



28 August 2023

RE: Galena Creek Schoolhouse, Custer County

Dear Trustee,

In February 2023, the Galena Creek Schoolhouse, located within Custer State Park, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Educational significance and under Criterion C for Architectural significance. The building is privately owned and occupies land owned by the State of South Dakota. Only the building, and not the surrounding land, is listed in the National Register.

Custer State Park (CSP) management has requested that the property be delisted from the National Register, citing its belief that the log building was never used as a school. A copy of CSP's request is enclosed. The oversized maps that accompanied CSP's request have not been enclosed but will be available at the board meeting.

Kenneth Hargens is the owner of the property. His response to CSP's request is also enclosed.

Additionally, a copy of the original National Register nomination form has been included for your reference.

At the September meeting, the Board will discuss the removal of Criterion A (Education significance) from the nomination. SHPO will present this issue only as a discussion item, and an official vote of the State Review Board on this action is not requested at this time. SHPO will consider all comments at the meeting and, if necessary, present a substantially amended version to the Board for approval at the December meeting.

If Criterion A is removed from the nomination, the property will remain listed in the National Register under Criterion C for its Architectural significance.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Jenna Carlson Dietmeier
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer