

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM

PAGE 1

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32MZ 3022

Map Quad _____

Site Name _____

Map Quad _____

Site Name _____

LTL T. 146 N., R. 104 W., Sec. 10 QQQ 8 of the QQ 8 of the Q 8

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 1983 UTM 5259961 Zone 13N

NAD 1983 UTM 580911

Subsection
1 = N¼
2 = E¼
3 = S¼
4 = W¼
5 = NE¼
6 = SE¼
7 = SW¼
8 = NW¼

City: _____

Street Number: 494

Street Name: Highway 16

Urban Legal Description: _____

Total Number of Architectural Features: 1

Fieldwork Date: 8/18/2021

Reconnaissance Survey

Intensive Survey _____

Project & Principal Investigator:

Country School House Project
Kathy Wilner
366 43rd Ave SE
Bowdon ND 58418

Contracting Firm or Agency Completing the Form:

Additional Information:

SHSND USE

Component _____ Study Unit _____ Verified Site _____ CR Type _____

Component _____

Component _____

Recorded By: Kathy Wilner Date Recorded: 10/29/2021

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

Field Code _____ **SITS# 32 MZ 3022**

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

Architectural Feature # 1

Construction Date _____

Feature Date 1900-1915

Structural System Wood Frame

Original Owner's Ethnicity _____

Feature Type 9 - School; Church school

Context Education

Primary Exterior Metal, Horizontal Siding

Secondary Exterior _____

Condition Excellent

Plan Shape L-Shaped

Style Other Style

Architect/Builder _____

Foundation Poured concrete Stories 1

Roof/Cornice Gable

Window Casement/double hung, new

Dating Method(s) Estimate

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: Kathy Wilner **Date Recorded:** 10/29/2021

**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM
PAGE 3 – Feature Data****Field Code** _____**SITS# 32 MZ 3022** _____**Complete one Page 3 for each architectural feature at the site.****1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:**

The feature is a one room prairie school on a poured concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a red brick chimney at the east end of the east/west gable roof. There is a bell tower with a bell at the west end of the east/west gable roof. The entire bell tower is finished with metal sheeting. The soffits are closed.

The siding is all horizontal metal with metal corner trim. There is a mixture of windows, the west end has a small double hung window, the north side one casement window, and the south side has two sets of three windows. All windows have glass. There is a solid core locked door leading into the school. Another locked door is located on the east side. We were unable to go inside the school but a person living on the property told us that the school is used for preschool today. She shared that the interior walls and ceiling are all wallboard and the floor is covered with linoleum. There are blackboards and rolling white boards. Electricity is present. The school is heated with propane.

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Carpenter Bros. LLP
12070 Cty Rd 350
Sidney MT 59270

Recorded By: _____ **Kathy Wilner** _____ **Date Recorded:** 10/29/2021

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL FORM
PAGE 4 – Site Description

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022

3. Site Area (ft²):

4. Description of Access and Site Setting:

This school is located at the juncton of Hwy 16 and Cty Rd 5 in SW McKenzie County. the Multipurpose Hall sits just across the road to the west with all the land being either tillable farm land or pasture. It is hilly with bluffs.

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

6. References/Comments:

Kathy Wilner
366 43rd Ave SE
Bowdon ND 58418

Recorded By: _____ **Kathy Wilner** _____ **Date Recorded:** 10/29/2021

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.



North Side

8/18/2021

Kathy Wilner

MZ

East Side





South Side

8/18/2021

Kathy Wilner

MZ

West Side





Imagery ©2021 Maxar Technologies, USDA Farm Service Agency, Map data ©2021 200 ft

Feature

NDCRS ATTACHMENT SECTION

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022



Photo taken summer 2010 by SHSND intern Alicia Liebel

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger **Date Recorded:** 11/17/2020

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 ATTACHMENT SECTION

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022



Photo taken summer 2010 by SHSND intern Alicia Liebel

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger **Date Recorded:** 11/17/2020

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 ATTACHMENT SECTION

Field Code _____

SITS# 32

MZ

3022



Photo taken summer 2010 by SHSND intern Alicia Liebel

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger

Date Recorded: 11/17/2020

NDCRS ATTACHMENT SECTION

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022



Photo taken summer 2010 by SHSND intern Alicia Liebel

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger

Date Recorded: 11/17/2020

NDCRS ATTACHMENT SECTION

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022



Photo taken summer 2010 by SHSND intern Alicia Liebel

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger **Date Recorded:** 11/17/2020

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 ATTACHMENT SECTION

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022



Photo taken summer 2010 by SHSND intern Alicia Liebel

Recorded By: Lorna Meidinger **Date Recorded:** 11/17/2020

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 SITE FORM

PAGE 1

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022

SITE IDENTIFICATION

Map Quad _____ Site Name _____
Map Quad _____ Site Name _____

LTL ___TWP 146 R 104 SEC 10 QQQ 8 QQ 8 Q 8
LTL ___TWP _____ R _____ SEC _____ QQQ _____ QQ _____ Q _____
LTL ___TWP _____ R _____ SEC _____ QQQ _____ QQ _____ Q _____
LTL ___TWP _____ R _____ SEC _____ QQQ _____ QQ _____ Q _____

NAD 1983, UTM 5259961 N ZONE 13N
NAD 1983, UTM 580911 E

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

City: _____

Street Number: 494

Street Name: ND Highway 16 N

Urban Legal Description: _____

SITE DATA

Total # **Architectural** Features: 3

Fieldwork Date: 10/18/2019

Reconnaissance Survey _____ Intensive Survey

Project & Principal Investigator:
MCWRD System 4 Part 4 Rural Water Project; Brittany Brooks (PI)

Report Title & Author(s):
A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the McKenzie County Water Resource District System
4 Part 4 Rural Water Project in McKenzie County, North Dakota by Amanda Baker

Contracting firm or Agency completing the form:
Beaver Creek Archaeology

Additional Information:

SHSND USE

Area of Significance _____ Ecozone _____ Verified Site _____ CR Type _____
Area of Significance _____ Ecozone _____
Area of Significance _____ Ecozone _____

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 01/22/2020
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

Instructions to complete this form: (1) Download ; (2) Save A Copy; (3) Submit a paper copy of the form to the SHSND and a PDF version of the form and corresponding GIS shapefiles to the FTP site of the SHSND.

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 2—Feature Data

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022

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

Architectural Feature # 1

Construction Date _____ Feature Type 9 Condition 7
Feature Date 3 Context 7 Plan Shape 3
Structural System 25 Primary Exterior 15 Style Utilitarian
Original Owner's Ethnicity _____ Secondary Exterior N/A Architect/Builder _____

Other Information: _____

Foundation Concrete Stories 1.0

Roof/Cornice Gable

Window Most original windows and openings altered; one opening boarded

Dating Method(s): Professional 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 investigation

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 01/22/2020
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

PAGE 3—Feature Data

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022

Complete a Page 3 for each feature.

1. **Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:**

Feature 1 was first recorded by K. Olson in 2016. At that time, having determined Feature 1 to be ineligible for listing to the NRHP under Criteria C or D, Olson determined that 32MZ3022's historical associations required further investigation to determine whether the site could qualify under Criteria A or B. BCA staff visited 32MZ3022 on January 10, 2020.

Alterations since 2016 are superficial. In 2016, Feature 1's north elevation revealed a piece of peeling siding; this has been repaired. In 2020, the white paint on the west elevation siding, especially below the sign, has grown more weathered and grey. Similar weathering can be seen on the east elevation.

A deed search for 32MZ3022 reveals that the property where the school sits was issued as a patent to James R. Pollard in 1913. The property remained in the Pollard family until 1952. It was owned by Delmer Williams for three years, who transmitted it to the Carpenter family in 1955. The property remains with the Carpenters as of 2020 through an LLC. Surveys of North Dakota and Montana newspaper archives did not find any notable information about the Pollards or the Carpenters, nor did it reveal any information about the arrangement that led area McKenzie County school children to attend school on private land.

No articles could be located to definitively date Feature 1's year of construction. A November 21, 2006 article in the Bismarck Tribune ("School hangs on with 2 students") states that the school had been operating for 102 years. This suggests a construction year of 1904. It was part of Earl School District #18 (Andrist 1978).

Based on review of the historic FSA aerial imagery of 1957-1962, at that time, Feature 1 did not have a cupola, and its entry portico was much smaller. A pair of small buildings to the east of the school were likely outhouses. Two 1978 photographs in a Bismarck Tribune article about the school show its configuration at that time and indicate that the bell cupola was added between 1962 and 1978 (Ibid). A 1994 photograph published in the Bismarck Tribune, focused on the school's south elevation, shows that the expanded entry and south additions were added—and, most likely, the siding updated—between 1978 and 1994; at this time, the outhouses were still present (Bismarck Tribune 1994). Importantly, as of 2006, Feature 1 was still an active school, though it had only two students at that time (Bismarck Tribune 2006). A Wikipedia article for the community states that the school is no longer in use, but it does not cite any sources as to when this occurred.

[Continued next page]

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 01/22/2020
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

NDCRS SITE FORM CONTINUATION PAGE

UPDATE

Field Code _____ SITS# 32 MZ 3022

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]

Country school houses, which educated rural children of all ages, are a vanishing resource in North Dakota, and in 2009, the State Historical Society issued a public call for assistance in documenting the ones that remain. However, as noted by K. Olson, Feature 1 has seen significant updates over time. It operated decades longer than many other rural North Dakota schools and saw physical and technical updates to adjust to modern requirements, including the installation of a phone line in 1971, when Gap was one of the last communities in the United States to receive phone service (Bismarck Tribune 1971). The removal of the outhouses suggests that remodeling may also have incorporated indoor bathrooms. For this reason, even if Feature 1 was indeed constructed in 1904, it no longer serves as a representative example of its type.

However, the school—one of only four buildings standing in the crossroads hamlet known as Gap—educated generations of children in one of North Dakota's (indeed, the nation's) most remote locations (Hendrickson 1978; Bismarck Tribune 1992; Bismarck Tribune 2006). Furthermore, the building itself has long served as a community anchor, at every stage of its renovation and design. Its unprecedented duration of service, carrying on the tradition and necessity of rural education through at least 2006, renders even its recent history significant.

Feature 1 possesses integrity of setting and location. Modifications to its plan (the addition of the bell cupola, removal and replacement/enlargement of the west portico, and the southern addition) negatively impact its integrity of design, while modern siding and roofing materials reduce its integrity of materials and workmanship; these changes preclude its eligibility under Criterion C. However, Feature 1 retains significant integrity of feeling and association. For its important historical associations with rural education, Feature 1 is recommended eligible to the NRHP under Criterion A.

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 01/22/2020
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

Instructions to complete a digital version of this form: (1) Download a copy to your hard drive; (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 4—SITE DESCRIPTION**

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022

Complete one Page 4 for the entire site.

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Feature 1 (school): Carpenter Brothers LLP / 12070 County Road 350 / Sidney MT 59270

Feature 2 (trailer home): Delbert R. Carpenter / 452 Highway 16 N / Sidney MT 59270

3. Access (to rural areas):

4. Site Area (ft²): _____

5. Description of **SETTING**:

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 01/22/2020
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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

UPDATE

Field Code _____

SITS# 32 MZ 3022**6. Summary of ALL Site Features & Evaluation of Significance:**

32MZ3022 is a site with three features: a rural schoolhouse (Feature 1), a prefabricated modular home (Feature 2), and a shed (Feature 3).

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. With a rural school building constructed in 1904 and operational at least through 2006, site 32MZ3022 is associated with the state, regional, and local history of rural education in one of North Dakota's remotest communities; 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. A deed search and a review of North Dakota newspaper archives did not reveal any such persons. For this reason, 32MZ3022 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; or (d) represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Due to substantial renovation, no features at 32MZ3022 present any of these qualities; therefore, 32MZ3022 is not 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, 32MZ3022 is not likely to possess information potential. Therefore, it is not eligible under Criterion D.

7. References/Comments:

Google Earth
Historic FSA aerial imagery, 1957-1962
McKenzie County deed and tax records

See attachment for additional itemized references

Recorded By Emilie Arnold Date Recorded 01/22/2020
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

References

Andrist, Steve

1978 "Remoteness Is a Plus." *The Bismarck Tribune* 6 May:20. Bismarck, ND.

The Bismarck Tribune

1971 "Isolated Area Finally Getting Phones: Santa Drops a Line." 13 October:1. Bismarck, ND.

1971 "Telephone Service Arrives." 17 December:22. Bismarck, ND.

1978 "School Size No Problem Performing Perfect Play." 20 December:1-2. Bismarck, ND.

1992 "Teachers Say One-Room School Has Benefits." 7 April:8B. Bismarck, ND.

1994 Photograph: "The vast prairie stretches out on both sides of School in McKenzie County." 23 October:1E. Bismarck, ND.

2005 "School Goes on at Horse Creek: Only Six Students Left on the Roster." 4 December:9C. Bismarck, ND.

2006 "School Hangs On with 2 Students." 21 November:2B. Bismarck, ND.

Hendrickson, Lucille

1978 "Isolation : A Way of Life." *The Bismarck Tribune* 15 February:44. Bismarck, ND.

Wikipedia

n.d. Electronic document,
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Table 1: McKenzie County Deed Search

Book #	Page #	Date	Grantor	Grantee	Deed Type
39	197	8/15/1913	USA	James R. Pollard	Patent
71	277	3/15/1947	Elizabeth Pollard and Clande Coberly	Louis Pollard	Warranty
71	279	2/24/1943	Mrs. James Pollard a.k.a. Lettie	Louis Pollard	Warranty
71	281	4/15/1952	Ernice Olson Cree Pollard	Louis Edward Pollard	Warranty
71	299	1/16/1952	Louis and Mabel Pollard	Delmer and Leila Williams	Warranty
102	231	4/9/1955	Delmer Williams	Delbert Carpenter	Warranty
Doc # 336543		3/7/2000	Delbert Carpenter	Delbert and Esther Carpenter	Warranty
Doc # 369356		4/4/2007	Estate of Delbert Carpenter	Clarence and Randall Joe Carpenter	Personal Representative Distribution Deed
Doc #375665		12/26/2007	Clarence Carpenter	Carpenter Bros LLC	Quit Claim

Photo Narrative



Figure 1: 32MZ3022 over time: Historic FSA aerial imagery, 1957-1962 (left); Google Earth satellite, May 2017 (right).



Figure 2: Overview of 32MZ3022, January 10, 2020, looking east.



Figure 3: Feature 1 looking northeast, January 10, 2020.



Figure 4: Feature 1 looking southeast, January 10, 2020.



Figure 5: Feature 1 looking west, January 10, 2020.



Figure 6: Feature 2 looking northwest, January 10, 2020.

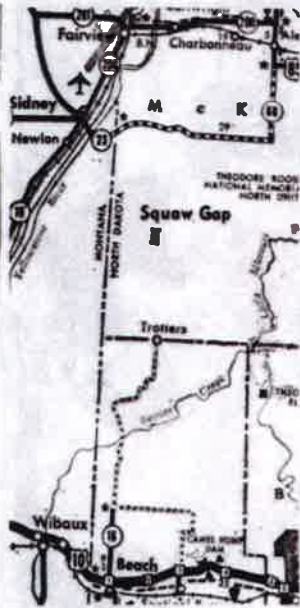
Bismarck, N. D., Wednesday, October 13, 1971



Price Ten Cents

Isolated Area Finally Getting Phones

Santa Drops Squaw Gap a Line



SQUAW GAP, N.D. (AP) — The 20th century is catching up to the isolated Squaw Gap country of western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Some 100 ranch families in the territory will have telephone service, hopefully before Christmas.

Bounded by the Yellowstone river on the west and the Little Missouri river on the east, the Rhode Island-sized area is covered by sharply rising hills, occasional clay and mud buttes and deep ravines. A man's nearest neighbor may live 10 or more miles away.

The cable that will carry telephone service to ranches in parts of Billings, Golden Valley and McKenzie counties in North Dakota and Wibaux and Golden Valley counties in Montana is being laid by Reservation Telephone Cooperative of Parshall, N.D.

Leonard Hall, the postmaster at Trotters, 13 miles south of Squaw Gap, also will get a telephone. His only communi-

cation besides the mail is by radio to Beach, 33 miles to the south.

A woman on a ranch says she uses a radio on a neighboring ranch for routine communication. "We don't do any gossiping" on the radio, she says.

Fred Ahlgren, manager of Reservation Telephone Cooperative, says the new service requires a whopping investment of \$4,200 per telephone. Nevertheless, he says, the maximum charge will be \$12 a month for one-party services. But ranchers will have to pay a long-distance toll for calls to any city or town.

Extension of service to the area is made possible through long-term 2 per cent interest loans from the Rural Telephone Administration, Ahlgren says.

Squaw Gap is 46 miles north of Beach and consists of a one-room school, a trailer where the teacher lives and a community hall.

Figure 9: "Isolated Area Finally Getting Phones: Santa Drops a Line," The Bismarck Tribune October 1, 1971, page 1, Bismarck, ND.



Telephone Service Arrives

The first telephone service ever arrived in Squaw Gap Wednesday. Ranchers, many of them 10 miles apart, previously used citizen band radio to communicate. Here Mrs. Ethel Franz shows the student body at the Squaw Gap School how the gadget works. Some persons in the ranching community along

the western North Dakota border between the Yellowstone and Little Missouri rivers had never used telephones. Telephone cooperative officials said it took an average of 2.15 miles of telephone line to connect the various ranchers in the 1,000 square mile region.

Figure 10: "Telephone Service Arrives," *The Bismarck Tribune*, December 17, 1971 page 22. Bismarck, ND.

Isolation in Squaw Gap: A Way of Life

By LUCILLE HENDRICKSON
Tribune Staff Writer

SQUAW GAP — While travelers waited restlessly Friday for National Guard bulldozers to open up the roads after one of western North Dakota's worst blizzards in a decade, the children at Squaw Gap School in the storm-struck area were having a fine time sliding down the eight-foot snowdrifts piled up along their schoolhouse.

Isolation from the world and winter blizzards are just part of life here. The little rural school nestles in the rolling hills west of the Badlands in McKenzie County, one of the most sparsely populated areas of the state — possibly the nation.

The school has five pupils from three nearby farm and ranch families, and the building is the

same one in which their grandparents learned their ABCs — with a few changes.

A bottled-gas furnace has replaced the old pot-bellied stove, and the children's lunchboxes often contain frozen pot pies to be popped into a modern oven for a hot lunch.

The schoolhouse has something even their parents at home didn't enjoy until recently: a telephone. Not until 1971 were phone lines finally stretched across the miles of prairie plateau to connect families of that area with the outside world.

The one-room school is vanishing even from the North Dakota prairie. But that's not likely to happen soon at Squaw Gap. The nearest towns of any size are Beach, 46 miles south, and Sidney, Mont., some 20 miles northwest. When the winter winds are whipping up the snow,

making visibility zero, even the 3½ miles — the farthest any pupil lives from school — might as well be 100.

"We've been snowed in most of the time since Thanksgiving," said Andrew Holler, whose wife, Martha, is the teacher.

He said they got out for Christmas and picked up some supplies at Sidney last weekend.

"Good thing we did, too," he said. The blizzard began in earnest on Sunday bringing some areas eight or more inches of snow which winds, peaking at 45 to 70 miles an hour at times, piled into huge drifts.

Despite the blizzard, the Squaw Gap youngsters missed only two days of school last week, and one was due to flu.

"It's like a family. When one gets it, they all get it," said Holler.

Mrs. Holler has taught here for two years and is a veteran rural teacher, now rounding out her 29th year. They live in a trailer adjacent to the school.

"She teaches and I do the housework," chuckled her husband, a retired rancher. Holler also does the maintenance work at the school. He knows the name, age and grade of every pupil.

Radio, television and the telephone have brought the world a little closer, but the life-style of this rural farming community is much the same as it was two generations ago—centered in family, church and school.

And when the winter winds rage outside, Squaw Gap families are drawn together in a closeness that, like the one-room school, is vanishing from today's mobile society.

Figure 11: "Isolation

A Way of Life." *The Bismarck Tribune*, February 15, 1978, page 44.
Bismarck, ND.



Three structures at a crossroads among the rugged buttes of McKenzie County mark the community of Squaw Gap.

Figure 12:

Remoteness Is a Plus." The Bismarck Tribune, May 6, 1978, page 20. Bismarck, ND.

At Squaw Gap, Remoteness Is a Plus

By STEVE ANDRIST
Tribune Staff Writer

SQUAW GAP — The road winds through very rural and scenic southwestern McKenzie County until it forms a major intersection at a spot where there's a typical-looking white schoolhouse that the students actually like to attend.

"One time I was sick, and it was a nice day, and I was kinda wishin' I could come to school," chirped Tracy Leland, a third-grader and one of five students who attend Squaw Gap School.

"I've never seen such schoolchildren," said Mrs. Andrew Holler, the teacher who's been in the business 29 years, 18 of them in rural schools and the last two at Squaw Gap. "They're always willing to work, and if I give a test, they're always prepared for it. It's different than town school."

Squaw Gap itself is different. The site includes the school and a community building located at a crossroads in perhaps the most remote area of the state. There has never even been a post office there, just a name for the center of a ranch community that is a pretty blend of national grasslands, buttes and hills.

According to Andrew Holler, the name comes from a natural landmark. "There used to be a rock up on that hill," said Holler pointing north, "that looked like an Indian squaw carrying a papoose. Down here it's kind of a gap between the hills," he said, "so they just started callin' the place Squaw Gap."

The site can't be reached from the east because there are no bridges across the Little Missouri River. The only major road runs north from Beach, to Squaw Gap via Trailers. It continues north to N.D. 68—the first sign of blacktop since Beach, which leads northeast to Alexander or west to Sidney, Mont., the spot 23 miles from home where Squaw Gap students go on to high school.

In 1971 Squaw Gap made national headlines when, just before Christmas, the area got telephone service for the first time.

But it's partly the remoteness that Squaw Gap area ranchers and their families like. There is no traffic, or air or water problems, and the hills and buttes rise majestically from the ground. The biggest worry, said Mrs. Holler, is rattlesnakes, and they only bother in the summertime.

And the education is good. The four schools in Earl School District No. 18 have a total of a total of 16 students — six at Leland School, five at Squaw Gap, three at Shadwell and two at Plainview.

At Squaw Gap, the oldest of the schools, the five students come from three families. Tracy and sister Tana, a first-grader, are daughters of Melvin and Luella Leland. Darrell Minow, a sixth-grader and the only boy in the school, and sister Becky, are children of Jim and Harriet Minow, and LaRae Macik, another eighth-grader, is the daughter of Roy and Laura Macik.

There is only one beginner left to start at Squaw Gap, another member of the Leland family. And with two eighth-graders moving on to Sidney next year, the enrollment will be down to four.

"But they'll keep the school open," said Mrs. Holler, "as long as there are students. Parents are pleased with the education the kids get."

Mrs. Holler said the environment at the school is primarily responsible for providing a good education. "You'd be surprised how they learn one from the other," she said. "It's a real advantage" because the young students naturally pick up things during classes for older students at the one-room school.

Becky agreed the Squaw Gap school provides a good education, but admitted, "I'll be happy to go to Sidney cause there will be more kids my age."

Tana, the first-grader, said she likes reading class best, "and my dad built that bookcase when he was in the eighth grade," she chimed just before singing the song that helped her learn the ABC's.

"These people all like to read," said Mrs. Holler. "When the bookmobile comes we always have a stack of

books like this," she added, holding her hand about three feet above the desk top.

The Hollers, retired ranchers from Grassy Butte who now have a home in Dodge, haven't decided if they'll be back to Squaw Gap for another year. But they like the area. "This is a peaceful place," said Mrs. Holler. "Very peaceful."



Mrs. Andrew Holler, the Squaw Gap teacher, hands out a test. From front, the students are Tana Leland, a first grader; Darrell Minow, a sixth grader; and his sister Becky, in eighth grade.



The white, wooden one-room school has five students in grades one, three, six and eight.

School Size No Problem Performing Perfect Play

Special to The Tribune

SQUAW GAP — People in the three schools in this remote area of McKenzie County were disappointed when they discovered the perfect play for this year's Christmas program called for 10 characters.

The student body for Squaw Gap, Shadwell and Plainview schools is only eight.

But as on Broadway, in Squaw Gap the show must go on.

"There is an older couple in the play anyway," said Mrs. Andrew Holler, the teacher at Squaw Gap, "so Andrew and I are going to be those characters."

Along with the Hollers, every one of the students at the three schools will have a part in the play that will be performed Thursday night at the Squaw Gap community center.

"It's a tradition," said Mrs. Holler. "The two years we've been here that hall was packed. The people come from a long ways away, but we do put on a pretty good program, if I can say so myself," she said.

There will be probably better than 50 people at the Thursday performance, said Mrs. Holler. "It's sometimes so full people have to stand."

And Darrell Minow, one of the three students at



Mrs. Holler

Squaw Gap School, said "there's certainly going to be more than 50."

It wouldn't be Christmas without the school program for residents of the Squaw Gap area. It's nearly a social event for the sparsely-populated ranching community that finds its blessing in the rugged buttes and vast grasslands.

"People are really looking forward to it," chimed Mrs. Holler. "Everybody's been asking me, 'What is your program? Are you going to have one?'"

Mrs. Holler's answer is simple. "We just can't get by without one."

The play this year is called "The Merry Moppets." "We'll have a little bit about Christmas, too," said Mrs. Holler, "with group singing with parents and everybody." But the main feature is the play.

It involves two elderly people who are lonely and poor, and whose nephews and nieces are coming for Christmas. "They don't have money for presents, and want to give them more than just a dinner," said Mrs. Holler. "But they have nothing."

Meanwhile, there are several dolls tucked away in an old chest that come alive during the play and try to help the couple with their gift problem. By leaving a mothball on the table, the dolls remind the couple about the dolls — the perfect gift.

"The couple is happy because they have a gift," said Mrs. Holler, "the nephews and nieces are happy because they love the gift, and the dolls are happy because they got out of the trunk. It's just like

(See SIZE, Page 2)

Size No Problem

(Continued from Page 1)

Christmas should be."

It's the kind of play, said Mrs. Holler, that the students are enthusiastic about. "When I first told them, they really thought this was good. They are more excited than ever."

Most grade school students "are deathly scared" of appearing in front of people, said the 30-year veteran of the teaching profession. "But not these kids. It doesn't bother them at all."

It's just their way of wishing the community a meaningful, merry Christmas.

Figure 13: "School Size No Problem Performing Perfect Play." *The Bismarck Tribune*, December 20, 1978, page 1-2, Bismarck, ND.

Teachers say one-room school has benefits

SQUAW GAP (AP) — Learning basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills isn't much different in a remote school with only six students or in a city school in a classroom of 25.

Numbers add up to the same sums, the lessons are taught as fact, and the final tests tell the score the students have reached.

But teachers say there are great benefits to being one of the six elementary students at the one-room Squaw Gap school on some of

the most desolate prairie in southwest McKenzie County.

"The students and their parents believe they have the best of both worlds," said Letha Lee, their teacher.

"The school, the values, the wild-life, the environment and surroundings make nature almost second nature to these students, yet it is such a valuable part of their learning — unavailable anyplace else," she said.

"These are ranching people out

here," Lee continued. "Generations of families have lived in this area earning a living and loving what they do. Fathers and grandfathers have attended school in this very building and if these schools stay open, these children's children will probably come here too."

There are three such one-room schoolhouses in the area, south of Watford City. The Squaw Gap, Horse Creek and Stevenson schools are all within 20 miles of each other. This year, each school has

six students.

Rose Fitzgerald, a teacher's aide, works with students needing special help with regular grade-level work three days a week.

Parents bring their children to school. The longest commute is from about 12 miles away.

The school is one of the oldest in the county, said Jessie Goddard, McKenzie County superintendent of schools. School records have been kept since 1905 and the school was organized before that.

Figure 14: "Teachers Say One-Room School Has Benefits." *The Bismarck Tribune*, April 7, 1992, page 8B, Bismarck, ND.



The vast prairie stretches out on both sides of Squaw Gap School in McKenzie County.

Figure 15: Photograph, *The Bismarck Tribune*, October 23, 1994, page 1E. Bismarck, ND.



Six students in three grades attend classes at Horse Creek School, south of Cartwright. Parents of the students comprise the school board.

School goes on at Horse Creek

■ *Only six students left on the roster*

CARTWRIGHT (AP) — In an era when many North Dakota schools have closed due to lack of enrollment or to consolidation with neighboring school districts, tiny Horse Creek School carries on a large part of this state's history.

A mere six students attend classes at Horse Creek, in the heart of rugged and remote ranching country south of Cartwright.

Horse Creek School District 32 of McKenzie County maintains a kindergarten through eighth grade curriculum. This year it is heavy with second graders — three of them. One student in fourth grade and a set of twins in the seventh grade complete the school's enrollment. Aleah Thingstad is the teacher.

help each other."

As isolated as Horse Creek might be, it's "just like a normal school," Thingstad said. The school day includes such basic subjects as reading and math, and even some time on the Internet.

Thingstad has a teacher's aide for three days each week. The aide, who has been working at Horse Creek for nine years, currently handles the second graders. That gives Thingstad time to teach the lone fourth-grader and the two seventh-graders the same subjects at the same time.

"Students get individual attention," said Thingstad. "You can see growth really quickly and if someone is struggling in an area, we get caught up right away. Of course, we don't have to line up for phy-ed or things like that, so we have enough time to do things."

The students stay active in 4-H, giving them some activities other than school work.

"I think it's neat," said the first-year teacher. "My great aunt went to a country school. I think it's neat to say I worked at a country school in this day and age."

Thingstad graduated from Minnesota State University, Moorhead in December of last year and began searching for her place at the head of a classroom. She responded to an intriguing advertisement for a teacher in a "rural area with housing furnished."

"I checked it out and didn't know what to think, but my dad said I should always go to an interview," explained Thingstad. "I met the school board. They were very nice and positive and down to earth."

One week later, Thingstad accepted the job. Now, her family playfully addresses her as "schoolmarm."

Last year, Horse Creek combined with two other schools in the area, Squaw Gap and Stevenson, and the total enrollment swelled to 14. The arrangement didn't work out and Horse Creek's students went back to attending full-time classes in their own building for the 2005-06 school year.

Horse Creekers still combine with Squaw Gap for a few country shindigs. On Valentine's Day they'll make the trip, possibly on horseback, to the big school at Squaw Gap — enrollment eight.

The old Horse Creek School, just a few miles from the current one, used to have a barn where students could keep their horses. There's no barn at the current Horse Creek School, just a house for the teacher, but all the students are ranch kids and have their own horses.

"It was so nice the other day that we decided to have an outing," said Thingstad. "It worked out really well because the ranchers were rounding up about 700 cattle. They were on horseback and all the kids were waving. Everyone knows everyone around here and they all

A music teacher comes to the school occasionally to help with a few singing programs and to organize small plays. A field trip scheduled to a Watford City hotel will give the students a chance to swim in an indoor pool.

The students carry their lunch to school every day but Wednesday. That's the day parents take turns bringing in a hot lunch. It's one of the highlights each week and local beef usually is on the menu.

"One parent had to butcher a tough old bull," Thingstad said, laughing. "All he could do with it was make hamburger. He filled his freezers and we've been trying our best to help out."

School board politics is minimal at Horse Creek. The school board is comprised of three fathers of students. A student's mother is the business manager. On stormy days, it takes just a couple of phone calls to see how the roads are, and if everyone can make it to school.

The parents have no problem with such events as an old-fashioned Christmas program at the school. Some of the Horse Creek alumni, now in their 80s, pitch in to help. "It's a big event for us," said Thingstad. "They'll bring food and desserts. We'll sing Christmas carols, have a gift exchange and even have a play."

How long can such a school remain open?

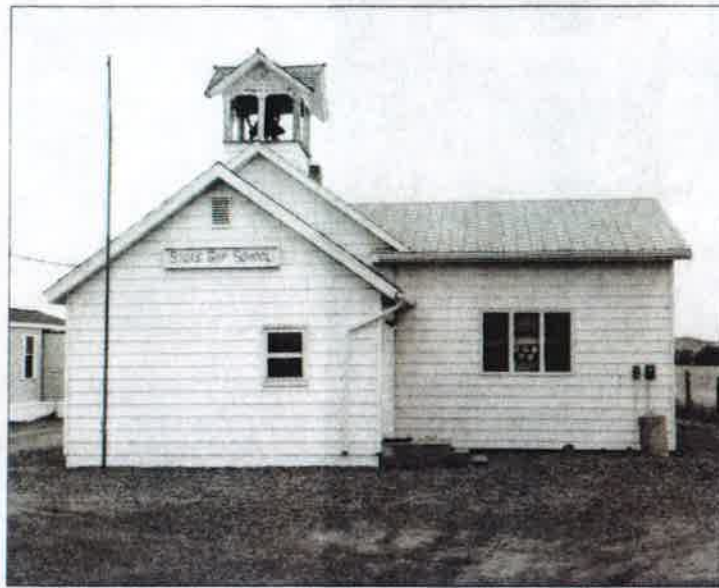
"What I've been told is that as long as there's students, Horse Creek School will remain open," Thingstad said.

When Horse Creek students reach the ninth grade, most of them will attend school in Sidney, Mont.

Thingstad said her time at Horse Creek already has helped her teach various grade levels and has put her in touch with some of the most "down to earth" people anywhere.

"It's just a really good experience as a first-year teacher," she said.

Figure 16: "School Goes on at Horse Creek." *The Bismarck Tribune*, December 4, 2005, page 9C. Bismarck, ND.



AP

Squaw Gap school on Nov. 14 in Squaw Gap. Students have been attending Squaw Gap school for 102 years. This year's enrollment is just two, including the son of the teacher.

School hangs on with 2 students

SQUAW GAP (AP) — Small country schools have been disappearing as the farms and families around them shrink, but the Squaw Gap school is hanging on.

The McKenzie County school, which has been operating for 102 years, has just two students this year. It serves kindergarten through sixth grade.

It began the year with three students, but one family moved away. That leaves two students, one of them the son of teacher Melissa Frohlich.

"Sometimes it's hard for him to tell the difference between mom and teacher," Frohlich said. "It depends on what he wants, but it's a lot better than it was last year. I have a newfound respect for people who have home-schooled for years."

Frohlich's son, Tyler, is a first-grader and the other student, Lindsey Minow, is a third-grader. Lindsey's father and her two older sisters attended school at Squaw Gap. The Minow family lives about a half-mile from the school.

"You get to know the kids on a personal basis. They become part of your family, pretty much," Frohlich said.

Squaw Gap maintains a regular school schedule.

"We start at 8 a.m. and we run until 2:30 in the afternoon," Frohlich said. "We cover all the basics. Team activities for PE are a little tough, but we have fun."

Frohlich also is the school's principal, she said, so misbehaving in class "doesn't get you anywhere."

"But you really couldn't ask for better kids, even when I had six of them," she said.

Once each month, Frohlich takes her students to Watford City for swimming. They are joined by the eight students from the nearby Horse Creek school, another small rural school.

The biggest event of the year is the annual Christmas program, held across the highway from the school at the Squaw Gap Multipurpose Center, the only other building in town. Students and adults from the area are recruited to help.

Last year's attendance was estimated at just less than 100, making it a huge event for Squaw Gap.

Despite being isolated and small, the Squaw Gap school uses computers, the Internet, a fax machine and microscopes.

Frohlich, who says her teaching duties leave her little free time, lives in a home on the school grounds — one of the perks of teaching at a small, rural school, she said.

With a five-member school board outnumbering the total of students and staff, it might seem the days of the Squaw Gap school are numbered. Legislators have considered closing small schools that do not have a high school.

"The state has tried for years to get rid of the little schools. I don't know how much longer we'll survive," Frohlich said. "I would like to say we'll go on forever, but those aren't my decisions."

She hopes the Squaw Gap school stays open.

"I love it," she said. "I don't ever want to see it end."

Figure 17: "School Hangs on with 2 Students." *The Bismarck Tribune*, November 21, 2006, page 2B. Bismarck, ND.

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

PAGE 1

Field Code JUP-MKRWD-203

SITS# 32 MZ 3022

SITE IDENTIFICATION

Map Quad _____ Site Name _____
Map Quad _____ Site Name _____

LTL	TWP	<u>146</u>	R	<u>104</u>	SEC	<u>10</u>	QQQ	<u>8</u>	QQ	<u>8</u>	Q	<u>8</u>
LTL	TWP	_____	R	_____	SEC	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	TWP	_____	R	_____	SEC	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	TWP	_____	R	_____	SEC	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____

NAD 1983, UTM 5259961 **N** ZONE 13N
NAD 1983, UTM 580911 **E**

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

City: _____

Street Number: _____

Street Name: ND Highway 16

Urban Legal Description: _____

SITE DATA

Total # Architectural Features: 3

Fieldwork Date: 09/10/2013

Reconnaissance Survey Intensive Survey

Project & Principal Investigator:

McKenzie County Rural Water District, System IV John G. Morrison

Report Title & Author(s):

McKenzie County Rural Water District, System IV: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, McKenzie County, North Dakota. --B. Joby Hunt

Contracting firm or Agency completing the form:

Juniper, LLC

Additional Information:

SHSND USE

Area of Significance <u>2</u>	Ecozone <u>22</u>	Verified Site <u>1</u>	CR Type <u>2</u>
Area of Significance _____	Ecozone _____		
Area of Significance _____	Ecozone _____		

Recorded By Kaelyn M. Olson Date Recorded 02/08/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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

Field Code JUP-MKRWD-203

SITS# 32 MZ

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>3</u>
Structural System <u>25</u>	Primary Exterior <u>15</u>	Style <u>Utilitarian</u>
Original Owner's Ethnicity _____	Secondary Exterior <u>N/A</u>	Architect/Builder _____

Other Information: _____

Foundation Concrete Stories 1.0

Roof/Cornice Gable

Window Most original windows and openings altered

Dating Method(s): Professional estimate, journal article (Bismarck Tribune 2006)

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 Kaelyn M. Olson Date Recorded 02/08/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 3—Feature Data

Field Code JUP-MKRWD-203SITS# 32 MZ**Complete a Page 3 for each feature.****1. Feature Description, Integrity, Eligibility:**

Feature 1 is the _____ School. The school opened in 1904 (Bismarck Tribune 2006). The building overall has an L-shaped plan and a gable roof. The roofing material is asphalt tiles that are in excellent condition and appear new. The school has a wooden frame and metal siding molded to resemble wood. There are three main areas: the entryway, the main room, and the southern extension. The southern extension is potentially a later addition to the school, but the siding and design is otherwise consistent with the rest of the structure. There is a short bell steeple with a cross gable roof and a bell on the center of the main room. The bell is still there; the wheel, frame, bearing, and bell are all a consistent cast metal; no text or decoration is clearly visible from the ground. A brick chimney is located on the eastern corner of the building, centered on the main room. Metal gutters edge the roof. All of the elevations are painted white, and the paint is fading. A wooden sign painted the same white as the walls is located on the western elevation of the entryway;

A wooden vent is located just above the sign. An additional wooden vent is located on the eastern wall of the main room, in line with the chimney. The southern elevation of the entryway has includes the door closest to the road. Three concrete steps lead up to the door, and a transom light with floodlights in good repair is just to the east of the door. A back door is located on the eastern elevation of the extension room. There is one double-hung window on the western elevation of the entryway, three casement windows on the western wall of the extension room, two sets of three casement windows on the southern elevation of the extension room, and a single casement window on the northern elevation of the main room. All the windows are in relatively new frames with modern glass, and are in good repair. The building is connected to powerlines, has a power gauge, and is set up with other modern utilities. The foundation is concrete, and is mostly covered by gravel piled against the school. There is no evidence of a basement. A mechanized water pump attached to a modern hose is to the south of the building. A propane tank is to the northeast of the building. A flag pole is approximately 3 feet west of the entryway, in line with the school sign. Two chain link fence gates are propped up against the northern elevation of the school.

The school maintains aspects of spatial integrity. The materials, workmanship, and design of the school are not significant, and these have been altered by upkeep into modern times and alteration for utility. The the structure has never been moved, and the setting is much the same as it would have been at the time that the school was constructed. The association of the school with other features within the site and the rest of the town has the potential for significance. More work is needed to understand the historical associations of the school and the site as a whole.

Feature 1 is unevaluated for the National Register of Historic Places. The school is not eligible for Criteria C or D, design and information potential. Additional research into historical associations is needed to better understand the potential for eligibility under Criteria A and B, relationship to significant events or people.

Recorded By Kaelyn M. Olson Date Recorded 02/08/2016
 (First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 4—SITE DESCRIPTION**Field Code JUP-MKRWD-203SITS# 32 MZ**Complete one Page 4 for the entire site.**

2. Owner's Contact Information:

Private

3. Access (to rural areas):

approximately 45 miles north of Beach, and 50 miles southwest of Watford City. Drive to the town of Squaw Gap, at the junction of ND Highway 16 and County 5/West Road in McKenzie County. Drive south of the intersection on ND Highway 16 for 300 feet. The site is on the left (east).

4. Site Area (ft²): 24,8345. Description of **SETTING**:

Site JUP-MKRWD-203 is located in the floodplain of Spring Creek less than 200 feet from a portion of the Little Missouri National Grassland. The surrounding area has a relatively flat topography, intruded upon by buttes on every horizon. Modern agriculture dominates the view. The town is named for a nearby rock formation resembling a woman carrying a papoose. The Community Center is across the road from the school.

Recorded By Kaelyn M. Olson Date Recorded 02/08/2016
(First Name & Last Name) (mm/dd/year)

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**NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM
PAGE 5—SITE DESCRIPTION**Field Code JUP-MKRWD-203SITS# 32 MZ**6. Summary of ALL Site Features & Evaluation of Significance:**

Feature 1 is the School building. Feature 2 is trailer home. Feature 3 is a shed. In the northwest corner of the site boundary is a modern playground. The site is separated from the surrounding agricultural fields by a barbed wire fence.

Site JUP-MKRWD-203, the School, maintains aspects of spatial and structural integrity. The site lacks significant workmanship, design, or materials, and all the features have been altered with modern materials. It is unclear how much of the existing structure of the school is original. The setting of the site is much the same as it would have been when the school was constructed. More work is needed to understand the historical associations of the site.

Site JUP-MKRWD-203 is unevaluated for the National Register of Historic Places. The site is not eligible under Criteria C or D, but further evaluation is needed to determine whether it is eligible under Criteria A or B, significant events or persons.

7. References/Comments:

The Bismarck Tribune [Bismarck, ND]

2006 Tiny McKenzie County school hanging on with two students. Electronic document, http://bismarcktribune.com/news/local/tiny-mckenzie-county-school-hanging-on-with-two-students/article_e2832a4c-e63a-5d1c-aa25-d93212b5fc97.html, accessed February 8, 2016.

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NDCRS SITE FORM
ATTACHMENTS SECTION

Field Code: JUP-MKRWD-203

SITS#: 32MZ



Figure 4: Overview of Feature 1, the School, showing the northern and western elevations.



Figure 5: Close up of the sign on the western elevation of Feature 1, facing the road.

Recorded By Kaelyn M. Olson
(First Name & Last Name)

Date Recorded 2/08/2016
(mm/dd/year)