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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 1024-0018

452

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 Property

Historic name: Alderman School District #78

Other names/site number: 32 BA-0159; Ashtabula Township Hall, Barnes County Polling Precinct #10 and Ashtabula Lakers 4-H Clubhouse

Name of related multiple property listing: **NA**

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

2. Location

Street & number: Eleven Miles North of Valley City on County Route 21

City or town: Valley City State: ND County: Barnes

Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [x]

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**

Merlan E. Paaverud Jr. 5-6-13

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

North Dakota SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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:) _____

for Edson H. Beall 6·25·13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [x]

Public – Local [ ]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	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.)
Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation	concrete
Walls	weatherboard
Roof	fiberglass-asphalt shingles
Chimney	brick

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Alderman School is on a 1.0 acre property on the two-lane Highway 21 North of Valley City, North Dakota, with the historic one-story school building, a new noncontributing shed/restroom tucked in the northwest corner away from the school, and the property where the playground and former horse barn stood. A new sign provides information on the site, while the schoolhouse dominates the plot on its raised basement. The schoolhouse fits the general characteristics of a framed one-room North Dakota school house built between 1911 and 1940 with the ribbon windows on the ideal location of the south elevation, the narrow width to allow sunlight to

illuminate the work of students in all parts of the room, the massive boiler in its room downstairs, the indoor bathrooms one for each sex, the cloakroom and basement space for games, basketball and festive occasions. The site retains excellent integrity of location as it has not been moved; design, as it is an archetype for a one-room school house, and setting, in that the location remains rural and quiet. The materials remain almost entirely original with original windows, doors, walls and floors, likewise workmanship, feeling, and association remain much as they were in the school's period of significance, 1925 to its closure in 1959. Since then it has been maintained as Ashtabula Township Hall and currently is under the care of the Historic Alderman School Association.

Narrative Description

Alderman School is situated on a slight rise in a generally flat agricultural landscape, located on County Road 21 (118th Ave SE), eleven miles north of Valley City, Barnes County, North Dakota. The larger vista is dominated by the recently installed Ashtabula III wind turbine project, but the immediate landscape is shielded somewhat from the wind farm by a slight rise and a few trees to the north and a thick shelterbelt to the south. Two of the approximately 300 foot tall (including rotor height) turbines are about ½-mile northeast and southeast of the schoolhouse. About 3/4–mile to the west is the man-made reservoir Lake Ashtabula, covering a small portion of the Sheyenne River Valley.

This one-story frame 18' x 40' schoolhouse is on a raised poured concrete foundation with concrete stucco. The outside walls have four-inch clapboard siding above an eight-inch water table just above the foundation. The most striking fenestration is the placement of the one-over-one windows with a ribbon of seven windows on the long south side, toward the rear of the wall, and just one window on the north side, toward the front of the wall. A window flanks each side of the five-panel front entrance door with transom, which currently lacks steps to the ground. Each window opening has a glass storm unit consisting of eight lites, which can be opened as awning windows allowing for greater ventilation. Small fixed and hopper windows allow light into the basement and a metal coal chute covering is on the south elevation, as well as a wooden panel door with three large vertical glass panes.

Alderman School has a hip roof capped by an original metal ridge cover with ball finials on each end, and metal caps on the four hip inclined edges. Two lightning arresters are on either end of the ridge board. A short brick chimney served the coal furnace. The boxed soffit is about 18" wide with car siding and the fascia board has older metal gutters. The downspouts were salvaged from an older home in the area that was under demolition.

The ground level entrance door on the south side leads to a 25'9" x 18'5" x10' basement room used as small gymnasium, with a basketball hoop on the west wall. Hardwood flooring is removed from the gym floor, revealing a deteriorated concrete base. A raised concrete platform supports a galvanized steel-jacketed coal furnace.

On the east side is a furnace room with a coal room separated by a large wooden door, and chute for coal delivery.

Ascending the stairs on the south side, one arrives in a small entry room with a coat room on the southeast corner and two former bathrooms on the northeast corner. A single class room occupies the rest of the first floor. All rooms on the main floor have hardwood floors and plaster ceilings and walls. The coatroom has two rows of single coat hooks and a light bulb on a pull chain centered in the ceiling. The bathrooms, one for boys and one for girls originally had lavatories and chemical toilets for boys and one of each for girls. The chemical toilets were removed in the late 1950s and replaced by two outhouses. The wall separating the two rooms was removed. The chemical toilets and the collection chamber that used to hang from the ceiling in the basement are gone.

The one-room classroom occupies about two-thirds of the first floor. It has ample light from the band of seven one-over-one windows on the south elevation, which warms the room somewhat, even in winter temperatures of about 15 degrees F., without additional heat. Fir wainscoting adorns all walls. Blackboards are on the east (front) and north sides of the classroom. There are two heating grates: a return grate in the floor in the hallway and a large supply air grate high on the back wall of the classroom. Two 1950s fluorescent light fixtures still function.

Alderman School is an archetype for a rural one-room school built in North Dakota due to its superior historic integrity and the care with which necessary repairs (new roof and exterior paint) have been completed. It meets all seven of the criteria of integrity. The two 300' tall wind turbines about ½ mile away do not impact the feeling and association of the school house when one is on the grounds as they remain in the background when one faces the school house. There are two inhabited farmsteads and several shelterbelts that are between the schoolhouse site and the wind turbines that also distract the eye from the turbines.

The laws and regulations mandating the construction of public schoolhouses in North Dakota are embodied in the Alderman School building. By 1920, fairly sophisticated regulations covered many aspects concerning school construction and safety, including water supply such as drilled wells rather than dug, and cisterns when there was no alternative. Heating and ventilation received several pages of attention, with hot air furnaces preferred. Jacketed stoves, such as that in the Alderman School basement were favored. The State Department of Public Instruction's manual was beginning to gain some heft with longer and more detailed requirements, including details such as each room having a thermometer.[i]

Earlier regulations had already standardized the form and massing of North Dakota rural schoolhouses, such as twelve feet of floor space and 200 cubic feet of air space for each pupil. By 1915 rural schoolhouses were to have at least 100 square feet of blackboards. The most defining feature of North Dakota school houses was the requirement that natural lighting must "be admitted from the left side, or rear, or both, and the total light area must be not less than twenty percent of the floor space." [ii] This requirement is what dictated the multiple windows on one long side of the school house. Because it makes the most sense to have windows on the south elevation, (more sunlight and warmth in the winter, and the school houses were not

generally used in the hottest months), Alderman School exemplifies a common orientation. Educators generally favored natural light from the left side so that right-handed children would have the view of their papers and books unobstructed by shadows from their right hands and arms.

The noncontributing shed/restroom in the northwest corner of the site was built in the general location of the former outdoor privies. The former privies were used only during last year the school remained in session. The chemical toilets and collection chamber in the basement were used the other years the school was in session.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Education
Architecture

Period of Significance
1925-1959

Significant Dates
1925

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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.)

Alderman School of Barnes County School District 78 is eligible at the local level under criteria A and C. It has a strong association with rural education in its school district as it existed as a school from 1928 – 1959. It embodies in its architectural details many regulations that reflected current best practices for rural education, such as best natural lighting, best heating and ventilation, blackboards, and best sanitation practices of the time. It is the best preserved one-room rural school in Barnes County with no architectural modifications (although the chemical toilets and holding tank were removed as was the flooring in the basement) or additions.

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

Alderman School is eligible under criterion A at the local level for its strong association with the development of rural education in North Dakota. Established in 1884, Ashtabula Township's School District 78 first supported a native stone school built on land owned by John Alderman, in the N ½ of the S ½ of Section 26, probably across the road from the present Alderman School. The community of Alderman consisted of about 20 people by 1890 and had its own post office until 1902. The stone school lost its roof in 1920 and there is a gap in the Barnes County Superintendent of School records until the 1925-1926 school year, which was the year this building was completed. The current Alderman School site continued to serve as a one-room school house and a community meeting place and polling place until 1959, when its function changed to be that of the Ashtabula Township Hall and polling place for Precinct #10 alone. In 2004 the Historic Alderman School Association formed to preserve the schoolhouse. Since then, the roof was reshingled, and damaged basement flooring removed.

An important aspect of the history of rural schools in North Dakota is the long-running battle concerning school consolidation. The classification of Alderman School as a rural school 3rd Class appears in the 1928 annual report of state aid.[iii] A three-year lapse between construction of a single-room rural school and the first inspection in the 1920s was not unusual, as the rate of construction and changes to school rating requests exceeded the ability of the school inspectors to cover the state annually. The state Department of Education's classification system was important as the classification dictated the potential state matching funds that the school could request. Rural School 3rd Class seems a rather low score considering the state-of-the art condition of the school and how it fit the physical requirements, but other factors, such as the number of teachers and their certification also applied. Even the rural third class designation may have been fudged a bit because there should have been two teachers for that classification. Alderman School qualified for a maximum of $30.00 in state aid in 1928. Throughout the 1900s, the Department of Education was conducting a difficult campaign for consolidation of individual school districts, which continued as a dominant policy through the 1960s, and still elicits strong emotion in some communities. Consolidated school districts qualified for a maximum of $300.00 to $400.00 each school year in the 1920s, versus $30.00 - $50.00 per school year for unconsolidated schools.[iv]

Under Criterion C, Alderman School is eligible as an archetype for a rural one-room school built in North Dakota due to its superior historic integrity and the care with which necessary repairs (new roof and exterior paint) were completed. The building retains excellent integrity of location as it has not been moved; design, as it is an archetype for a one-room school house; and setting, in that the location remains rural and quiet. The materials remain almost entirely original with original windows, doors, walls and floors, likewise workmanship, feeling, and association remain much as they were in the school's period of significance, 1925 to its closure in 1959.

The specific features that exemplify rural one-room schools as built in the 1920s include the ribbon windows and existing storm windows, the placement of the windows on the south side, the raised foundation, which allowed for a play area in the basement as well as a jacketed coal furnace and coal room, the two restrooms, the cloakroom, the blackboards, the venting system, the high ceilings and narrow width of the classroom, which allowed light to reach each student's desk. Also the school grounds were regulated, with two acres mandated for rural schools in 1915.[v] Each of these features was mandated by the Department of Education in various publications and regulations.[vi] Actually following the regulations began to be more attractive to school boards beginning in 1911, when the state legislature began to appropriate significant matching funding for school construction.[vii]

From 1959 - 2004, Alderman School was maintained as the Ashtabula Township Hall. Since 2005, the Historic Alderman School Association has maintained the school building and grounds by mowing periodically in the summer. The Association hopes to retain and maintain the building and grounds and keep the site as a schoolhouse museum and meeting place.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barnes County Historical Society. *Barnes County History*. Dallas TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1976.

Department of Education of North Dakota. *State Aid to Consolidated Graded and Rural Schools.* Fargo, ND: Knight Printing Company, August 1, 1911.

Erickson, Edward. *North Dakota Laws and Rules in Regard to the Construction, Inspection, Ventilation and Sanitation of School Buildings*. Bismarck, North Dakota: State Department of Public Instruction, April 1, 1920.

Laws Passed at the Twelfth Session of the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota. Fargo, ND: Knight Printing Company, 1911.

Macdonald, Neil C. *The Consolidation of Rural Schools in North Dakota*. North Dakota State Board of Education December, 1913. Online at Barnes and Noble www.BookNook.com

North Dakota State Director of Rural Education. *Annual Report of the State Inspector of Consolidated, Graded and Rural Schools.* Bismarck, North Dakota: Department of Public Instruction, 1928.

North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office. "NDCRS Architectural Site Form 32BA00159."

Register of Deeds, "Barnes County Courthouse Document Number 254041," Valley City, North Dakota.

State Board of Education of North Dakota. *State Elementary School Manual Giving Law and Regulations for Classification as State Rural Graded and Consolidated Schools,* August 1915.

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:

_x___ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___1.0 acres_____

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 [x] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 14	Easting: 575667	Northing: 5215380
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
All that part of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of Section Twenty-Seven (27), Township one hundred Forty-Two (142) North of Range Fifty-Eight (58) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, which is bounded and described by the following, viz Beginning at the Northeast corner of said quarter section and running thence due West 15 rods, thence South 16 rods, thence East 15 rods, thence North on the East line of said section to the place of beginning and containing 1 acre of land.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries are the original boundaries in use during the period of significance and are those that continue to be owned by the Historic Alderman School Association.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator
organization: ND SHPO
street & number: 612 East Boulevard Avenue
city or town: Bismarck state: ND zip code: 58505-0830
e-mail squinnell@nd.gov
telephone: 701-328-3576
date: February 25, 2013

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.)

Property Owner

name/title: Ms. Becky Heise
organization: Historic Alderman School Association
street & number: 940 6th St. S
city or town: Valley City state: North Dakota zip code: 58072
e-mail: dbheise@msn.com
telephone: 701-490-0060

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: Alderman School

City or Vicinity: 11 miles North of Valley City, North Dakota

County: Barnes State: North Dakota

Photographer: Susan Quinnell

Date Photographed: April 2013

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

1 of 3 Camera view SW front elevation and north side with single window

2 of 3 Camera view NW with shed

3 of 3 Camera View NW, front elevation and south side with ribbon windows

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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[i] Edward Erickson, *North Dakota Laws and Rules in Regard to the Construction, Inspection, Ventilation and Sanitation of School Buildings*, (Bismarck, North Dakota: State Department of Public Instruction, April 1, 1920.

[ii] State Board of Education of North Dakota: *State Elementary School Manual Giving Law and Regulations for Classification as State Rural Graded and Consolidated Schools,* August, 1915.

[iii] North Dakota State Director of Rural Education, *Annual Report of the State Inspector of Consolidated, Graded and Rural Schools, (*Bismarck, North Dakota: Department of Public Instruction, 1928).

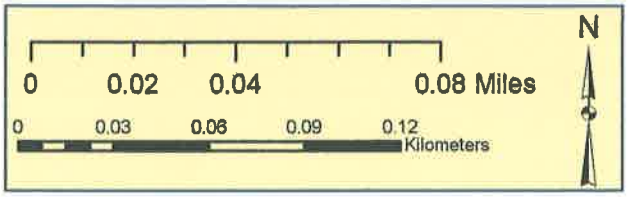
[iv] Ibid

[v] State Board of Education of North Dakota: *State Elementary School Manual Giving Law and Regulations for Classification as State Rural Graded and Consolidated Schools,* August, 1915, p. 8.

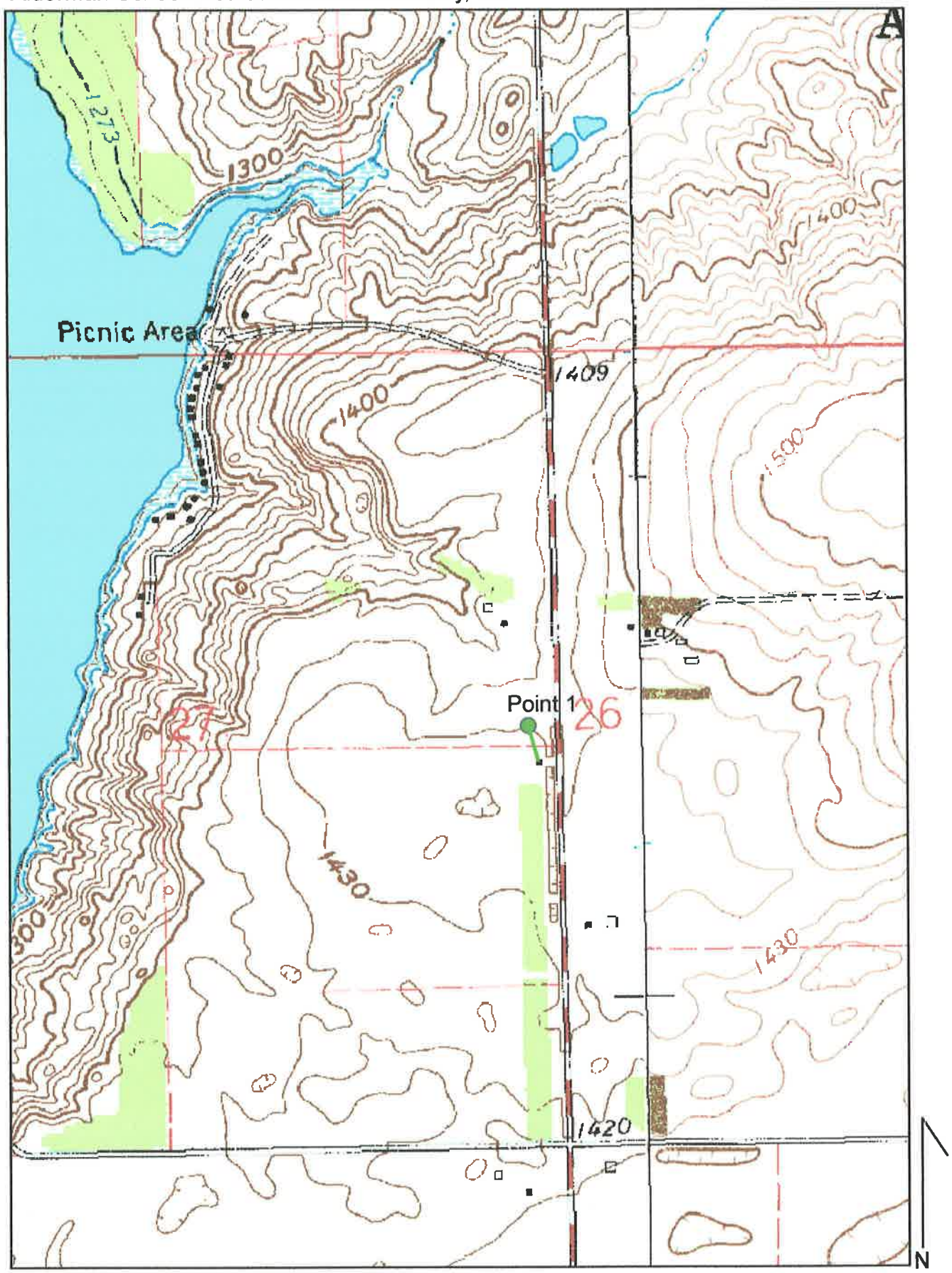
[vi] *Laws Passed at the Twelfth Session of the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota*. Fargo, ND: Knight Printing Company, 1911.

[vii] Department of Education of North Dakota, *State Aid to Consolidated Graded and Rural Schools,* Fargo: Knight Printing Company, August 1, 1011.

Alderman School
T142N R58W Section 27
Barnes County, ND
Plotted NAD 1983, in Baldhill Dam USGS Quad.
SHSND - 5/1/13



Alderman School District #78 Barnes County, ND



UTM NAD 1983: 14 575667 5215380

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