NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 1

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Field Code		SITS#	32 NO 1558	<u> </u>
SITE IDENTIFICATION		ov. N. Fort Dicc Col	and .	
Map Quad Fort Rice				
Map Quad		Site Name		
	SEC _	QQQ QQQ	QQ QQ	Q <u>8</u> Q Q
NAD 1983, UTM 51538	870 N	ZONE 14N		Cubaaatian
NAD 1983, UTM 37834	46 E	2011L		Subsection: 1 = N½
				1 = 10/2 $2 = E\frac{1}{2}$
City: Fort Rice				$3 = S\frac{1}{2}$
Street Number:	3139	-		4 = W½ 5 = NE¼
Street Name: Fort Rice	e Street			6 = SE¼ 7 = SW¼
Urban Legal Description:	Block 1, Lots 5-6	8.7		8 = NW1/4
SITE DATA				
Total # <u>Architectural</u> Features	s: 2			
Fieldwork Date:11/13/2	019			
Reconnaissance Survey	Intensi	ve Survey 🖊		
Project & Principal Investigator BEK South Morton County Fit		ex Atkinson (PI)		
•	70. Op.ioo, 7o	(· ·)		
Report Title & Author(s):				
A Class III Cultural Resource Morton and Burleigh Counties	-	EK South Morton County	Fiber Optice Lin	e in
by Amanda Baker				
Contracting firm or Agency cor	npleting the form:			
Beaver Creek Archaeology, Ir	IC.			
Additional Information:				
SHSND USE				
Area of Significance	Ecozone		CR Type	e
Area of Significance	Ecozone			
Area of Significance	Ecozone Emilie Arnold	_		11/25/2019
Recorded By		Date R	ecoraea	
(First Name & La	ıst Name)			(mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 2—Feature Data

UPDATE

Field Code		SITS# 32 MO 1559
Complete one Pag	e 2 <u>for <i>each</i> architectural f</u>	eature at the site.
Architectural Featur	e #1	
Construction Date19	927 Feature Type	Condition 6
Feature Date4	Context 7	Plan Shape <u>5</u>
Structural System 25	Primary Exterior	26 Style Other Style
Original Owner's Ethnic		
Other Information: Built	1927, reconstructed after 1953 tor	nado
Foundation Concrete (b	asement)	1.0
Roof/Cornice Hip, shed		
	50s) openings intact, some window	s boarded
Dating Method(s):	arck Tribune ("Battle to Survive En	ds for Tiny Fort Rice School," May 19, 1979)
Individual nomi Contributes to a No nomination Will not contribute Potential district Thematic nomin Component of a Moved (specify recreates origin with neighborin	a potential district potential ute to a district t—feature would be a contributing nation potential a historic site or landscape all applicable choices)—a) relocati	element if other properties constitute a district ion occurred within a historic period; b) patial relationships; c) compatible in context aged eligibility
Recorded By(First Na	Emilie Arnold	Date Recorded(mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 3—Feature Data

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Field Code ______ SITS# 32 MO ____1559

Complete a Page 3 for each feature.

1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:

Feature 1 is the Fort Rice School, a rural school building originally built in 1927. A devastating tornado almost completely leveled Fort Rice on May 29, 1953, tearing most of the building off of its foundation and leaving only the entry. The school was one of only two buildings rebuilt in Fort Rice in the wake of the tornado (the other being a church). The Mandan School Board closed the school at the end of the 1978-79 school year.

Because the school building was rebuilt in the 1950s, possibly from scratch but possibly incorporating the 1927 entry on its south side, it has features earlier rural schools lack, namely a poured concrete basement and contemporary ribbon windows on its west elevation popularized by the International, Prairie, and Ranch styles. The hip roof, with its gable ridge running north to south, is covered with asphalt shingles, with a red brick chimney, missing a few bricks, emerging just south of the gable. There is also a shed roof over the basement level on the west elevation. Siding is horizontal wood.

Primary entry is through the protruding hip roof hall on the west side of the south elevation. This features a half-glass door with three horizontal fixed glass windows above and three wooden panels below on its east side. There is a casement window high on its west side with three vertical panes. Above the hip roof entry is a sign with large black letters reading "FORT RICE" and a light fixture above. On the east side of the main elevation is a 1/1 sash window.

The west elevation features a basement level ell with six openings (two on the south elevation, four on the west elevation) in the concrete foundation. Five of these openings appear to be windows, but they are all boarded with plywood. The last may be a coal chute. Above the ell, a ribbon of seven apparently intact horizontal rectangular casement windows provides light.

The north elevation is without openings for vents, windows, or doors. The wood siding on this side is weathered, with one piece missing.

The east elevation features a ribbon of six combination windows, each with three panes arranged vertically, on its north side. These windows appear intact. Below, there are four basement-level window openings that have been boarded with plywood.

Although this rural school represents the 1950s more clearly than its 1927 incarnation, it remains extremely important to the architectural and social history of Fort Rice and rural North Dakota education. That the school was one of only two buildings rebuilt after the disastrous 1953 tornado, and that it continued to educate rural children for 26 years after that speaks to the enormous importance of

(Continued next page)

Recorded By	Emilie Arnold	Date Recorded	11/25/2019
•	(First Name & Last Name)		(mm/dd/year)

NDCRS SITE FORM CONTINUATION PAGE

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Field Code SITS# 32 MO 1559
Complete a Continuation Page(s) for information that does not fit in the space available on other

Complete a Continuation Page(s) for information that does not fit in the space available on other sections of a Site Form.

(Feature 1 description, integrity, eligibility continued)

the school and its role in the Fort Rice community, even as the magnitude of the tornado's destruction sounded the death knell for a once-thriving small town. It appears to have remained exactly the same in plan as the day children last attended school there in 1979. Rural schoolhouses are a vanishing resource in North Dakota, and this one embodies the resilient spirit of those who lived through the tornado. It possesses integrity of location and setting, as well as design and workmanship, although the asphalt shingles are modern and negatively impact its integrity of materials. With integrity of feeling and association well intact, Feature 1 is recommended eligible under Criteria A and C.

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 11/25/2019

(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 2—Feature Data

UPDATE

(mm/dd/year)

Field Code		SITS# 32 MO 1559
Complete one Page	e 2 <u>for <i>each</i> architectural f</u>	eature at the site.
Architectural Feature	e#2	
Construction Date	Feature Type5	Condition 7
Feature Date 7	Context 7	Plan Shape 5
Structural System 25	Primary Exterior	Style Utilitarian
Original Owner's Ethnici	ty Secondary Exteri	or Architect/Builder
Other Information:		
Foundation Concrete		Stories 1.0
Roof/Cornice Shed		
Window No windows		
Dating Method(s): Profes	ssional estimate	
	n Recommendation(s) (Check	all that apply):
Individual nomin		
Contributes to a	potential district	
No nomination p	potential	
Will not contribu	te to a district	
Potential district	—feature would be a contributing	element if other properties constitute a district
Thematic nomin	ation potential	
Component of a	historic site or landscape	
recreates origina	, ,	ion occurred within a historic period; b) patial relationships; c) compatible in context aged eligibility
Historical associ	iations require further investigation	1
Recorded By	Emilie Arnold	Date Recorded 11/25/2019

(First Name & Last Name)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 3—Feature Data

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1 1610 Code 311 32 3 1333	Field Code SITS# 32 MO 1559
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Complete a Page 3 for each feature.

1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:

Feature 2 is a privy located approximately 45' west of Feature 1. It most likely dates to the 1950s. It is wood framed with wood siding, a concrete foundation, and a shed roof of asphalt shingles slanting upward to the south. Access is through the south elevation, where there is an entry door on its east side. The east elevation features a high vent. The north (rear) elevation has no openings of any kind.

Feature 2 is in excellent physical condition. It is visible in precisely the same location in historic FSA aerial imagery from 1957-1962 and was most likely constructed after the tornado of 1953. The historic aerial suggests there was a second privy located 45' to the west that is no longer extant. Feature 2 possesses integrity of location, setting, design, and workmanship. The use of asphalt shingles negatively impacts its integrity of materials. As a privy necessary for the workings of the rural school, Feature 2 contributes to the historic significance of Feature 1. While not necessarily eligible to the NRHP on its own merits, it supports the eligibility of site 32MO1559 under Criteria A and C.

Recorded By_	Emilie Arnold	Date Recorded	11/25/2019	
•	(First Name & Last Name)		(mm/dd/year)	

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 4—SITE DESCRIPTION

UPDATE

(mm/dd/year)

		21-211 22 MO	4550
Field Code		SITS# 32 MO	1559
Complete one Page 4	for the entire site.		
 Owner's Contact Information Delila Nelson 11 10th Ave NW Mandan, ND 58554 	ion:		
3. Access (to rural areas):			
4. Site Area (ft²):			
Missouri River. It is locate		Rice, ND, approximately 1/3 mile d a residential area. The land surrou al use.	
Recorded By	Emilie Arnold	Date Recorded 1	1/25/2019

(First Name & Last Name)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 5—SITE DESCRIPTION

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 п			_	

Field Code	SITS# 32 MO	1559

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

32MO1559 is a site with two features: the Fort Rice School (ca. 1927/1950s) and a privy (ca. 1950s).

Under Criterion A, a site would be considered for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination if it can be associated with an event that is significant to history. Site 32MO1559 is associated with both the catastrophic 1953 Fort Rice tornado and also the state, regional, and local history of rural education in North Dakota and the Mandan school district; therefore, it is recommended eligible under Criterion A.

Under Criterion B, a site would be considered eligible if it can be associated with the lives of significant persons in our past. Based on a deed search, site 32MO1559 is associated with the Gwyther family, for which the Fort Rice area was once known; however, Annie Roberta Gwyther did not own this land at the time the first school was built (1912). Site 32MO1559 is not considered eligible under Criterion B.

Under Criterion C, a site could be considered eligible if it: (a) embodies a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction; (b) represents the work of a master; (c) possesses high artistic value; (d) represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Site 32MO1559 retains high integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, and materials, which contribute to integrity of feeling and association, as a good example of a country school house of 1950s design. Therefore, it is eligible under Criterion C.

Under Criterion D, if a site has yielded or is likely to yield information important to our history or prehistory it could be eligible for the NRHP consideration. Based on a site visit, site 32MO1559 is not likely to possess information potential. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion D.

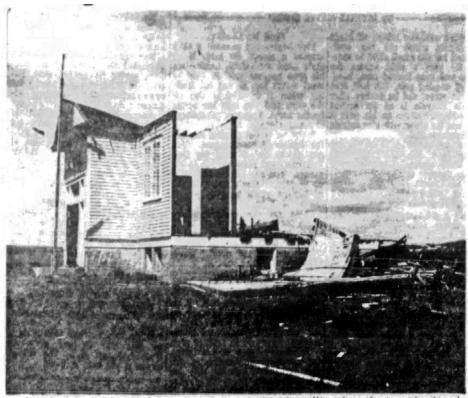
7. References/Comments:

Bismarck Tribune newspaper archives (Newspapers.com) Historic FSA aerial imagery 1957-1962 Morton County property and tax records

Recorded By	Emilie Arnold	Date Recorded	11/25/2019
•	(First Name & Last Name)	_	(mm/dd/year)

Table 1: Morton County Deed Search: T135N R79W Section 11 NW SW NW Block 1, Lot 5-6 &7

Book #	Page #	Date	Grantor	Grantee	Deed Type
TRS Deed Book					
15	553	5/21/1908	USA	Annie Roberta Gwyther	Patent (S1/2NW)
21	490	10/28/1908	Annie Roberta Gwyther	Northwestern Improvement Company	Waranty (15 acres, E1/2SWNW)
27	205	11/29/1907	Annie Roberta Gwyther	Northwestern Improvement Company	Warranty (E1/2SWNW)
35	580	4/3/1912	Annie Roberta Gwyther	The Immaculate Conception Church	Warranty (Block 2, Lot 4)
Starti	ing with 3.	5/580, all deed		elow: Plat book for town of Gwyth	her (Fort Rice)
34	297	12/2/1911	Sherman and Nellie Sevenly	James Wead	Warranty (Block 1, Lot 3)
65	393	7/26/1928	Northwestern Improvement Company	C. O. Levorsen	Deed (Block 1, Lot 6)
83	267	10/1/1940	M.J. Tobin (County Auditor)	Morton County	Deed (Block 1, Lots 1-10)
77	416	8/24/1928	C.O. Levorsen and F.E. Levorsen	Fort Rice School District #30	Quit Claim (Block 1, Lot 6)
88	571	3/24/1947	Fort Rice School District #30	Fort Rice, ND	County Deed (Block 1, Lots 5 and 7)
291	494	7/5/1985	Mandan Public School District #1 (Successor of Fort Rice School District #30)	Wayne Raunchwater	Quit Claim (Block 1, Lots 5-7)
292511		10/8/1985	Morton County	Fort Rice School District #30	County Deed (Block 1, Lots 1-4 & 8-10), "in lieu of deed issued on 11/18/1952, which has been lost or destroyed"
	Gwyt	her main book	notes Fort Rice School Distr	ict #30 at Block 1, Lots 3, 4, 8, an	
446	745	10/16/2012	Jess Nelson (Estate of Wayne Raunchwater)	Delila Nelson	Deed of Personal Representation (Block 1, Lots 1-10)
490	241	8/8/2019	Delila Nelson	James A. and Julie A. Nelson	Warranty (Block 1, Lots 1-10)



The dreams of many a schoolboy became a harsh reality when the tornado ripped all but the entrance of the Fort Rice School into oblivion. Desks and schoolbooks were scattered all over the area by the raging wind.

Figure 1: From Bismarck Tribune, "Tiny Fort Rice, Leveled by Twister, Surveys Havoc," June 1, 1953, page 7.

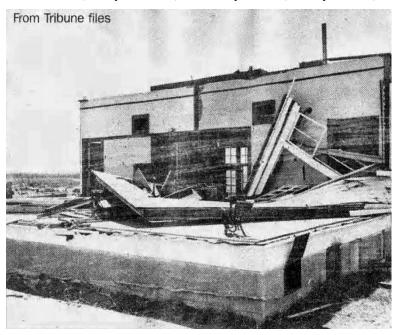


Figure 2: From *Bismarck Tribune*, "Tornado Tragedy: Two Killed, Fort Rice Flattened in 1953 Twister," June 9, 2013, page 1A. Caption: "The May 29, 1953, tornado tore off all but the entrance of the Fort Rice School. Desks and school books were scattered all over by the raging wind."

Battle to Survive Ends For Tiny Fort Rice School

By LARRY JOHNSON Tribune Staff Writer

FORT RICE — There are other one-room schools still hanging on, but the battle has ended for Fort Rice.

This week when the Mandan School Board decided to close the tiny school south of Mandan, it changed the lifestyle of a few little children and certainly that of

their teacher.
Frona Schmidt has taught 36 years in one-room schools, the last 10 at Fort Rice. This year she single-handedly taught and looked after 10 students enrolled in

handedly taught and looked after 10 students enrolled in grades one through six.

Actually there was nobody in the first grade, only one second-grade student, and one in the dourth.

Next year she will teach third-grade students in Mandan. "I'm a little nervous about it," she says. "It's going to be a little different teaching in Mandan."

And how. Both teachers and students do things in one-room schools that just aren't done anywhere else.

They wash the floors. They cook their own hot lunch. They wash the floors. They pump and carry water from outside. They have old-fashioned plays and school plenies.

It would seem to be an anachronism. But Mrs. Schmidt says children from one-room schools get a good education, better in many respects than their more urban counterparts.

"They're closer to nature," says Mrs. Schmidt. "That's one of the biggest advantages."

"We've got science right around us," she adds. The children bring something different every day to observe and learn from. It might be rocks, driftwood, bee hives or a complete animal skeleton.

"They know the different kinds of birds and they know the different kinds of trees," Mrs. Schmidt says.

They learn to put a tree branch in water and see buds form.

"It's really like a family," she says of the school. "When you know the background of the parents it's much easier to work with the children.

"And the children always tell me they get more individual help," she adds. Younger students also pick up knowledge from lessons given the older ones.

The books are the same as in Mandan, ard a bookmobile provides a library. But there are some advantages Mandan can offer the children, Mrs. Schmidt darly. It hink it would be good for them," she says. "Also, they have more... athletics."

At Fort Rice children play in the basement recreation room during winter and gang up for baseball and kickball when it's warmer. At some schools she taught in, Mrs. Schmidt recalls, children went skiling and sleigh riding during breaks.

A typical day for Mrs. Schmidt might start at 5:30 a.m., when she arises to fry chicken or prepare a hotdish for the day's lunch. She could have had meals sent out by bus, but Mrs. Schmidt feels they would have been cold by the time they arrived.

At nights, when she goes home, she often bakes cakes or cookies for the next day's meal. The children help clean up. "I believe in having the kids help," she says. "They're more likely to keep the school clean."

"We feel badly about the school closing," she says. "They're more likely to keep the school clean."

"We feel badly about the school closing," she says. Catherine Lockner, postmaster at Fort Rice for 37 years, echoes the sentiment, saying community life will lose its centerpoint, and seasons will no longer be marked by the opening and closing of school.

"When) you've got a school, there's something going on," she says. She graduated from the eighth grade at (See SCHOOL, Page 2)

(See SCHOOL, Page 2)

Old Fort Rice School, right, is closing down. Below, teacher Frong Schmidt and students take water break after recess.





School

(Continued from Page 1)

Fort Rice in 1935, the same year the high school closed. When it closed, she

ingli school closed, when it closed, she didn't continue her schooling.

Education has been going on at Fort Rice since 1885, when Elizabeth Smith arrived from Los Angeles to teach the children of early settlers, the Robert Gwythers and James Caddells. She was paid \$20.

One year later a log school with sod roof was built, but it burned down. A tar-paper shack served in 1911, then was replaced with a two-room school in 1913. That burned too, in 1926. A two-room school raised in 1927 lasted until a tornado destroyed it in 1953. Rebuilding once more, the present school came to be.

The most children Ms. Lockner can remember there being in the grade school is 25 about the time she attend-

ed.
This year's class does not seem very happy about going to Mandan. It means they must get up earlier to catch the bus, and return home later.

Stacey Bendish, one of three fifth-graders, feels there may be too many students in Mandan. As for the food, he's heard, "It's not that good."

Figure 3: Bismarck Tribune, May 19, 1979, pages 1-2.



Figure 4: Feature 1, looking northeast, November 13, 2019.



Figure 5: Feature 1, looking southeast, November 13, 2019.



Figure 6: Feature 1, looking southwest.



Figure 7: Feature 1, looking west.



Figure 8: Feature 1, looking northwest.



Figure 9: Feature 2, looking north.



Figure 10: Feature 2, looking southwest.

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Field Code Fort Rice School SITE IDENTIFICATION Map Quad FORT RICE Map Quad	_ Site Name Fort		1559
LTLTWP R SEC _	11 QQQ 8 QQQ QQQ _	QQ QQ	
NAD 1983, UTM 5153870 N NAD 1983, UTM 378346 E	ZONE 14N		Subsection: 1 = N½
City: Fort Rice			2 = E½ 3 = S½
Street Number:	- ×		4 = W½ 5 = NE¼
Street Name: Fort Rice Street			6 = SE¼ 7 = SW¼
Urban Legal Description:			8 = NW1/4
SITE DATA			
Total # Architectural Features: 1]		
Fieldwork Date: 8/14/2019			
Reconnaissance Survey Intensi	ve Survey		
Project & Principal Investigator: Country Schoolhouse Project			
Report Title & Author(s):			
Contracting firm or Agency completing the form	:		
Additional Information:			
SHSND USE Area of Significance Ecozone Ecozone Ecozone	Verified	Site C	R Type <u>2</u>
Recorded By Kathy Wilner		Date Recorded	8/14/2019
(First Name & Last Name)			(mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 2—Feature Data

Field Code Fort Rice School	SITS# 32 MO		
Complete one Page 2 for each architecture	al feature at the site.		
Architectural Feature #			
Construction Date Feature Type	9 Condition 7		
Feature Date Context 7	Plan Shape ⁵		
Structural System 25 Primary Exte	Other Style		
Original Owner's Ethnicity — Secondary E	xterior N/A Architect/Builder		
Other Information:			
Foundation Poured concrete basement	Stories 1		
Roof/Cornice Hip			
Triple windows on the east, fixed pane window	ws on the west		
Dating Method(s):			
Feature Preservation Recommendation(s) (Ch	eck 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 contribu	ting element if other properties constitute a district		
Thematic nomination potential			
Component of a historic site or landscape			
Moved (specify all applicable choices)—a) release recreates original site, orientation, landscape, with neighboring structures; d) relocation has	& spatial relationships; c) compatible in context		
Historical associations require further investigation			
Recorded By Kathy Wilner	Date Recorded 8/14/2019		
(First Name & Last Name)	(mm/dd/year)		

Instructions to complete a digital version of this form: (1) Download a copy; (2) Open the saved blank copy; (3) Fill out the form; (4) Use the Save As command to rename the form appropriately, and save; (5) **Print** and submit to SHSND.

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 3—Feature Data

Field Code Fort Rice School	PAGE 3—Feature Data	SITS# 32 MO	
		7	

Complete a Page 3 for each feature.

1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:

The feature is a one room prairie school sitting on a poured concrete basement. The school is in its original location in the town of Fort Rice. The school experienced a tornado in 1953 that damaged the school and parts of it were rebuilt to what you see today. The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a red brick chimney on the south facing slope of the roof. The soffits are closed. The main portion of the building mesures 35 feet north to south and 25 feet east to west. The entry measures 12 feet by 5 feet. There is a leanto on a portion of the basement that has a shed roof, covered with asphalt shingles. This measures 30 feet north to south by 13 feet east to west. This is likely the where the upper portion was destroyed by the tornado.

The siding is 6 inch wood lap with metal corner trim. Half the school has been recently painted. There are 7 fixed pane windows just under the eaves on the west side, above the leanto portion of the school. A bank of six large 3 panel windows are seen on the east wall of the school, all glass intact. Broken blinds can be seen from the outside of the school. There is a 3 panel wood door with a three pane glass window at the top one third giving entry into the school. The door is locked. There is a small, 3 fixed pane window to the left of the door. One more double hung window faces south in the main room of the school. In visiting with a gentleman in the town of Fort Rice I learned that the walls and ceiling are finished with wallboard. The floor is tongue and groove hardwood. There is a blackboard along the north wall. Electricity is present. The east basement wall has four covered window openings and there are 4 more on the west basement wall of the leanto as well as two more facing south. There is also a door for fuel on that west wall.

Recorded By Kathy Wilner	Date Recorded 8/14/2019
(First Name & Last Name)	(mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM PAGE 4—SITE DESCRIPTION

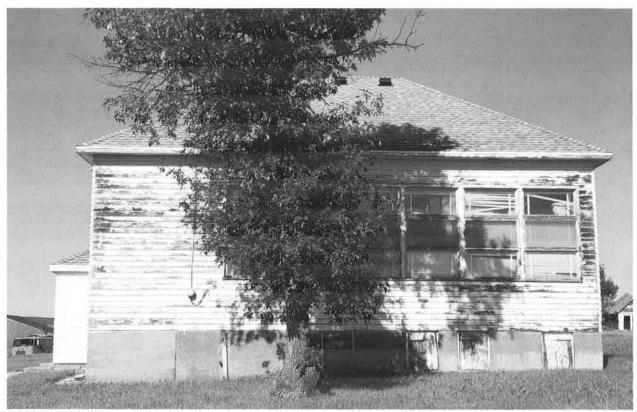
Field Code Fort Rice School	SITS# 32 MO
Complete one Page 4 for the entire site.	
Owner's Contact Information: Delila Nelson Mandan ND 58554	
Access (to rural areas): Drive south of Mandan on 1806 about 31 miles. The villa Take the one main road into town, called Fort Rice Avenuschool is on the left about a block in.	
4. Site Area (ft²):	
 Description of SETTING: This school sits in a very small town with a bar to the we houses around the town. 	st, an old chuch building the the east and a few
Madha Mila	[014.4100.40
Recorded By Kathy Wilner (First Name & Last Name)	Date Recorded 8/14/2019 (mm/dd/year)

(mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

PAGE 5—S	SITE DESCR	IPTION			
Field Code Fort Rice School		SITS# 3	2 ^{MO}		
6. Summary of ALL Site Features & Evaluation of Significance:					
7. References/Comments: Kathy Wilner					
366 43rd Ave SE Bowdon ND 58418					
DOWGOII ND JOH 10					
		ir .			
Recorded By Kathy Wilner		Date Recorded	8/14/2019		

(First Name & Last Name)



East Side

Fort Rice School 8/14/2019 Kathy Wilner MO

South Side

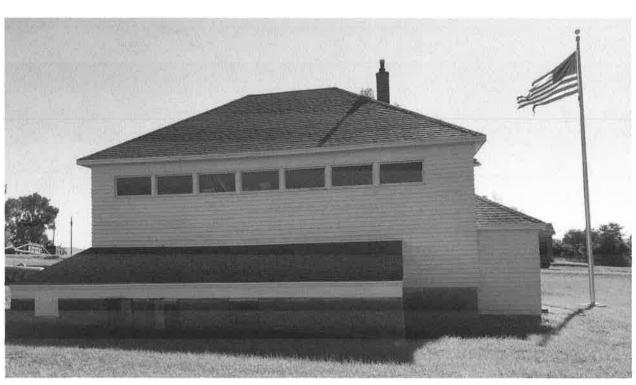


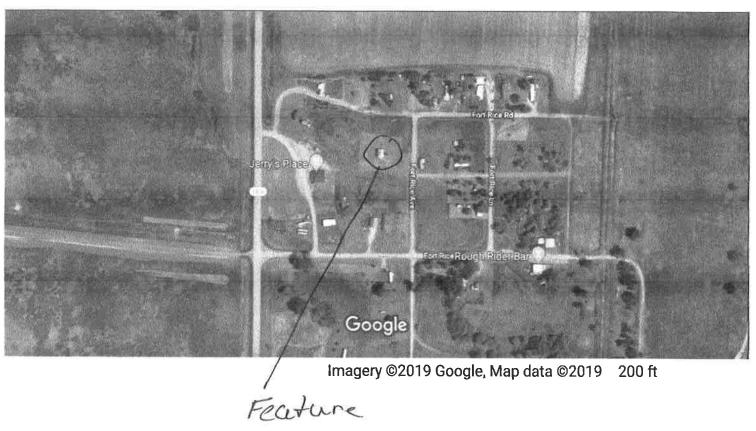


North Side

Fort Rice School 8/14/2019 Kathy Wilner MO

West Side





200 ft