


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

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name McCartney School District 17Other names/site number McCartney Rural School**2. Location**Street & number Southeast intersection of Steamwagon Rd & County Trunk Highway (CTH) 59Not for publication ☐City or town Nebraska CityVicinity ☐State Nebraska Code NE County Otoe Code 131 Zip code 68410**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying officialDate 10/10/00Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency and bureau**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ see continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National Register.☐ see continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain): __________
Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

McCartney School

Name of Property

Otoe County, Nebraska

County and State

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
☐ Site
☐ Structure
☐ Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic & Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation CONCRETE

Walls BRICK

Roof ASPHALT

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

1949

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location for additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other
- Name of repository: McCartney School Dist. 17

McCartney School

Name of Property

Otoe County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.10 acres

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	15	253390	4507580	3.			
2.				4.			

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Davis McBride, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Mead & Hunt, Inc.

date July 2000

street & number 6501 Watts Road

telephone 608.273.6380

city or town Madison

state WI zip code 53719-2700

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title McCartney School District 17

street & number 5797 H Road

telephone 402.873.4381

city or town Nebraska City

state NE zip code 68410

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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McCartney School District 17

Name of Property

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Section 7 Page 1

Introduction

The McCartney School District 17 school was constructed in 1927 and is a one-story, brick, utilitarian building.¹ The school faces south and is sited on about a 1-acre parcel at the corner of Steamwagon Road and CTH 59. In a rural setting of relatively open flat land, the property includes a flag pole; a basketball hoop; and school playground equipment consisting of a merry-go-round, an eagle's nest slide, a swing set, and two teeter-totters. Around the property are remnants of previous structures, including an old water pump, the concrete remains of two privies, and the indent of a shed used to tie up ponies (see Photograph No. 1). A recently moved, non-contributing, one-room school building is found 10 feet behind the McCartney School near the north facade (see Photograph No. 2). The property is bordered on the north and west by double rows of mature trees. The school is approached from Steamwagon Road by a curved, gravel-and-dirt drive that widens near the front of the building for parking.

Description

The McCartney School is a simple front-gable, one-story building in a rectangular plan. The building is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond pattern. The school displays elementary ornamentation seen in two brick soldier courses visually separating the foundation, wall, and roofline. A stone name plate reading "McCartney School Dist. 17" framed by brick headers is located in the front gable. The McCartney School rests on a textured concrete foundation. The entrance, on the short side of the rectangular plan, faces south and two concrete steps lead to the wooden door entrance, which is surmounted by a rectangular glass transom. The entrance is sheltered by a wood-and-asphalt gabled portico supported by two metal poles. The gable displays a row of simple wooden-scalloped edging. The main facade (south-facing) features two, six-over-six, double-hung, sash windows in their original wooden frames. The windows are covered in metal screening (see Photograph No. 3).

Four of the same windows are found on each side of the building – the east and west facades – and are spaced evenly on both sides. The two rows of side windows are set about 5 feet back from the front of the building. Above the windows are broad, over-hanging eaves that provide protection from the elements. The gable roof is constructed of wood and covered in asphalt shingle, displaying a brick interior chimney on the west facade (see Photograph No. 4).

The school's interior consists of one large rectangular room, featuring original oak wood flooring, a storage closet to the right of the entrance, and restrooms to the left of the entrance. At the back of the room is a raised stage area also with original flooring (see Photograph No. 5).

Alterations

Some minor alterations are evident in the interior. The room has imitation wood paneling, the ceiling has been dropped, and fluorescent lighting has been added. On the exterior, crack lines can be seen on the south facade (see Photograph No. 3). These are repair lines from a tornado that struck the McCartney School on June 2, 1949.² The tornado caused the front wall to collapse while tearing off the school's roof. The school was repaired with much of the original brick and remains essentially the same in design since its date of construction in 1927. This damage does not effect the building's ability to convey the architectural elements of a one-room rural school in the local area.

¹ District 17 School Teacher Roster, McCartney School District 17, n.d., Site File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

² "District 17 is 113 Years Young on May 30, 1982." Site File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

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McCartney School District 17

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Section 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

The McCartney School District 17, built in 1927, is historically significant at the local level under *Criterion A* in the area of Education. It is an excellent representative example of the most common pattern of rural education that has persisted on the Nebraska landscape since the nineteenth century. The McCartney School has operated as a rural school for 73 years and the building tangibly illustrates the enduring capacity of the traditional one-room schoolhouse to successfully educate the young. The McCartney School is being nominated in conjunction with the Multiple Property Document "Historic and Architectural School Buildings in Nebraska." Please refer to this document for a contextual history of education in the state.

History of the McCartney School³

The McCartney School District 17 has been providing education for local children in the rural area just west of Nebraska City since 1869. Although the existing school building dates from 1927, the first McCartney School was built at this location 2 years after Nebraska achieved statehood. The McCartney School was constructed on land originally owned by Andrew McCartney of Indianola, Iowa, and purchased by David Beasley, M.C. McCartney, and Henry Kregel, trustees of School District No. 2 in the Belmont Precinct. The trustees purchased the property, consisting of 1 acre and 56 rods, for \$100 dollars. In the land transaction, the parties agreed that the property was to be used for school purposes only.

In the first year of operation, H.C. McCartney served as the sole member of the school board in which he acted as the director, moderator, and treasurer, and continued in this capacity until 1876. W.M. Coleman was the first teacher at the McCartney School and, according to the school census, taught children from 14 area farming families between the years of 1869 through 1871. The record, taken in the spring, also indicates that as many as 50 children from the ages of 5 through 21 lived in the district and many were associated with the school either as students or as employees.

During the early years of operation, students attended class 70 to 120 days a year, generally during the fall and winter months when their labor was not essential to the seasonal activities of the family farm. In these cold months, wood, coal, and corn cobs were burned to heat the school building and this fuel was stored in a shed in the back of the school. By 1907, a 9-month academic school year had been implemented in the school system, which had an impact on the family farm. Until at least 1930, local rural children either walked, arrived in a pony cart, or rode their ponies or other animals to school, and many families built pony sheds to shelter the animals while the children attended school. As many as 35 children attended the McCartney School at one time.

Two major disasters hit the McCartney School during its long history. On the night of May 27, 1927, the red brick school burned, resulting in an estimated loss of \$2,000 to \$2,500. The cause of the fire was never determined, but the building had to be replaced. The records indicate that 25 students were enrolled at the time and Addie Chandler was the teacher. No one was hurt in the blaze. The chronological list of McCartney School teachers reveal that in spite of the spring fire, the school calendar continued in the fall, providing evidence that the present school was built in the summer of 1927 and sited at the location of the original school.

For 22 years, the present school, also of red brick, served the local community until June 2, 1949, when a tornado struck the school, causing considerable damage. A photograph dating from 1949 shows the roof of the building torn off and the front wall collapsed. The school was repaired with much of the original brick and the building appears much as it did when originally built. Again, the chronological list of teachers at the McCartney School indicates that the school was in session the following fall. Evidently, the school was repaired over the summer of 1949. In addition to the repairs, interior improvements have been made over the years, including electricity, natural gas, and water service. Restrooms have been added to the school and the building is protected with storm windows and doors.

³ The History of the McCartney School is based upon two articles, "District 17 is 113 Years Young on May 30, 1982," and "McCartney District 17 School," n.d., Site File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

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McCartney School District 17

Name of Property

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Today, the McCartney School is still in operation and serving the local community. Nine students attend the school and are taught music and art in the building, while the rest of the school subjects are taught in the non-contributing, one-room schoolhouse located at the rear of the McCartney School. A fixture in the local community, the McCartney School has been educating children for over 131 years.

Historical Significance

The McCartney School is historically significant at the local level under *Criterion A*. It is an excellent representative example of a pattern of rural education that has persisted through the twentieth century despite many changes in educational policy and reform. Visually, the McCartney School with its brick construction, long gable roof, rectangular plan, and rural setting, immediately conveys the architectural elements of a one-room schoolhouse and would be recognizable to anyone living in the local area during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The McCartney School is a very good representative of a local rural school because it is built of red brick and, like most rural schools, was constructed by local residents with available materials. The school was built of materials from a nearby brickyard in Nebraska City.⁴ Typical of the "one-room" schoolhouse, the McCartney School was constructed in a rectangular plan and of a size that could accommodate the needs of at least 35 students while addressing the auditory and visual needs of teaching in a large classroom. The school's window placement is like other one-room schools where opposite windows were located on the long sides of the building to use the optimum amount of sunlight for better vision and ventilation. The McCartney School also features a single door central entrance located on the south facade, which was the most common entrance placement in rural schools.

By the early twentieth century, educational policy had changed regarding rural schools and this would eventually reduce the number of rural schools built on the Nebraska landscape. In 1903 Nebraska, following the national trend towards school consolidation, passed legislation to use public funds for the transportation of students to central schools and to establish procedures for school consolidation. Although only 2 miles from Nebraska City, the McCartney School did not consolidate with the city schools and students provided their own transportation to school.⁵

During the period of significance, the McCartney School's curriculum remained based in the traditional rural school curriculum of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and although the school has restrooms and a raised stage, the school's interior design has remained basically the same since one-room rural schools began appearing on the Nebraska landscape in the nineteenth century.

Three, one-room rural schools are known to remain in Otoe County, two of which are brick. The McCartney School retains better integrity of design than the other two schools, and because the first McCartney School was built here in 1869, the property has a much longer history.⁶

⁴ Interview with Kelly Ballue, teacher, McCartney School District 17, May 7, 2000.

⁵ Mead & Hunt, Multiple Property National Register of Historic Places Listing: "Educational Development and Historic School Buildings in Nebraska," draft, May 2000.

⁶ Interview with Kelly Ballue, teacher, McCartney School District 17, May 7, 2000.

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Name of Property

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Bibliography

Anderson, William T. "Development of the Common Schools." Wisconsin Blue Book: 1923, Madison: State Printing Board, 1923.

"District 17 is 113 Years Young on May 30, 1982," Site File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

"District 17 School Teacher Roster." The McCartney School District 17. Site File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, n.d.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design: 1870-1940. Ames: Iowa. Iowa State University Press, 1988.

Mead & Hunt, Inc., Multiple Property National Register of Historic Places Listing: "Educational Development and Historic School Buildings in Nebraska," draft, May 2000.

"McCartney District 17 School," n.d. Site File, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Verbal Boundary Description

The McCartney School District 17 is located at S. 197' of E. 198' E. ½ SE ¼ 1.3 acres, Belmont, 2313.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the McCartney School District 17 enclose all the resources historically associated with it, and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel on which it sits.

Photographs

Photograph 1 of 5

McCartney School District 17

City of Nebraska, Otoe County, Nebraska

Negative on file in Nebraska State Historical Society

View of west-facing facade, looking northeast.

For the photographs listed below, the information is the same as above, except as noted:

Photograph 2 of 5

View of east-facing facade, looking northwest.

Photograph 3 of 5

View of south-facing (front) facade, looking north.

Photograph 4 of 5

View of west-facing facade, looking east.

Photograph 5 of 5

Detail of interior, looking north.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

