

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Galena Creek Schoolhouse Additional Documentation
Name of Property Custer County, South Dakota
County and State MP100008617
NR Reference Number

State Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this additional documentation additional documentation: name change
 move removal other
 meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

 Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date of Action

Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
 I hereby certify that this additional documentation additional documentation: name change
 move removal other
 meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

 Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date of Action

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 additional documentation accepted
 other (explain:) _____

 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Galena Creek Schoolhouse was listed in the National Register on 02/07/2023. The structure is privately-owned but sits on state land managed by the Department of Game Fish and Parks (GFP). After listing, GFP questioned the structure’s use as a school and provided additional records regarding the historical ownership of the cabin. The State Review Board of the South Dakota State Historical Society revisited this issue at their September 2023 meeting and directed the SHPO to include both the Hargens family’s and GFP’s history in the National Register record.

Ownership

To summarize, the Hargens family’s history detailed in the nomination states that Dr. Charles Hargens used the cabin for many years before purchasing it from Tim Downen in 1904. The family has a handwritten agreement for the transaction. The bill of sale was recorded with the Custer County Register of Deeds in 2022.

GFP provided Custer State Park records that conflict with the family’s account. Term Occupancy Permits for the park list Henry Braun as the owner in 1925 and Mrs. H.G. Hargens as the lessee in 1945. Park records also include a 1945 letter from H.G. Hargens stating he purchased the cabin around 1941. Further, chain of title research for the land in the park records shows ownership as follows: 1906 Timothy Downen applies for ownership through the United States Land Office at Helena, Montana; 1906 Timothy and Malinda Downen sell to Sarah E. Hare; 1908 Sarah E. Hare sells to James Hare; 1918 James Hare sells to State of South Dakota School and Public Lands; 1925 Henry L. Braun enters into a cabin permit lease; 1941 Mrs. H.G. Hargens enters into a cabin permit lease.¹

Additionally, GFP believes the cabin was moved onto the land around the time Henry L. Braun entered into a lease in 1925. This claim is based on the absence of the cabin on park survey maps. Kenneth Hargens submitted a list of other historic structures that do not appear on the historic survey maps. The question of whether the cabin was moved remains unsettled. Due to this ambiguity, no change to the current POS is recommended.

School

To summarize, the Hargens family’s history detailed in the nomination states that the cabin was originally used as a private subscription school. This is based on family history and oral stories relayed to the family from former persons associated with the school. GFP questioned the school use due to the lack of public records associated with it. However, a private school would not have generated public records. Further, the park’s lease records in 1925 and 1941 refer to the cabin as “the old log school building” and “Tepee Napa (old log schoolhouse) Legion Lake.” It appears that the Hargens family’s history and park records agree that since 1925 there has been some type of school, or school name, association with the cabin, though the exact connection is not clear.² At this time, evidence suggests it is

¹ Term Occupancy Permit, Henry L. Braun. Custer State Park files, 1925; Custer State Park Private Cabin Information record, Custer State Park files, 1941; Custer State Park Archives.

² Term Occupancy Permit, Custer State Park files, Custer, SD: 1925; Custer State Park Private Cabin

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likely that the historic schoolhouse association is legitimate.

Major Bibliographical References

Custer State Park Private Cabin Information record for Mrs. H.G. Hargens. Custer State Park Archives, 1941.

General Files, Custer State Park Archives. Custer State Park.

Term Occupancy Permit for Henry L. Braun. Custer State Park Archives, 1925.