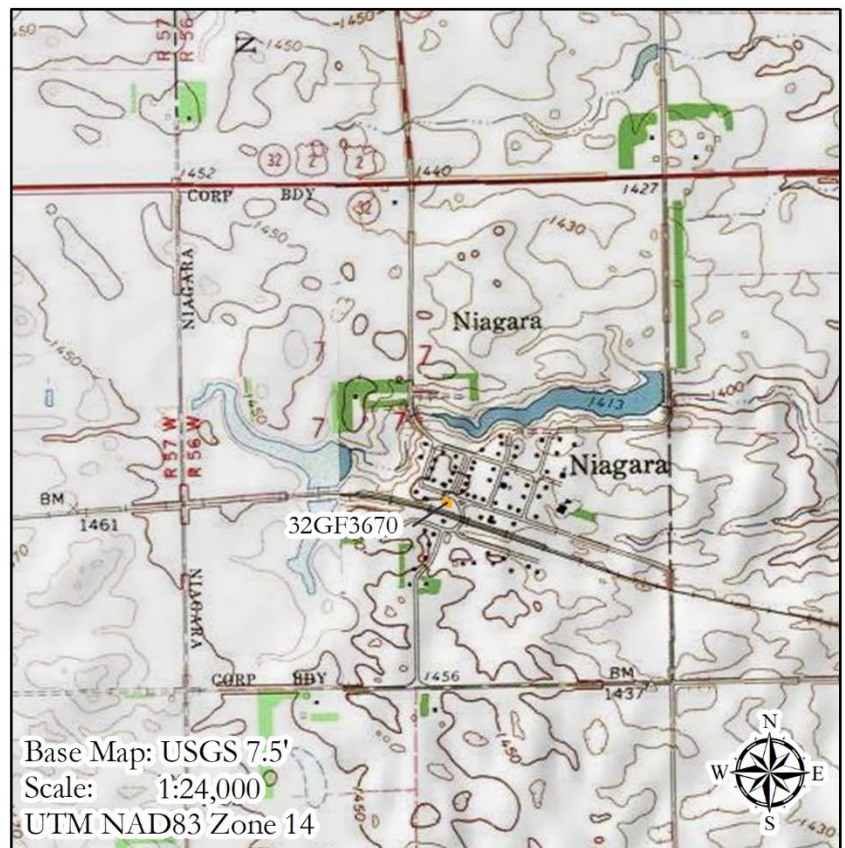
Figure 3: Feature 1, view to the south-southwest.



Figure 4: Feature 1, view to the south-southeast.



Grand Forks County, North Dakota



NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

PAGE 1

SITS# 32 GF 3670**SITE IDENTIFICATION**Field Code Niagara District #81 SchoolSite Name Niagara School District #81Map Quad Niagara

Map Quad _____

LTL	TWP	<u>152</u>	R	<u>56</u>	SEC	<u>7</u>	QQQ	<u>7</u>	QQ	<u>8</u>	Q	<u>6</u>
LTL	TWP	_____	R	_____	SEC	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	TWP	_____	R	_____	SEC	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	TWP	_____	R	_____	SEC	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____

UTM	<u>5316509</u>	N	ZONE	<u>14N</u>		
UTM	<u>584239</u>	E	NAD 1927	_____	NAD 1983	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

City: Niagara

Street Number: _____

Street Name: Ransom Avenue

Urban Legal Description: _____

Subsection:

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

SITE DATATotal # *Architectural* Features: 1Fieldwork Date: 9/19/2016Reconnaissance Survey ☒ Intensive Survey _____

Project Title & Supervisor:

Country Schoolhouse Project

Report Title & Author(s):

Additional Information: _____

SHSND USE

Area of Significance <u>2</u>	Ecozone <u>16</u>	Verified Site <u>1</u>	CR Type <u>2</u>
Area of Significance _____	Ecozone _____	Non-Site _____	
Area of Significance _____			

Recorded By <u>Kathy Wilner</u>	Date Recorded <u>2/6/2017</u>
(First Name & Last Name)	(mm/dd/year)

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NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 2—Feature DataField Code Niagara District #81 SchoolSITS# 32 GF**Complete one Page 2 for each architectural feature at the site.****Architectural Feature #** 1

Construction Date _____

Feature Type 9Condition 7Feature Date 2Context 7Plan Shape 5Structural System 25Primary Exterior 26Style Other Style

Original Owner's Ethnicity _____

Secondary Exterior _____

Architect/Builder _____

Other Information:

Foundation Concrete Stories 1Roof/Cornice GableWindow Double hungDating Method(s): Estimate**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 investigationRecorded By Kathy Wilner Date Recorded 2/6/2017
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM**PAGE 3—Feature Data**Field Code Niagara District #81 SchoolSITS# 32 GF**Complete a Page 3 for each feature.****1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:**

The feature is a one room prairie school on concrete. The gable roof of the school, entry and pyramidal roof of the bell tower are covered with wood shakes. There is a yellow brick chimney at the peak at the west end. There is a bell tower at the east end of the peak of the school, it has as wood base with lap siding and four posts to hold the roof. There is a bell in the tower. The soffits are closed.

There is a wide trim board under the soffits at the peak ends of the school. The siding is 6 inch wood lap with 6 inch corner trim with good paint. There are three double hung, two over two, windows on both the south and north sides with all glass intact. Wood steps lead to a locked 4 panel wood door with a two pane glass transom above it. The interior walls are covered with lathe and plaster with wainscot. The ceiling is covered with lathe and plaster. The floor is covered with tongue and groove hardwood. There are blackboard on the west wall as well as in all the open wall spaces between windows and around the corner from the west board. Light fixtures and exterior wiring suggest electricity.

Recorded By Kathy Wilner Date Recorded 2/6/2017
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 4—SITE DESCRIPTION**

Field Code Niagara District #81 School

SITS# 32 GF

Complete one Page 4 for the entire site.

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Niagara Community Historical Society
Rev. Dennis Neels
4722 26th Ave NE
Niagara ND 58266

3. Access (to rural areas):

In city park

4. Site Area (ft²): _____

5. Description of *SETTING*:

The building is located in a city park with the railroad to the south, building to the north.

Recorded By Kathy Wilner **Date Recorded** 2/6/2017
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 5—SITE DESCRIPTION**

Field Code Niagara District #81 School

SITS# 32 GF

6. Summary of ALL Site Features & Evaluation of Significance:

7. References/Comments:

Kathy Wilner
366 43rd Ave SE
Bowdon ND 58418

Recorded By Kathy Wilner Date Recorded 2/6/2017
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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East Side

Niagara District #81 School

9/192016

Kathy Wilner

GF

South Side





North Side

Niagara District #81 School

9/192016

Kathy Wilner

GF

West Side





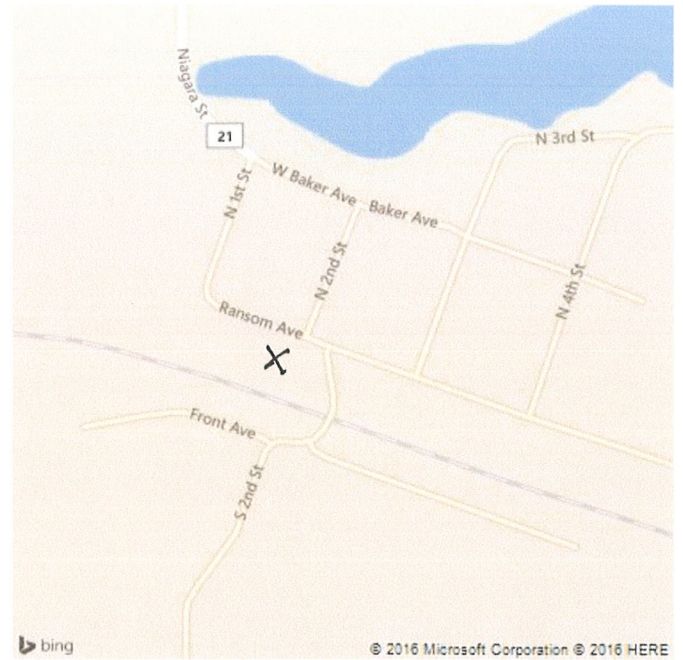
Notes

Niagara District #81 School

9/19/2016

Kathy Wilner

GF



Feature

