

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Maitland Schoolhouse

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: Intersection of SD Highway 71 and Maitland RoadCity or town: Hot Springs (vic.) State: SD County: Fall RiverNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility 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.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B x C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. 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
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐☐

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

2

Noncontributing

buildings

1

sites

1

1

structures

5

objects

9

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: concrete; Walls: wood; Roof: metal.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Maitland Schoolhouse (1892) is located at the northeast intersection of South Dakota Highway 71 South and Maitland Road. The setting is foothills prairie featuring rolling hills, cool-season grasses, and a blend of prairie and woodland flora. A chain-link fence encloses the schoolhouse, garage, and schoolyard equipment.

Maitland was a one-room schoolhouse for seventy-six years. In 1968, the Teepee Schoolhouse (aka Dry Creek Schoolhouse, aka Lancaster Schoolhouse) was relocated and attached to the rear of Maitland.¹ Both schoolhouse volumes are rectangular, balloon-framed buildings with gabled roofs; the Teepee Schoolhouse has an enclosed, gabled (former) entrance vestibule. This gives the amalgamated Maitland Schoolhouse the appearance of three gabled volumes. The original building is clad in wood shiplap siding and sits on a concrete slab foundation. The Teepee School addition is clad in wood shiplap siding and pressed board siding and sits on concrete masonry units. Both have cedar shingle roofs covered with tin sheets (added 1968); eave

¹ The Teepee School was one of three schoolhouses in the Dryden Common School District #19 which was combined with the Cascade Common School District #2 of which Maitland was a part. The effective date of the consolidation was 1 July 1966.

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overhangs are minimal on all gabled volumes. Windows are two-over-two double-hung wood windows; all windows are covered in plywood and have simple wood trim surrounds. Some windows are missing glass panes.

The schoolhouse retains all aspects of integrity. Although moved in 1920, it was moved back to its original location in 1934. The rural setting has changed little. Historic materials are largely present, though window openings are boarded. The simple utilitarian form and absence of decorative features provides for limited aspects of workmanship to appreciate. Integrity of design remains in spite of the 1968 addition, which is distinct in its own right for its bank of windows on its west elevation. The schoolhouse retains wood siding and wood windows which allow the building to convey its material integrity on the exterior, while wood wainscoting, plaster walls, and blackboards further augment integrity on the interior. The overall architectural integrity of the schoolhouse coupled with the playground equipment, flagpole, outbuilding, and outhouse convey a strong sense of feeling and association pertaining to the history of one-room schoolhouses in western South Dakota.

Narrative Description

Except for the circa 1990 chain link fence, all other buildings, sites, structures, and objects are contributing and date within the property's period of significance (1892-1986). The schoolhouse is the primary resource; other features are subsidiary but help convey significance and add to the associative qualities of the property. Future loss of deteriorated subsidiary features will not impact the eligibility of the schoolhouse building.

Schoolhouse (1892), Contributing Building

The schoolhouse is comprised of an 1892 volume and an addition added in 1968. The addition is another one-room schoolhouse added to the rear. The original schoolhouse has a poured concrete foundation, wood shiplap siding, rear brick chimney, and a tin sheet roof. The south elevation has a central, wood entry door with a transom and a painted wood sign that reads "MAITLAND 1890"². Flanking the door are windows, and a wood vent is located in the gable. A raised concrete pad runs along the duration of the elevation. The east and west elevations each have three windows; the west elevation has a small painted wood sign that says "MAITLAND" at the southern corner. The north elevation has the addition attached to it.

The 1968 addition is comprised of two gabled volumes; the entry vestibule and the schoolhouse volume. Both have a concrete masonry unit foundation, bevel wood siding (the lower portion of the west elevation has pressed wood siding), and tin roofs. The schoolhouse volume has a bank of six windows on the west elevation, and the vestibule has a smaller, square window. The north elevation has a wood door with concrete steps leading to it. The east elevation has no openings; a square window on the vestibule has been infilled with shiplap siding.

² Students made this sign in 1976. Current research dates the schoolhouse to 1892. Future research may validate the 1890 date.

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Interior

At the front (south end) of the 1892 building is a narrow room. It has a linoleum floor, wood wainscoting on the lower walls, and linoleum on the upper walls. A washbasin is located in one corner, and a coat hook rail is on the west wall. From this room, two doors (one historic four-panel wood and one modern hollow wood core) access the classroom.

The classroom has a linoleum floor and wood wainscoting on the lower walls. Upper walls and the ceiling are plaster. There is a blackboard centered between the doors on the south wall and at the corner of the north and west walls. Metal vents and a partial plaster enclosure of the chimney stack are also on the north wall. Window trim is plain and wood. Light fixtures and fluorescent lights are attached to the ceiling. A two-panel wood door on the north wall accesses the 1968 one-room schoolhouse addition.

The main room of the addition has a linoleum floor, wood paneled walls, and an acoustic tile drop ceiling with fluorescent lighting. Window trim is plain and wood. The east wall has a blackboard and heater.

The entry vestibule on the addition (now rear exit) has wood floors, painted beadboard wall cladding, and wood paneling.

Horse Barn/Garage, c.1900, Contributing Building

This outbuilding was a horse barn that was converted into a garage. The date of construction is unknown. Based on the pitch of the roof and exposed rafter ends, a circa date of 1900 has been assigned to it.

The gabled building has a balloon-frame structure and a poured concrete foundation. The structure has been clad in tin sheets; this likely occurred in 1968 when the schoolhouse roof was clad in tin sheets. The structure has no openings except hinged, wood-plank doors on the south elevation. Above the doors is a wood backboard and basketball hoop. A metal stove pipe protrudes from the rear of the roof.

Girl's Privy, c.1937, Contributing Structure

The privy has a concrete foundation, wood drop siding, and a metal roof. A wood door with letters reading "GIRLS" and a small window are located on the south elevation. A sidewalk leads from the back door of the schoolhouse to the privy. The circa 1937 construction date has been assigned. The structure closely resembles a Works Progress Administration sanitary privy design and possibly dates from that period.

Boy's Privy Depression, c.1937, Contributing Site

The boy's privy is a ruin. A sidewalk leads from the back door of the schoolhouse to the privy site. Though a collapsed feature, it still contributes to an understanding of the design and operation of the property.

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Slide and Swing Set, c.1965, 2 Contributing Objects

This is a metal slide and swing set. A circa date of 1965 has been assigned. It appears in the 1965 "Tabulations of Assets and Liabilities 1965" for the Maitland School.³

Jungle Gym, c.1975, Contributing Object

This is a metal jungle gym. It appears to be slightly newer than the other playground equipment.

Flagpole, c.1950, Contributing Object

This is a metal flagpole. A circa date of 1950 has been assigned. It appears in the 1965 "Tabulations of Assets and Liabilities 1965" for the Maitland School.⁴

Propane Tank, c.1965, Contributing Object

This is a metal propane tank. A circa date of 1965 has been assigned. It appears in the 1965 "Tabulations of Assets and Liabilities 1965" for the Maitland School.⁵

Fence, c.1990, Noncontributing Structure

The fence is chain link and encompasses the school grounds. A circa date of 1990 has been assigned. A note in *Country Schools: Past and Present* says that the fence is modern.

³ *Tabulations of Assets and Liabilities*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☒ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1892-1986

Significant Dates

1968

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Maitland Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register under **Criteria A** and **C**. Its level of significance is **local**. Its **period of significance is 1892-1986**, which corresponds to its years of operation as a school.

The schoolhouse is eligible under **Criterion A** for **Education** for its significance to educational development in South Dakota. It represents the progression of educational instruction in Fall River County and the historical trends that impacted rural schools from the settlement period through modern times. Maitland was established in 1892 within a small common school district, merged with a larger common school district, reorganized with other common districts under the Hot Springs Independent District #10 in 1966, and closed in 1986. Its trajectory represents the evolution of one-room schools, changes in educational philosophies, and the impact of state legislation on rural education systems in South Dakota.

It is also eligible under **Criterion C** for **Architecture**. The building is a significant example of an early one-room schoolhouse that represents vernacular construction trends. It is also an example of a once common but now rare architectural resource.

The schoolhouse retains its historic materials, design, floor plan, setting, and location. The addition of the Teepee Creek Schoolhouse to the rear of the structure in 1968 represents the history of school consolidation in western South Dakota and is significant in its own right. The addition, with its rows of windows on one side and entry vestibule volume, conveys elements of Progressive schoolhouse design common in the first half of the twentieth century.

The schoolhouse also meets **Criterion Consideration B** for moved properties. It was built in 1892, moved two miles south in 1920, and returned to its original location in 1934. It was moved in 1920 to be closer to the children who attended at that time and returned in 1934 for the same reason. Residents commonly moved schoolhouses short distances in rural South Dakota to serve the most populated areas of the district. It is not known if the Maitland Schoolhouse was placed on its original footprint when returned to its original location in 1934 or if it was relocated to its approximate original location at that time.

The **period of significance (1892-1986)** corresponds to the period during which the building was used as a school. The schoolhouse retains integrity from this entire period, and it actively contributed to rural education trends in South Dakota during this time, including its closure in 1986 and the incorporation of its school body into elementary schools in Hot Springs. Maitland was one of the last remaining one-room schools in the state and its absorption into a town school was the culmination of a generational shift in rural education trends locally. The significance of this trend justifies extending the period of significance beyond the prescribed fifty-year limit.

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

Summary of Early Schools in South Dakota

Fall River County residents built the Maitland Schoolhouse in 1892. It was a relatively early school for the region, but its construction came over thirty years after the first school was established in what would become South Dakota. Soldiers stationed at Fort Randall near the Missouri River in the southcentral part of the state organized the first school.⁶ It convened in 1857 and is thought to have lasted a short duration.⁷ Early settlers established the first public school in what would become Dakota Territory in Bon Homme County (southeastern South Dakota) in 1860.⁸ It was a log building with nine or ten students.⁹

In 1861, Congress created the Dakota Territory out of parts of the Minnesota and Nebraska Territories. In 1864, men of the Dakota Cavalry constructed the first schoolhouse in the new territory at Vermillion, Clay County, near the foot of Ravine Hill.¹⁰ Amos Shaw, a soldier, taught the first classes.¹¹ While other buildings, such as residences, were undoubtedly used for school purposes in the early 1860s, it is generally accepted that the schoolhouses in Bon Homme County (1860) and Vermillion (1864) were the earliest buildings erected in the state for the sole purpose of education.

Episcopalian, Catholic, Presbyterian, and Congregational missionaries organized many of the early schools in the state. For example, South Dakota's first resident missionary, Reverend John P. Williamson, built a log house near the Yankton Agency at Greenwood in 1869. This building served as a residence, church, and school.¹² Missionaries established other schools amongst American Indian populations beginning in the 1860s, but no schoolhouse buildings from this era are known to survive.

The 1880s saw an increase in school construction throughout much of Dakota Territory. The growth of schools is attributable to the significant population increase that occurred during the Great Dakota Boom of 1878-1886, a period of intense settlement. While most schoolhouses during this period were constructed in the more heavily settled regions east of the Missouri River, many one-room schoolhouses were built in the Black Hills and its foothills where mining, logging, and ranching drove a strong localized economy. One of these early schoolhouses was Maitland.

⁶ Wilson, Norma C. and Charles Woodard, ed., *One-Room Country Schools*, (Brookings, SD: South Dakota Humanities Foundation, 1998), xiii.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Wilson and Woodard, xiii; U.S. Bureau of Education, *Report of the Commissioner of Education for the Year Ending June 30, 1904*, v.1, (Washington, DC: GPO, 1906), 942.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Wilson and Woodard, xiii.

¹² Ibid, xiv.

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History of the Maitland School

The Black Hills are a small, isolated mountain range in western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 established the Black Hills as American Indian land. However, Lt. Colonel George Custer's 1874 expedition discovered gold, which set off an invasion of prospectors. Soon, the Black Hills were teeming with fortune seekers illegally trespassing on American Indian land.

The U.S. military was unable and unwilling to stop the miners, which prompted the federal government to find another solution. That answer came in the Sioux Agreement of 1876, which removed the Black Hills from the Sioux Reservation.¹³ The agreement, which Congress ratified in 1877, moved the reservation boundary east to the 103rd meridian, removing what would become Fall River County from the reservation.

Most prospectors failed to find gold, but many stayed in the Black Hills. They expanded into the foothills where forest gave way to grassy plains and began farming and raising livestock.¹⁴ Despite the challenges of haphazard supply lines and American Indian raids, the regional economy of the Black Hills prospered. In the 1880s, the cattle industry in Fall River County continued to expand and more families arrived to take up homesteads. These settlers brought their social values and customs with them, including a desire to educate their children.

Homesteaders built the one-room Maitland Schoolhouse around 1892. It was named after a local family who ran the post office. A photograph of the class in 1892 and a 1893 school census lists children with the surnames of Heppner, Brunner, Landers, Burkdahl, Ramm, Wickerstrom, Cox, Ferguson, Lawson, and Luck.¹⁵ Most of these surnames also correspond to land patents issued in Government Land Office Records in sections near the Maitland Schoolhouse.¹⁶ Though construction details are unknown, these families would have built or hired someone to construct the schoolhouse at their expense.

¹³ This agreement is also referred to as the "Agreement of 1877." Negotiations for the agreement concluded on 27 October 1876. Congress ratified the agreement in 1877. Either usage is correct; 1876 is used in this document.

¹⁴ Bob Lee. "It Started with a (Mining) Boom." *South Dakota History*, v.31, no.3&4 (Fall/Winter, 2017), 276-278.

¹⁵ *The Edgemont Tribune*, undated newspaper article, Maitland Schoolhouse file, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office survey files; *Cascade School District No.2 Census Records*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

¹⁶ <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/s/>, accessed 7 July 2026.

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The schoolhouse does not appear on an 1889 Government Land Office (GLO) map (left), but an arrow points to its approximate future location along an east/west trail. A 1951 state highway map (right) shows the schoolhouse along SD HWY 87 (north/south) in Section 19. The highway was built in 1931 and named Hwy 71. It was likely built over an existing wagon trail, though no map showing this was located. The highway was renumbered SD HWY 87 in 1963. Images available at <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/s/topic/0TOSJ000000GIgz4AG/document-search> and <https://histsd.access.preservica.com/portal/en-US/asset/sdb%3AIO%7Ca6a2bb78-5b8e-4f97-a8eb-d904acec917f?keyword=2019-09-05-0009>, both accessed 1 August 2026.

One-room schoolhouses in rural western South Dakota were of simple design and common materials that reflected the economic limitations, diversity, topography, and population of the region.¹⁷ Stylistically, most were folk vernacular forms that mimicked rural prairie church and small house architecture. The arrival of railroads in the southern Black Hills in the late 1880s influenced the buildings that settlers constructed. Balloon framing with dimensional lumber, window and door components, tongue-and-groove flooring, and concrete for foundations were available at an affordable price and commonly used in one-room schoolhouse construction.¹⁸

Early one-room schoolhouses in Fall River County typically had rectangular footprints, gabled roofs, and wood (clapboard, weatherboard, shiplap) siding. Based on information available in county histories and survey records in the SDSHPO Cultural Resource Geographic Research Information Display (CRGRID), gabled- and hipped-roofed schoolhouse forms were common. Interior walls were often plaster and some had wood wainscoting. In the early 1900s, cloakrooms and interior vestibules became common. Most buildings did not have a belfry or architectural decorations due to economic limitations. Early schoolhouses commonly had three

¹⁷ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 1-2.

¹⁸ Ibid, 2; Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*, E3.

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windows on each “long” side of the building, a feature that became less common as early-twentieth-century standardization encouraged a row of windows on a single elevation.¹⁹

The Maitland Schoolhouse retains many of the features representative of early one-room schoolhouse construction. The balloon-framed structure retains its wood siding, original fenestration, interior wainscoting, and its unaltered pattern of windows which includes three on each “long” side of the building. The vernacular schoolhouse’s design would have been based off of the builder’s sense of “what a schoolhouse should look like.” South Dakota did not regulate schoolhouse construction until 1907 when the legislature authorized the Superintendent of Public Instruction to approve new construction plans, an act that would lead to buildings with better lighting, ventilation, heating, and adequate space. By 1915, standards also included the regulation of classroom doors, artificial lighting, chimneys, fire drills, water fountains, and other features. In 1919, Governor Peter Norbeck incentivized schoolhouse remodeling by offering monetary compensation to rural school districts in order to bring buildings up to the health standards of the time.²⁰ A common result of this incentive was the removal of windows from one of the “long” walls and the installation of a row of windows on the opposite side, an improvement thought to put less strain on the students’ eyes. The Maitland Schoolhouse (main volume) was never remodeled to these standards and remains truthfully vernacular.

Laura Anderson Hart was the first teacher at Maitland. She lived in a one-room log structure attached to a local family’s (Barkdahl) house and likely earned around \$25 a month.²¹ It was common for teachers to live with a nearby family given the unavailability of housing in the sparsely settled ranchland. Typical for the times, Maitland was open for two terms, one in the spring and one in the fall, which allowed the children to work during the summer and to not have to travel long distances in the winter.²²

¹⁹ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, 5.

²⁰ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, 12.

²¹ *The Edgemont Tribune*, undated newspaper article, Maitland Schoolhouse file, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office survey files.

²² Oelrichs Historical Society, *In the Shadow of the Butte*, (Pierre, SD: State Publishing Co., 1984), 72.

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1892 photo of Laura Anderson Hart and students. Families identified in the photograph include Heppner, Landers, Barkdahl, Ram, and Brunner. From the *Edgemont Tribune*, undated newspaper clipping in the Maitland Schoolhouse survey file, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office.

Laura Anderson Hart only taught for one or two years at Maitland, and over the next decade or so the school would have at least five different teachers.²³ In the 1930s and 1940s, only one teacher, Vera Konrath, would spend more than two years at Maitland.²⁴ Teacher turnover was not uncommon in rural school districts. By 1919, the average rural teaching career in South Dakota was just over three years.²⁵ Teachers were mostly young, unmarried women who often worked until they were married or transitioned into other careers. Cal Inman, who attended rural

²³ *Hot Springs Star*, 10 August 1894 & 22 January 1897 & 13 January 1899 & 10 April 1903 & 22 November 1907.

²⁴ *Teacher's Special Report to the County Superintendent*, Box 8926, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

²⁵ Linda Hallstrom and Maricarrol Kueter, *South Dakota Country School Days*, (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing, 1987), 8.

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schools in the neighboring Ardmores district, experienced this teacher turnover firsthand recalling in his memoir that local bachelors “picked off the young schoolteachers as they came along.”²⁶

Teachers at one-room schools had several responsibilities. An 1883 contract from a Minnehaha County school district details a teacher’s typical duties:

“teach, govern and conduct public school to the best of her ability. She was to keep a register of the daily attendance and studies of each pupil belonging to the school and such other records as the District Board may require; make the report required by law and endeavor to preserve, in good condition and order, the school house, furniture, apparatus, and such other district property as may come under the immediate supervision of said teacher.”²⁷

Other duties often included cleaning, starting the fire before school, and maintaining the outhouses, which often required sprinkling generous amounts of lime to maintain sanitation during the winter months.²⁸

The rural one-room schoolhouses that late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century teachers taught at also presented challenges to education. In 1919, South Dakota had 5,142 rural schoolhouses. Of these, the South Dakota Department of Public Instruction rated 2,900 of them poorly ventilated, 4,100 of them insufficiently lit, 4,200 to have defective toilets, and 4,000 to have a deficient water supply or no water at all.²⁹ The state also determined that rural schools spent \$6 per year per student compared to \$14 per year per student for schools in towns and cities.³⁰ Furthermore, 2,000 rural schools were only in session seven months a year.³¹ In an attempt to improve these conditions, the legislature passed a law in 1920 with basic requirements for state aid that included a mandatory nine-month school year, heated building, white walls, a 100-volume library, desks in good repair, and a one-acre playground.³²

The degree to which a small rural school like Maitland complied with these requirements is unknown, especially during the difficult economic times of the 1920s and 1930s. Census records from the 1930s and 1940s show that the number of students attending Maitland fluctuated from two to twelve students, including some years with no census that may indicate that the school was closed.³³ In 1920, the schoolhouse was moved two miles south near the Rawhauser ranch, a move likely undertaken to be closer to students. It was moved back to its original location in 1934, once again likely to be centralized to the student population. It had its highest attendance of the 1930s in 1935 with twelve students.³⁴

²⁶ Cal Inman, *I Remember Ardmores*, (self-published, 1997), 31.

²⁷ Celia J. Benson, *Rural Schools of Minnehaha County: 1871-1971*, (Decorah, IA: Amundsen Publishing Company, 2008), 9.

²⁸ Wilson and Woodward, 21-22.

²⁹ South Dakota Department of Public Instruction, *Better Schools for South Dakota*, (Pierre, SD, 1919), 15-16.

³⁰ *Ibid*, 15.

³¹ *Ibid*.

³² *Ibid*, 44.

³³ *Teacher’s Special Report to County Superintendent*, Box 8926, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

³⁴ *Ibid*; *Hot Springs Star*, 29 January 1976.

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Maitland Schoolhouse in the 1920s. Photo submitted by Bernice Landers.

Maitland was closed from 1951-57 due to lack of students.³⁵ Robert Halls began attending Maitland in 1960 and recalled that the building was painted white at that time. He also remembered that an electric hot plate was used to cook lunch and drinking water was taken from a cistern located southeast of the schoolhouse. Halls also described how the teacher had to go out onto the playground before recess to check for rattlesnakes and that the school board had a meeting to discuss how to eliminate a nearby den.³⁶ However, it wasn't snakes that posed the biggest threat to Maitland in the postwar era, but the increased threat of closure through consolidation.

School consolidation efforts had been gaining momentum in South Dakota since the early 1900s. Increased state aid made it easier to construct larger schools in towns and better transportation systems allowed students to travel to them aided by financial subsidies. This rural-to-urban trend accelerated during the Great Depression as more rural schools closed and districts, anchored by a town school, became larger. New Deal programs that financially assisted in the construction of larger, consolidated schools supported this trend.³⁷

Financial considerations and incentives were not the only factors driving consolidation. Educational reformers viewed one-room schools as lacking, citing inadequate teacher qualifications, lack of resources, and limited opportunities for socialization.³⁸ They believed that

³⁵ *Hot Springs Star*, 29 January 1976.

³⁶ Betsey DeLoache, *Country Schools: Past and Present*, (Pierre, SD: Red Bird Studios, 2015), 68.

³⁷ Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, 15-30.

³⁸ *Ibid*, 8.

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geographic isolation prevented pupils from developing socially and provided inadequate opportunities to form important friendships.³⁹ The monotony and isolation of the rural school was believed to have detrimental effects on the individual and cause “intellectual and social stagnation” in rural communities.⁴⁰ Reformers believed that students educated in larger consolidated schools would not only improve themselves, but also introduce the modern concepts they learned to their family and community, thus raising the standard of living for all.⁴¹ These beliefs, coupled with additional government funding, led to more and more consolidated schools in South Dakota.

After World War II, the South Dakota legislature allocated significant resources to the building of schools, authorizing a \$8,500,000 long-range construction program. At this time, priority for funding was focused on town and city schools, which further weakened rural schools’ fight to fend off consolidation. In 1931, there were 4,731 rural schools in the state, and by 1953 that number had fallen to 2,775 as consolidation increased. School consolidation in this era closely mirrored the farm consolidation movement, during which farms became larger and the number of farm families became smaller. As families sold their land and moved to town, attendance at consolidated town schools increased and attendance at rural schools declined.⁴²

By the 1960s, the financial burden of maintaining lightly attended rural schools in conjunction with the perceived social and educational advantages of the consolidated town school ushered in a new wave of consolidation in Fall River County. In March 1964, residents voted to combine the Dryden Common School District #19 and Cascade Common School District #2 into a single district and keep the Cascade Common School District name.⁴³ The effective date of the merger was 15 July 1966, at which time the Cascade district, of which Maitland belonged, along with several other common districts, were placed under the Hot Springs Independent District #10.⁴⁴

At the time of consolidation, the Cascade district had \$13,741 in assets, \$8,116 of which was in cash. The Maitland Schoolhouse was valued at \$1,500 and its combined inventory was worth \$4,393. The Dryden district had \$12,330 in assets, \$10,500 of which was cash. The three schoolhouses in the Dryden district – Bunker Hill, Teepee Creek, and Muhm – were valued at \$500 combined.⁴⁵

³⁹ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*, E4.

⁴⁰ Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, 10.

⁴¹ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*, E4.

⁴² Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, 20-31.

⁴³ *Tabulations of Assets and Liabilities*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

⁴⁴ *Proceedings of the County Board of Education 25 February 1965*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives; *Notice of State Commission School District Reorganization 16 January 1970*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

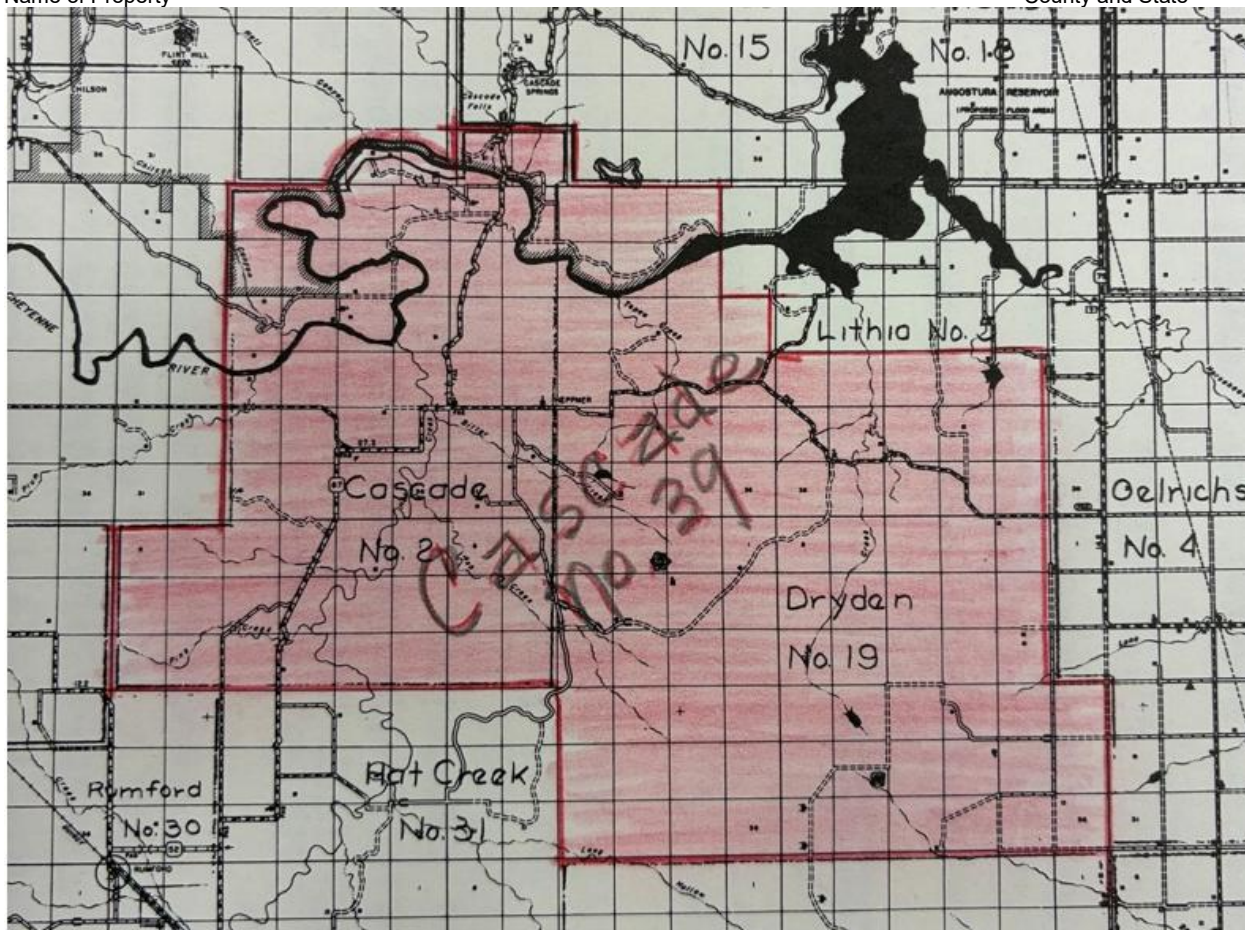
⁴⁵ *Tabulations of Assets and Liabilities*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

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The Dryden Common School District #19 and Cascade Common School District #2 as consolidated into the Cascade Common School District #39. *Proceedings of the County Board of Education 25 February 1965*, Box 8921, Fall River County School Records, South Dakota State Archives.

In 1968, the Teepee Creek Schoolhouse was relocated and attached to the Maitland Schoolhouse.⁴⁶ At this time, the tin sheet roof was added to the combined structures.⁴⁷ The Teepee Creek Schoolhouse reflects the typical progressive educational theories espoused in the early twentieth century with its row of six windows on the west elevation and no windows on the east elevation. A gabled entrance vestibule/cloak room is another common feature of progressive schoolhouse design that is found on the Teepee Creek Schoolhouse. Its design contrasts with the more traditional form of the Maitland Schoolhouse, and the amalgamated structure is an excellent example of evolving rural school architecture in Fall River County and western South Dakota during the early twentieth century.

The Teepee Creek Schoolhouse's date of construction has not been determined. It possibly dates circa 1910-1920. In 1910, the *Eleventh Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction* for the State of South Dakota began recommending that a row of windows be placed

⁴⁶ Personal Correspondence, Bernice Landers, 1 July 2025.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

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on only one wall of the schoolhouse to reduce (perceived) eye strain.⁴⁸ In 1919, state legislation began offering financial incentives to school districts for the construction of standardized schoolhouses. Along with a row of windows on only one wall, the standardized plans called for square building footprints and hipped roofs. These efforts greatly affected schoolhouse design after 1920. Stylistically, the Teepee Creek Schoolhouse best fits the standardization trends of the 1910s, but its construction date is speculative.

In the 1970s, Maitland hosted kindergarten through eighth grade. At times, two teachers taught simultaneously, though that occurrence appears rare. For example, in 1976 Norma Lorensen taught kindergarten through third grade while Larry Belitz taught grades four through eight.⁴⁹ There were 15 students in attendance at that time, and the schoolhouse was painted red that year in celebration of the bicentennial. The students also painted the “Maitland School” signs that appear on the building today.⁵⁰

In 1983, the district dropped the grade level at Maitland from eighth to fifth and continued conversations to close the school in lieu of the economic situation. Belitz recalled in an interview in *Country Schools: Past and Present* that parents drove kids to school and that other children road horses to school to save the district money.⁵¹ Despite these efforts, the district closed the school in 1986.⁵² Per the deed, once the property was no longer being used as a school, the land reverted to its original owners, the Landers family’s Star Cattle Company.

When the Maitland school closed its doors, more than classes ceased. Ever since its construction in 1892, the structure had been used for dances, plays, political speeches, concerts, as a voting precinct, and for other community events. As the area’s social center, the schoolhouse’s multiple uses helped preserve and strengthen bonds amongst the region’s widely dispersed ranch families. With the school’s closure, decades long communal bonds were weakened between neighbors.

However, closure did not completely sever shared relationships. The Cascade Volunteer Fire Department used the schoolhouse as its headquarters for ten years until a new fire hall was constructed. Today, the fire department continues to use the garage for truck storage.⁵³ Due to vandalism, the schoolhouse’s windows were boarded in 2012. The Landers family cares for the schoolhouse, though the building has no dedicated use as of 2026.

One-Room Schoolhouses in South Dakota Today

The number of extant one-room schoolhouses in South Dakota is unknown. County-wide surveys conducted over the last ten years have located few that were eligible for the National

⁴⁸ State of South Dakota, *Eleventh Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction*, July 1910-June 1912, (Aberdeen, SD: News Printing Company, 1912), 151-55; Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota Context*, 13-14.

⁴⁹ *Hot Springs Star*, 29 January 1976.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ DeLoache, 66-67.

⁵² *Hot Springs Star*, 22 September 1992.

⁵³ Personal Correspondence, Bernice Landers, 1 July 2025.

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Register, typically four or less per county with several surveys identifying one or zero. Ineligible schoolhouses that may be candidates for restoration are not recorded in the surveys. SDSHPO's CRGRID has approximately 400 records pertaining to schools located outside of cities or towns, though not all of these are one-room schoolhouses. Furthermore, many records date to the 1980s and 1990s and contain little and/or inaccurate information, and many records have determinations of eligibility that are twenty or more years old. Additionally, several records appear to be duplicates in CRGRID.

Based on the imperfect information available, SDSHPO estimates that approximately 200-300 one-room schoolhouses may exist in South Dakota, most of which would be ineligible due to alterations and/or poor integrity. The highest concentration is located in the eastern one-third of the state, which corresponds to the area of densest settlement. Areas west of the Missouri River, with the exception of the Black Hills, have fewer one-room schoolhouses. This corresponds to the less intensive settlement patterns and lower population trends that occurred on the steppe-like plains in the western half of the state.

Rural schools in South Dakota are understudied and systematic surveys are rare. Black Hills historian Irma Klock examined the school history of seventy-seven districts in the northern Black Hills in her monograph *Silent School Bells: Lawrence County Rural Schools and Histories of Lead, Deadwood and Spearfish Schools*. She noted that many extant one-room schoolhouses had been converted to shops, storage, summer vacation homes, and hunting cabins.⁵⁴ She also noted that many were relocated to farms and ranches.⁵⁵ Klock's 1988 monograph also stated what many surveys elsewhere in the state have since confirmed - that many one-room schoolhouses "were on their last legs."⁵⁶

Five one-room schoolhouses are recorded in CRGRID in Fall River County as of 2026. Four of them are recorded as eligible for the National Register, however those determinations were made twenty or more years ago, calling their veracity into question. Of these schoolhouses, four have gabled roofs; the Roller Schoolhouse has a hipped roof. Based on the information recorded in CRGRID, which is dated, Maitland's architectural integrity appears to be good when compared to these schools.

Seventeen one-room schoolhouses in South Dakota are listed in the National Register. Four of these – Southeast Merton School No.19 (Willow Lake vic.), Sievers School (Rockham vic.), Galena School (Galena), and Hart School No.3 (Sisseton vic.) – are architecturally similar to Maitland in that they are rectangular gabled structures with windows interspaced on both "long" sides of the building. Three of these schoolhouses have historical entry vestibules added to their front facades, only Galena does not. Of these four schoolhouses, three are located east of the Missouri River. Galena is located in the northern Black Hills in Lawrence County.

⁵⁴ Irma H. Klock, *Silent School Bells: Lawrence County Rural Schools and Histories of Lead, Deadwood and Spearfish Schools*, (Stickney, SD: Argus Printers, 1988), 4.

⁵⁵ Ibid, 4.

⁵⁶ Ibid, 4.

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Six National Register-listed schoolhouses – Langdon School (Nisland vic.), Fourmile School No.12 (Custer vic.), Spring Creek School (Zeona vic.), Rockford No.40 (Bison vic.), Cold Springs Schoolhouse (Custer vic.), and Carr No.60 (Lodgepole) – are located west of the Missouri River. Architecturally, all differ from Maitland. Langdon, Carr, and Fourmile are the common hipped-roof form with banks of windows. Rockford is gabled with a bank of windows on one side. Spring Creek is a hipped-roof form with an attached hip roof volume, both of which have single window openings placed at random intervals. Cold Springs is a gabled log structure with three windows on each “long” side.

The Maitland Schoolhouse, with its 1968 Teepee Creek Schoolhouse addition, is an amalgamation of two popular schoolhouse forms currently underrepresented in South Dakota’s National Register inventory.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/s/topic/0TOSJ000000GIgz4AG/document-search>, accessed 1 August 2026.

<https://histsd.access.preservica.com/portal/en-US/asset/sdb%3AIO%7Ca6a2bb78-5b8e-4f97-a8eb-d904acec917f?keyword=2019-09-05-0009>, accessed 1 August 2026.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

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☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): FA00000410

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 13 Easting: 615080 Northing: 4789192

2. Zone: 13 Easting: 615133 Northing: 4789194

3. Zone: 13 Easting: 615133 Northing: 4789114

4. Zone: 13 Easting: 615098 Northing: 4789113

5. Zone: 13 Easting: 615079 Northing: 1489130

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The polygon formed by the UTM's comprises the boundary (see map).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the land historically associated with the school and that is delineated by the chain link fence.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: CB Nelson
organization: SD SHPO
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us
telephone: 605-280-6753
date: 23 July 2026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Maitland School

City or Vicinity: Hot Springs vicinity

County: Fall River

State: SD

Photographer: Liz Almlie

Date Photographed: 6 November 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 11 (see below)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0001. Looking NW at S and E elevations.

Maitland Schoolhouse

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0002. Looking NE and S and W elevations.

Maitland Schoolhouse
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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0003. Looking SE at W elevation.

Maitland Schoolhouse
Name of Property

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0004. Looking SE at N and W elevations.

Maitland Schoolhouse

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0005. Looking N at S elevation and playground.

Maitland Schoolhouse

Name of Property

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0006. Interior of 1892 volume.

Maitland Schoolhouse

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0007. Interior of 1892 volume.

Maitland Schoolhouse
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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0008. Interior of volume (rear) added in 1968.

Maitland Schoolhouse

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0009. Looking NE at S and W elevations of horse barn/garage.

Maitland Schoolhouse

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0010. Looking N at S elevation of outhouse.

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SD_MaitlandSchoolhouse_FallRiverCounty_0011. Looking NW at playground equipment.

Maitland Schoolhouse
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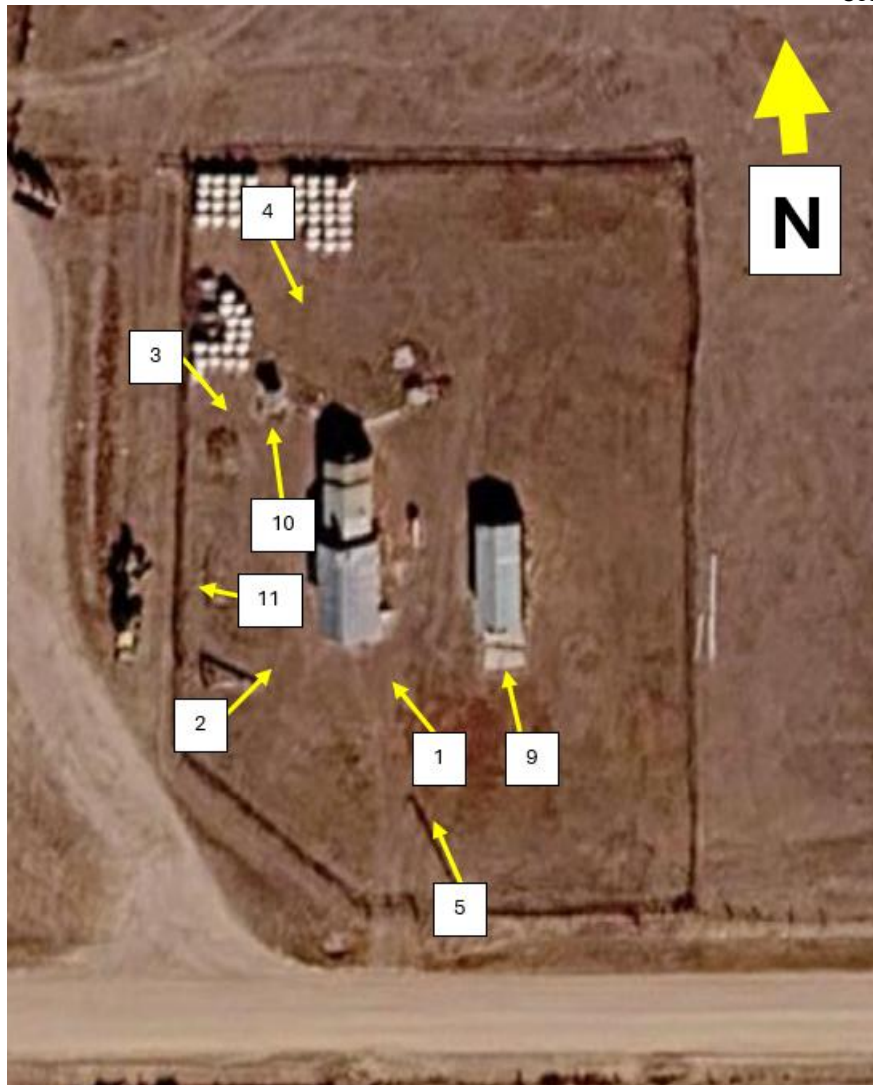
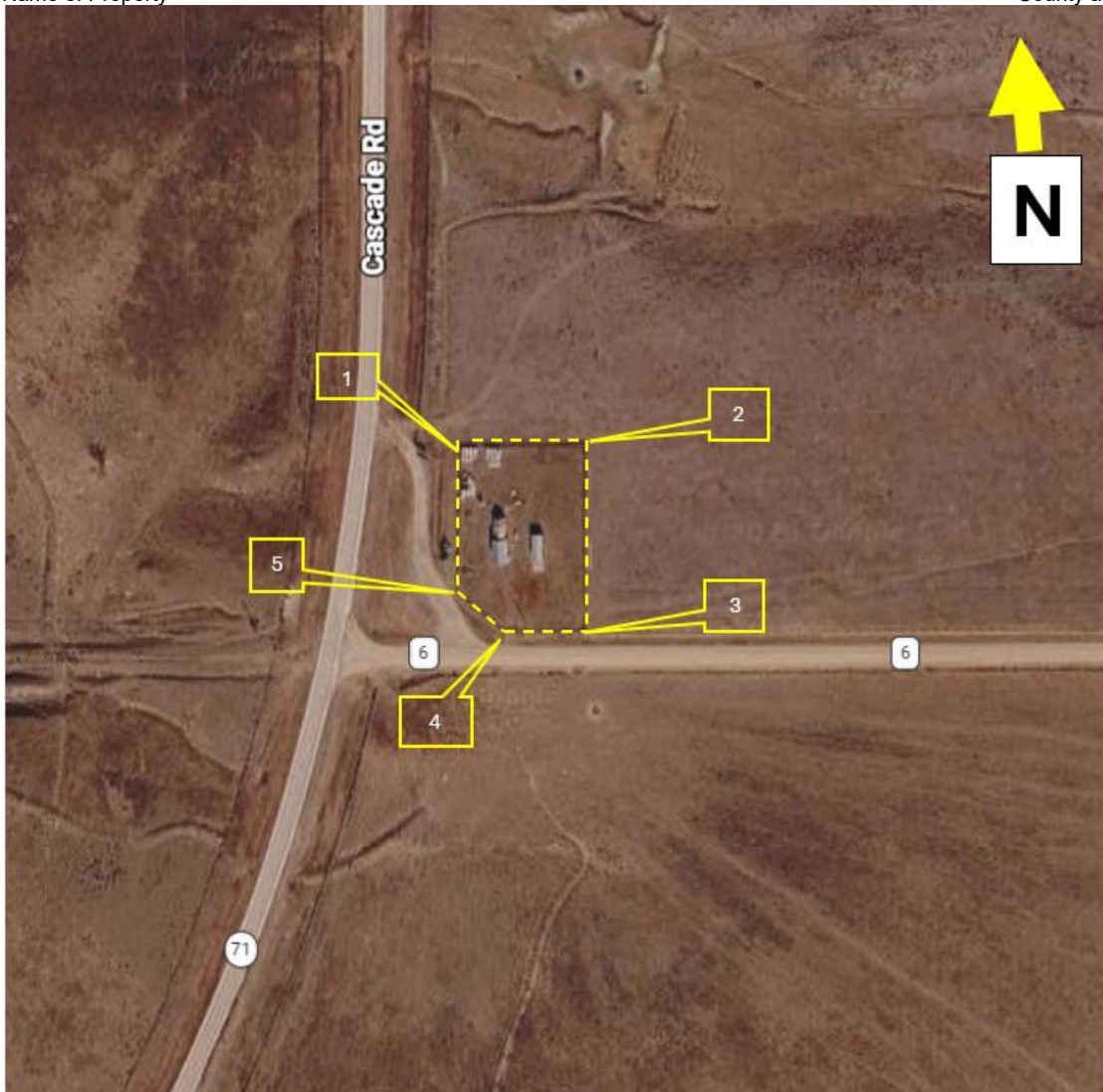


Photo Key Map.

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Boundary map. Numbers correspond to UTM points.

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USGS topographic map. Red star indicates the Maitland Schoolhouse located in the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 19, Township 9 South, Range 5 E.

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- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Contributing Schoolhouse | 6. Contributing Swing Set/Slide |
| 2. Contributing Garage | 7. Contributing Jungle Gym |
| 3. Contributing Flagpole | 8. Contributing Propane Tank |
| 4. Contributing Girls' Privy | 9. Noncontributing Fence |
| 5. Contributing Boys' Privy | |

(Note: the round features at the top left corner of the map are spindles of utility cables temporarily stored at the site at the time of the aerial imagery)