

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: Ford SchoolhouseOther names/site number: Upper North Fork School, 24FH0919

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: North Fork Flathead Rd (just over nine miles NW of Polebridge)City or town: Polebridge State: MT County: FlatheadNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**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 C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal GovernmentIn my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria._____
Signature of commenting official:_____
Date_____
MT State Historic Preservation Officer_____
Title :_____
State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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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 ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: vernacular rustic log

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

- Foundation
 - CONCRETE/concrete block
- Walls
 - WOOD/log
- Roof
 - METAL, WOOD/Shingle (metal over wood shingles)
- Other
 - CONCRETE/Concrete block (chimney)

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 Ford Schoolhouse, built in 1918, is a front-gabled, one-room log cabin located in northwest Montana along the North Fork Flathead River. This remote region, known simply as the North Fork, is west of Glacier National Park and accessed by Montana Highway 486 running north out of the town of Columbia Falls. The landscape is a mix of private land claimed by early homesteaders and public land managed by the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest. Permanent residences and seasonal cabins are interspersed with public recreation sites. The Ford Schoolhouse displays rural, one-room school characteristics that includes the use of indigenous materials, a ribbon of windows along the east wall to optimize daylight, and site selection. It occupies a small meadow surrounded by forest between the North Fork Flathead Road and the North Fork Flathead River

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with mountains of Glacier National Park visible to the east. The 21' by 17' school is constructed of peeled and unpeeled logs with square-notched joinery. The gabled roof displays corrugated metal covering wood shingles and the foundation features a mix of concrete block and temporary wood bracing. The original and primary entrance occurs in the center of the south-facing gable wall under a shed-roofed porch. The approach step to the entry consists of a makeshift narrow plank on concrete block. Plywood presently covers the window and door openings while the original elements undergo restoration. The interior features a single, rectangular room with wood flooring, painted log walls hewn flat, and a painted wood plank ceiling. The log outhouse sits on the north end of the property and is likely original to the property. A 1919 photo of the schoolhouse (Historic Photograph Figure 6) shows the outhouse in the same place relative to the schoolhouse; no information was found suggesting the outhouse was removed or replaced. The property retains much of its historic integrity in terms of location, materials, setting, feeling, workmanship, and association with early pioneer education and homesteading life of the North Fork.

Narrative Description

The Ford Schoolhouse sits immediately east of State Secondary Highway 486 (also known as the North Fork Flathead Road), a mostly gravel road that parallels the North Fork Flathead River, both which connect Columbia Falls to Canada (the road is currently closed and has been for several years to actual cross-border traffic). The schoolhouse, approximately 50' east of the road and 100' west of the river, sits in a strip of unmaintained meadow surrounded by trees. Access occurs via an overgrown travel way that pitches steeply from the North Fork Flathead Road. The log outhouse stands north of the school. Scattered remnants of concrete foundations and plumbing connections indicate where removed additions to the original school were located.

Field Documentation 2021

Two field visits occurred at the Ford Schoolhouse in 2021. The first, conducted by Mary Williams and Cherie Peacock on August 14, focused on documenting architectural aspects of the schoolhouse and the interior of the building. Dave Schwab and Alex Schwab's visit on August 30 entailed high resolution mapping of the entire property both with high accuracy GPS and a UAV flight to produce a high resolution orthoimage of the property. The resulting sketch maps and National Register photographs are presented on the continuation sheets below.

The mapping identified three resources that contribute to the property's significance—two standing buildings and one depression that represents the former location of a small barn or stable. Noncontributing elements include one depression. Mapping allowed a detailed record of current conditions to be produced and provided context for the entire property. The sketch and aerial maps below provide geographic context for the following discussion.

Ford Schoolhouse (one contributing building)

The Ford Schoolhouse (Feature 3) is a rectangular, front-gable, single-story, one bay log building measuring 21' north south and 17' east west. A depression, Feature 4, lies immediately to the north of the building and represents the former location of a later constructed addition (outside the period of significance) that had nothing to do with the operation of the building as a school.

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The building rests on irregularly spaced concrete blocks and temporary wood bracing. The walls are peeled and unpeeled logs with spiked, square notched corner joints. Chinking consists of a mix of concrete daubing and split hand-cut poles. Skip sheathing of 1" x 8" shiplap sets atop 4" log rafters spaced 24" on center to make up the roof's framing. Wood shingles are visible from inside the attic and corrugated metal roofing currently covers the structure. Metal also wraps the eaves as the corrugated metal does not span the entire roof. Horizontal 1" x 8" boards clad the gable ends.

A 5'-deep shed roof topped with corrugated metal shelters the original entrance on the south side of the schoolhouse. The main entrance door has been removed for restoration and the opening covered with plywood. A second entrance on the north side, not original to the structure, holds a single panel wood door. Windows have also been removed for restoration and the openings temporarily covered with plywood. A ribbon of windows along the east side of Ford Schoolhouse faces the North Fork Flathead River and Glacier National Park beyond. Small windows on the west and south walls were added sometime after 1950 when the building transferred to private owners and use as a schoolhouse ceased.

The interior consists of a single room with a wood floor made of 3"-wide boards running north-south. Wall logs are hewn flat and painted white and yellow, and the ceiling, constructed of 7"-wide boards, is also painted white. Painted wood trim frames window and door openings. Photos indicate the original chimney consisted of a metal stovepipe located in the southwest quadrant of the structure. The current chimney features a concrete block flue in the southeast quadrant.

Exterior

North Wall

The north wall gable end holds a 60"-wide by 26"-tall window opening east of the slightly off-center door. Plywood presently covers the opening while windows undergo restoration. Immediately to the west is an opening that measures 32" by 72" holding a wood panel door likely added for interior access to additions that once connected to this elevation. A ghost outline on the gable end and exterior logs carved to marry with dimensional material of the addition remain; the non-schoolhouse related additions were removed in 2019. A concrete slab covered with peeling floor tiles, wood sill plates, and plumbing connections occupy the location of the removed addition.

A depression (called out as Feature 4) associated with a non-historic addition to the school occurs immediately north of the building; this non-historic addition was removed in 2019 during the restoration of the school.

East Wall

The two lowest base logs of the east wall were replaced at an unknown time evidenced by their obvious interior mismatch to the upper logs. In addition, one log displays a nearly round profile while the other exhibits saw marks unique to the structure.

An opening for a ribbon of windows that measures 216" wide and 26" high and stretches almost the entire length of the wall dominates the elevation. Plywood sheeting presently covers the

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opening while the windows undergo restoration. Historic photos indicate the ribbon held seven units, two rectangular panes each stacked one atop the other (four-lite windows). Although published a year after the Ford Schoolhouse was built, University of Montana Bulletin No. 11, *One and Two Room Rural School Buildings* by W.R. Plew affirm the historic context of this building.¹ Many of the precepts found in Plew's bulletin reflected the accepted practices of the time for a successful educational building environment. Bulletin No. 11 offers details and standards plans for rural schoolhouses and the author advocates for a ribbon of windows, preferably the east side, suggesting they be "practically in one frame", for optimal lighting for students.² The surrounding view from the east elevation windows of the Ford Schoolhouse must surely have inspired students as they gazed upon the North Fork Flathead River and the mountains of Glacier National Park beyond.

South Wall

The front entrance to the schoolhouse appears in the center of the south gable end wall. The door opening measures 30" wide; plywood covers the entry while the door undergoes restoration. A window opening, 32" wide by 24" high, is to the west of the entrance. Historic photos indicate this window is not original to the structure and added at an unknown time. A corrugated metal covered shed roof supported by poles extends 5' from the wall to protect the entrance. A wood plank resting on cinder blocks provides a step up into the building. A 1918 photograph of the Ford Schoolhouse shows the shed roof porch had not yet been built. Another historic photo of unknown date shows the porch with a raised floor.

West Wall

The west wall faces the North Fork Flathead Road and is shaded by large trees. Wood planks currently brace the north corner level the structure. A small non-original window opening, evidenced by comparison to historic photos, centers in the wall and measures 32" by 32". Like the other openings, it is covered with plywood during restoration.

Interior

The front entrance opens into the single-room schoolhouse. Three-inch-wide wood flooring, with some missing boards toward the east wall, runs the length of the room. The cement block chimney stands directly to the east (right) of the main entrance and sits upon a built-in cabinet. Interior logs are hewn flat and painted white and yellow. As noted earlier, two logs at the bottom of the east wall feature different surface treatments—neither display paint and one retains its round appearance while the other was planed with a saw. Doors and windows exhibit trim of wide, painted wood boards and narrow molding finishes at the intersection of the walls and ceiling. The ceiling features 7" wide boards painted white. A view of the gable interior from an access near the chimney reveals pole rafters, shiplap skip sheathing, and the underside of the wood shingles. The chimney appears to be introduced, not original, to the building. It remains

¹ W.R. Plew, "One and Two Room Rural School Buildings," University of Montana Bulletin, State College Series - No. 11, (Bozeman, Montana, 1919).

² W.R. Plew, "One and Two Room Rural School Buildings," University of Montana Bulletin, State College Series - No. 11, (Bozeman, Montana, 1919), p. 13.

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unknown if the drop ceiling is original to the building, though the presence of the ceiling would have aided in heat retention within the building during colder months.

Outhouse (one contributing building)

The only outbuilding remaining on the property is the outhouse (Feature 5) located north of the schoolhouse. The side-gable log outhouse measures 7' 8" east-west by 5' 1" north-south and cants to the northeast from settling. Vertical log corner posts support the corners of the building. The 2' high gable ends display vertical board siding. Wood shingles cover the roof that is heavily covered with tree needles. The south entry door is unhinged and leans against the doorframe. The interior sports a two-seat arrangement on a painted bench that runs the width of the structure. A 3-pane window on the north side behind the bench allows light and ventilation. The building appears original to the property, circa 1919.

Depression (one noncontributing site)

A foundation depression with associated concrete pad foundation (Feature 1) lies just south of the Ford Schoolhouse. It measures roughly 30' east-west and 20' north-south. A concrete foundation pad that measures 6' north-south by 3.5' east-west appears on the western edge of the depression. It remains unclear what once stood in this location. No historic photos show a building here in the past.

Depression (one contributing site)

A second foundation depression (Feature 2) that measures 16' east-west by 10.5' north-south appears just southeast of the school building. A concrete pad lies on the western edge of the depression and measures 8.75' north-south by 1.25' east-west. Historic photos indicate a small barn/stable or shed once occupied this spot (Historic Photograph Figure 7).

Integrity

The Ford Schoolhouse retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance. The schoolhouse and outhouse sit in their original locations and the setting, feeling, and association with the North Fork community remains strong. The buildings reside where originally constructed, in the same small meadow next to the river, centrally located along the main road of the community. The schoolhouse and associated outhouse embody the educational experience associated with homesteading life in this remote part of the Montana.

The Ford Schoolhouse retains the distinctive elements that reflect the vernacular architecture of a rural, one-room schoolhouse. Although the building witnessed some alteration over time (noted above), the original design, materials, and workmanship remain intact. The schoolhouse retains its original shape and roof configuration. The central entrance and ribbon of windows along the east wall indicate a few of the soon-to-be advocated design elements suggested in University of Montana Bulletin No. 11, *One and Two Room Rural School Buildings* by W. R. Plew published in 1919.³ Most of the original materials remain intact including logs, windows, flooring, and trim. Windows, currently removed for restoration, are original to the structure except for one in

³ W.R. Plew, "One and Two Room Rural School Buildings," University of Montana Bulletin, State College Series - No. 11, (Bozeman, Montana, 1919).

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the south wall and one in the west wall. Two wall logs were replaced and a few others require restoration, but most logs remain original. The original materials of the outhouse are intact; however, the building itself stands in poor condition.

Restoration Work

Exterior and interior alterations to the Ford Schoolhouse occurred over time though the most prominent noncontributing elements, such as the addition constructed after the end of the period of significance, were removed. In 2019, the Forest Service conducted several projects related to the schoolhouse and the property. Two non-historic additions were removed, the foundation temporarily braced, and non-original cabinetry removed. The wood floor was cleaned, the ceiling sanded, and the windows and doors removed and taken off-site for restoration. This work was completed under the guidance of a master plan developed by the USDA Forest Service R1 Historic Preservation Team titled "Historic Preservation Assessment, Ford Schoolhouse, Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, USDA Forest Service Region One," May 2018.⁴ Other efforts focused on the removal of rodent debris and clearing the property of overgrown vegetation.

Future work detailed in the master plan includes restoration of approximately six deteriorated logs, removal of the metal roofing and replacement of wood shingles, removal of the non-original shed porch, installation of a concrete and stone pier foundation, restoration and reinstallation of windows and doors, and cleaning and repainting the interior.

The historical basis of the restoration work includes photographs, interviews with local residents, and careful inspection by trained professionals. Even though Ford Schoolhouse was altered from its original condition, it retains most of the original building materials and therefore much of the original workmanship. The distinctive elements of the vernacular architecture are intact and convey the site's historic character and appropriate historic feel.

⁴ Jackson Poppen, *Historic Preservation Assessment, Ford Schoolhouse, Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, USDA Forest Service Region One*, 2018.

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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

Period of Significance

1918-1942

Significant Dates

1918, 1930

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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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 1918-constructed Ford Schoolhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its educational importance to homesteaders in the North Fork Flathead community and as a gathering place for that community. Although not recommended eligible under Criterion C, the Ford Schoolhouse does retain distinctive elements that reflect the vernacular architecture of a rural, one-room schoolhouse. The modesty of design and use of indigenous materials for the schoolhouse captures the spirit of this isolated, yet resourceful homesteading community. In 2013, rural schoolhouses in Montana were designated as one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP). NTHP president Stephanie Meeks noted “The proud rural heritage of Montana is reflected in its unparalleled collection of historic country schools. These modest buildings tell the story of the generations of farmers and ranchers who gathered, and sent their children to be educated, in these small but crucial community centers.”

The Ford Schoolhouse is significant at the local level, embodying the importance of public education to small rural communities. Indeed, local donations provided funds for desks, books and other equipment. Built shortly after a second wave of homesteaders came to the North Fork region encouraged by the Forest Homestead Act of 1906, the school immediately served as a center of community life. Events and gatherings ranged from school fundraisers, in the guise of a Thanksgiving program and dance, to purely social events like the Christmas and New Year’s Eve programs. Some events were specific to the North Fork community, such as the “Hard Times” dances, likely a necessary response to a difficult homesteading life punctuated by isolation, severe winters, and few social opportunities.

The period of significance begins in 1918, when the school was constructed, and ends in 1942, when it ceased operations as a school house permanently. Although the school closed from 1920-1930, a single period of significance is proffered as the nearby residents continued to use the building during its lull in educational instruction for a variety of activities that helped bind the rural community together. Significant dates include 1918, the date of the building’s construction, and 1930, when school-related instruction recommenced in the building.

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

Early History and Settlement of the Upper North Fork

The Upper North Fork of the Flathead River is a remote, little-developed mountain valley in Northwestern Montana. Rich in wildlife and plant resources, the area was for centuries used extensively by the Kootenai, as well as the Salish, Pend Oreille and Blackfeet. Archaeological evidence indicates that other tribes also hunted and traveled through the valley. Euro-American fur trappers probably entered the Upper North Fork in the 1820s. In the 1830s or 1840s, a Hudson Bay Company trading post reportedly operated along Red Meadow Creek, a North Fork

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tributary, three miles above present-day Polebridge. Englishman Thomas Blakiston entered the northern portion of the valley in 1858-1859 as part of the Palliser exploration of western Canada and the border country.⁵

Except for a small low-grade coal strike on a North Fork tributary (Coal Creek) in the 1880s, the North Fork remained an undeveloped wilderness until the 1890s.⁶ However, construction of the Great Northern Railway into the Flathead Valley in 1890-1891, greatly increased activity along the remote North Fork. The valley served as a route for smuggling across the U.S./Canada border and for illegal immigration of Chinese workers to railroad camps. It also provided a refuge for horse thieves and other outlaws. Arrival of the railroad and establishment of the town of Columbia Falls attracted new settlers to the area, settlers whose attention was soon drawn to the North Fork. In 1892, oil claims were recorded on seeps near Kintla Lake (later within Glacier National Park). Settlers took up homestead claims in hopes of finding oil and anticipated that a rail spur would eventually access the Kintla area. Their hopes never materialized. Although oil and gas companies continued exploration of the area as late as the 1930s, and a small coal mine served the local market until 1942, the expected “boom” never occurred.⁷

After the flurry of interest during the 1890s, the North Fork experienced a lull in settlement as oil speculators and coal prospectors left the area. In 1899, USGS topographer H.B. Ayres reported 30 cabins in the North Fork Valley, all but two unoccupied, and most in a “tumble-down” condition. He believed that lands along the river were “plainly valuable for grazing and hay and probably for grain,” but that settlement had been deterred by the area’s severe winters and lack of access.⁸

Homesteading on the Upper North Fork

Several elements contributed to a resurgence of homesteading on the North Fork in the early 1900s. The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 encouraged settlement of agricultural land within national forest boundaries. The 1906 Act required claimants to pay a per-acre filing fee, occupy the claim for several years, cultivate the land, construct a house and outbuildings and, within five years, file proof of residence and cultivation. Settlers on unsurveyed lands within the national forests, prevented from filing claims under earlier homestead laws, received preference provided their locations did not include lands otherwise valuable for timber or mineral resources. By 1910, 44 homestead claims were filed on the east side of the North Fork of the Flathead River, with

⁵ Alexander J. Kroll, “The Center of a Homesteading Community in Northwest Montana: Archaeological Investigations on the Polebridge Schoolhouse” (Master’s Thesis, University of Montana, Missoula, 2012), p. 11; Kathryn L. McKay, *Trails of the Past: Historical Overview of the Flathead National Forest, Montana, 1800-1960* (Kalispell, MT: USDA Forest Service, Flathead National Forest, 1994), p. 18.

⁶ Jerome DeSanto, “Uncle Jeff: Mysterious Character of the North Fork,” *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, Winter 1982, p. 18.

⁷ Jerome DeSanto, “Drilling at Kintla Lake: Montana’s First Oil Well,” *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, Winter 1985, pp. 26-37.

⁸ H.B. Ayers, “The Flathead Forest Reserve,” in Twentieth Annual Report of the U.S. Geological Survey (Washington, D.C: Government Printing Office, 1900), pp. 253-254.

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another 14 claimed on the west side.⁹ This disparity most likely was due to the fact that the east side was accessible by a road constructed to the Kintla area in 1901.¹⁰ However, roadlessness did not discourage everyone from taking up a west side claim. Eva Beebe, wife of early homesteader Chance Beebe, recalled, "They homesteaded [there] because it was a hunter's and trapper's paradise. And they felt they were in heaven there. No rangers . . . nobody to bother them, you know. They made their own laws. That's what they wanted."¹¹

After the establishment of Glacier National Park in May 1910, the federal government discouraged new homesteads within the park boundaries. The Park's restrictions on hunting and trapping made homesteaders' subsistence more difficult. As a result, settlement shifted to the west side of the river. Roughly 100 homestead claims were taken up there within a few years following the Park's creation.¹² Additional small tracts on the west side became available for homesteading in 1912, when the Forest Service was directed to open to settlement all forest lands classified as agricultural in character. Most of these bordered the river. During the same year, the Forest Service began construction of the west side North Fork Road. Initiated as one of the earliest forest road projects in Montana, Flathead County completed the road in 1919 linking Columbia Falls to the Upper North Fork just north of Polebridge. North Fork residents contributed work on the road in lieu of paying road taxes.¹³ By 1920, 30 year-round residences had been established on the west side of the Upper North Fork, with numerous others seasonally occupied. Homesteader Ben Hensen opened a store, gas station, and new post office near Bill Adair's store a mile north of Hay Creek. Known as Polebridge, the businesses became a community hub for Upper North Fork residents.¹⁴

Homesteaders frequently augmented farming, trapping and stock-raising income with other occupations. Some worked for the U.S. Forest Service or National Park Service. Some ran traplines or engaged in log-work or road construction. Others were employed in Canadian oilfields. During the 1930s, North Forkers also found employment in New Deal programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Historian Pat Bick described early twentieth-century North Fork homesteads this way:

. . . residences, outhouses, hay sheds, barns, root cellars, and even fences were all built of logs with some purchased items such as doors and windows. The earliest log residences were generally one- or two-room cabins with steeply pitched gable roofs covered with cedar shakes. As they had more time and money, many built

⁹ Patricia Bick, "Homesteading on the North Fork in Glacier National Park," unpublished report (West Glacier, MT: National Park Service, Glacier National Park, 1986), pp. 1, 3-4. Cited in Kroll, McKay.

¹⁰ DeSanto, 1982, p. 22.

¹¹ Cynthia Mish, Historical Interview with Eva Beebe, Glacier National Park Archives, West Glacier, Montana. Cited in Kroll, 2012.

¹² Bick, pp. 1, 3-4.

¹³ McKay, p. 144.

¹⁴ McKay, pp. 228-229.

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new residences that were larger, 1½ or 2 stories, with bigger windows and more milled lumber.

The outhouses often had dovetail corner notching, more difficult to construct, which allowed them to be relocated as needed. The barns were generally used for horses in the winter; most of the cattle was sold in the fall or wintered elsewhere.¹⁵

North Fork Schools

Due to its severe winters and the remote nature of the Upper North Fork, access to schools was a problem for homesteaders with children. Moving into Columbia Falls (over 30 miles to the south of the Ford Schoolhouse) for the school year could result in longer-than-legal absence from homestead claims. Some parents lived apart during school months with one remaining at the homestead while the other stayed with the children in town. In a few instances, children boarded with relatives or friends for the school term. None of these alternatives proved satisfactory.

To help remedy the situation, the North Fork's first organized school opened in a large canvas tent near Akakola Creek on the east side of the river in the summer of 1913. This proved to be no cure-all. The September 18 issue of *The Columbian* reported that Flathead County Superintendent of Public Instruction May Trumper found that nearly 25 school-age children in the North Fork lacked access to a school. In an attempt to improve the situation, the County promised to provide a teacher, provided the residents constructed a suitable building.¹⁶ In 1914 the Akakola Creek school moved to a log schoolhouse constructed near the Schoenberger homestead at Big Prairie, about five miles south of the yet-to-be built Ford Schoolhouse.¹⁷ The school's location, near a new river bridge, may have been intended to accommodate students from the west side. While that might have been the intention, the premise apparently proved less than satisfactory as in 1916, Mary DeFord Schoenberger reported that west siders staged a nighttime raid, removing all the desks from the Big Prairie school for use in a west side school constructed near Red Meadow to the west. The action's justification was that more families now lived on the west side. None of the schools served in their educational capacity for more than a few years. School continued at Big Prairie through January 1918. The Red Meadow school operated from 1916 until a school opened at Polebridge in May 1919. The Polebridge school operated until 1923, when a new schoolhouse opened at Half Moon.¹⁸

Although some of the earliest North Fork schools operated in tents during temperate months, photos show that one-room log structures housed most. The final account of these buildings varied. Some were moved and/or converted to other uses and eventually torn down. Others were dismantled, their logs used to build new schoolhouses or buildings on nearby properties. The closed Polebridge school burned in a suspicious fire in 1924. Whatever their fate, the fact

¹⁵ Bick, pp. 50, 53-56

¹⁶ "Want School In North Fork Valley," *The Columbian* (Columbia Falls, MT), September 18, 1913, p. 1.

¹⁷ Kroll, p. 29.

¹⁸ Walker, pp. 11, 18.

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remains that only one of the North Fork's one-room log schools survives today – the Ford School.¹⁹

The Ford Schoolhouse (24FH0919), 1918-1920

The Ford Schoolhouse was constructed in fall 1918 on land belonging to Harry Holcomb, not far from the Ford Ranger Station at Tepee Creek.²⁰ Holcomb and his neighbors built the one-room log schoolhouse and its outhouse from logs harvested on site.²¹ Local donations provided funds for desks, books and other equipment.²² Holcomb and his wife Lena clearly cared about their children's education. During the 1917-1918 term, Lena lived in a tent at Big Prairie so that the children, Fred and Esther, could attend school there.²³ The Holcombs helped organize the Big Prairie Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and Harry served on the school's planning committee.²⁴ They remained active in Ford School activities and its PTA throughout the school's existence.

At some point, a building variously described as a barn, stable, or shed was also constructed immediately east of the school building. It remains unknown if the building was constructed the same time as the school, shortly thereafter, or if it might have already been standing on the property. Regardless, kids attending the school that rode horses stabled them in the building during class.²⁵ The building itself is no longer extant but its foundation remains (Feature 2), providing information on the spatial arrangement of the earlier buildings on the property associated with the school's operation.

Some confusion exists regarding the dates associated with the Ford Schoolhouse's actual use as a classroom, though its operation undoubtedly included the years from 1918 to 1920, and again from 1930-1942.²⁶ The community used the building as a gathering spot both during its operation as a school and during the years when academic instruction occurred elsewhere. It served the northernmost portion of Flathead County School District 19, also known as the Valentine District. Enrollment generally ranged between six and twelve students.

¹⁹ Kroll 2012.

²⁰ Vicky MacLean, *A Home in the Woods: Montana's Westside Ranger Stations* (Ronan, MT: Privately published, 2014), pp. 93-94; Flathead County school records identify the school as the Upper North Fork school. However, that designation attached to different schoolhouses at different times. It's likely "Ford school" was a name developed locally to identify the schoolhouse at this particular location.

²¹ Walker 2020, p. 19.

²² Naomi and Duke Hoiland, interview by Lois Walker et al., June 10, 2019, transcript in possession of Lois Walker.

²³ "North Fork," *The Columbian*, February 7, 1918, p. 4; "North Fork," *The Columbian*, October 4, 1917, p. 4.

²⁴ "North Fork," *The Columbian*, December 6, 1917, p. 4.

²⁵ Jack McFarland, interview by Ryan Powell, Meghan Mulholland, and Lois Walker, (June 10), transcript in possession of Lois Walker.

²⁶ It is possible the school operated until 1923, however, the "School Consolidation File" fails to provide strong documentation that classes occurred in the building and not at another location in the area.

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The early years of operation welcomed Ella Weide as the school's teacher for the 1918-1919 school term. Ms. Weide oversaw the school garden and alfalfa work and apparently was satisfied with the students' efforts as she "left the certificates of reward, banners and badges of achievement with the various contestants."²⁷ The students accomplishments earned them the title as "members of the United States School War Garden Army of Washington, D.C." Ms. Weide was also a homesteader, eventually receiving patent to 160 acres. According to an item in *The Columbian*, she took a leave of absence in June 1919 to complete her studies at "the State Normal College."²⁸ However, County Club leader H.N. Kauffman attributed her absence to illness.²⁹ She returned to her homestead in 1920 with an eight-year-old adopted son, but there is no indication she returned to teach.

Ms. Weide was replaced in 1919 by Miss Harvey, who taught for five months before being replaced by Sara L. Carney.³⁰ Miss Carney attended both Columbia University and the University of Minnesota. Her tenure was also short-lived, as she married North Fork homesteader George B. DeFord at the end of the 1920 school year.³¹ This appears to be the last class that attended the school prior to its temporary closure as an educational facility. Flathead County school records indicate that the "Upper North Fork school" did not operate after 1920. Schooling continued in the area, however, though the exact location of where remains vague. Records indicate Mrs. Fred Cross and Miss Tennyson taught terms in 1921-1922, but the location of their classes is unclear.³²

In addition to providing a standard curriculum of reading, grammar and arithmetic, the school reflected the needs and interests of an isolated homesteading community. Boys received "manual training" in skills that included carpentry. These skills were put to good use early on as the school's first group of fourth grade boys built a bookcase for the classroom and a cupboard for use in preparing daily hot lunches.³³ The usual duties of schooling were not to be neglected; writing always reigned supreme so the acquisition of a new pencil sharpener purchased by the children of the Ford School made it a newsworthy event.³⁴

Some degree of horticulture education manifested itself at the school as students took turns preparing and cooking the lunches, using produce from the school's garden. Maintained by the student garden club, it was the first of its kind in the district. By the end of its first season, the garden produced carrots, rutabagas, cauliflower, beets, onions, radishes, turnips, lettuce, cabbage, parsley, peas and potatoes. The students' efforts were rewarded as they received praise from *The Columbian* that stated, "The Upper North Fork school children are proud to claim the

²⁷ "Upper North Fork (Too late for last week)," *The Columbian*, June 19, 1919, p. 1.

²⁸ "Upper North Fork (Too late for last week)," *The Columbian*, June 19, 1919, p. 1.

²⁹ "County Leader Visits Schools," *The Columbian*, November 6, 1919.

³⁰ Walker, 2020, p. 25.

³¹ "North Fork Couple In Double Harness," *The Columbian*, May 27, 1920.

³² School Consolidation file, Flathead County Superintendent of Schools, n.d.

³³ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, February 6, 1919.

³⁴ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, November 6, 1919, p. 1.

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honor of the nicest cabbage and cauliflower plants in the district.”³⁵ The club maintained a flower garden as well.

Ford School students also participated in a county-wide Alfalfa Club, with Fred Holcomb and Homer Haines each cultivating an acre for school use in 1919.³⁶ The Alfalfa Club attracted the attention of many of the local residents who wistfully reflected, “that we only had such splendid opportunities when we were in school.”³⁷ The popularity of alfalfa was such that a lecture on it with the use of “lantern slides” was given at the school at the end of May in 1919.³⁸

Almost as important as the educational aspect, and similar to earlier schools in the North Fork valley, the Ford Schoolhouse served as a community gathering place. Some events were fundraisers or work days in support of the school itself. A Thanksgiving program and dance raised \$16.50 for the PTA, a gathering serenaded by the trio of a violin played by Frank Wurtz, a guitar strummed by Mrs. Horace Brewster, and a mandolin helmed by Miss Weide. The same group played soon after at a Christmas Eve dance following a school program.³⁹

A May Day “work” festival conducted at the Ford Schoolhouse coincided with other such events around the country, the difference being that the event at the Ford School represented the “first real May Day work ever attempted in the North Fork...a joy good time” was slated for those involved.⁴⁰

On Arbor Day of 1919, the school hosted a picnic, during which the grounds surrounding the school, nearly an acre, were cleared of willows and a pole fence constructed.⁴¹ As fences go, the one erected by the residents was “the best fence in the entire district.” The enthusiastic group arrived between 8:00 and 9:00 in the morning to assist any way they could. The picnic received many accolades regarding the food: “the picnic eats were excellent.” The residents supplied the home cooking with the exception of the camp-fired fish caught the previous evening. The dinner merely served as a warmup to the later ice cream desert, “the midnight lunch,” for the large group after the dance.

The students of the Ford School lent a hand toward the beautification of the school surroundings too. In May of 1919, they completed the gardens on the school grounds. Their work again drew the praise of *The Columbian* that reported, “...this new work does not only add to the beauty of the new school grounds, but it is the first work of this kind in the district.”⁴²

³⁵ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919, p. 1.

³⁶ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919; “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919.

³⁷ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919, p. 1.

³⁸ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919, p. 1.

³⁹ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, December 12, 1918, p. 4.

⁴⁰ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919, p. 1; “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919, p. 1.

⁴¹ “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919, p. 1; “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919, p. 1.

⁴² “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919, p. 1.

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Undoubtedly, one of the most popular events to occur at the North Fork School (or any school for that matter) were the festivities for the last day of school. These gatherings drew both a younger and an older audience.⁴³ Gatherings at the school also continued through the summer months.

Other gatherings appear to be purely social: Christmas and New Year's programs, a Valentine mask ball and box dinner, St. Patrick's Day dance, "Hard Times" dances, a Leap Year dance, and frequent dinner dances held in conjunction with PTA meetings. Announcements for the "Hard Times dance" stipulated that "anyone dressed up in their Sunday togs will be fined by the Kangaroo court" with a prize "given to the tackiest dressed gentleman and lady."⁴⁴ Not all gatherings at the school went off as planned—the February 14 gathering of the mask ball was postponed due to flu sweeping the area though a later gathering in March "was well attended and everybody enjoyed a jolly good time."⁴⁵

Ailments other than the flu also impinged on the students and residents of the Upper North Fork. In spring of 1919, smallpox visited the children of the area, no doubt a worrisome time for all.⁴⁶ Smallpox wasn't the only visitor to the area. In January of 1921, whooping cough made the rounds.⁴⁷ The number of maladies that circulated through schools warranted a visit by Elizabeth Bollick, the Red Cross nurse, in December of 1920. Nurse Bollick's visit to the area demonstrated that despite the remote location, the health of the students remained paramount to the families in the area.⁴⁸

Impressively, the Ford School offered a hot lunch. The hot lunch appears to have been savory enough to entice the occasional resident of the area to stop by to enjoy the repast.⁴⁹

In addition to educational and social pursuits, the Ford Schoolhouse hosted displays of World War I related mementos. The school provided a central location for neighbors to share letters and artifacts sent home by North Forkers serving in the armed forces.⁵⁰ In one instance, the school displayed a German helmet, a 75-millimeter shell, machine gun belt, and other "interesting implements of war."⁵¹ The library of the school also served as a repository of sorts for outside material. *The Columbian* reported that the "Stars and Stripes" paper was submitted to the library

⁴³ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, May 22, 1919, p. 1

⁴⁴ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, January 15, 1920, p. 3.

⁴⁵ "North Fork," *The Columbian*, February 26, 1920, p. 1; "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, April 8, 1920, p. 5.

⁴⁶ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919, p. 1.

⁴⁷ "Polebridge," *The Columbian*, February 10, 1921, p. 1.

⁴⁸ "Polebridge," *The Columbian*, December 16, 1920, p. 1.

⁴⁹ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, March 20, 1919, p. 1.

⁵⁰ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, March 20, 1919, p. 1.; "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919, p. 1; "Upper North Fork (Too late for last week)," *The Columbian*, June 19, 1919, p. 1.

⁵¹ "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, March 20, 1919, p. 1; "Upper North Fork," *The Columbian*, April 24, 1919, p. 1.

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in February of 1919 and was full of “new enthusiasm right from the French and American front this week.”⁵²

Although the school building appears to have ceased hosting classes by the end of the 1919-1920 school year, it still served the important purpose a community gathering place to the North Forkers. In August of 1920, Mr. Bowman, his daughter Gwendolyne, John Willcutt and Dora Vance were honored with a farewell dance at the school. Alas, the reason for the farewell shall forever remain a mystery.⁵³

A less-than-celebratory announcement appeared in the newspaper in September of 1923 that strongly indicated the cessation of classes at the school for at least the near future.⁵⁴ *The Columbian* reported that the Flathead County school clerk, David Sheriffs, removed all but the desks from both Ford and Forest Glen (Polebridge) school buildings, as both schools were to be closed that year.⁵⁵ The absence of school facilities of any kind in the area was demonstrated by a visit to the school board in Columbia Falls by Mr. and Mrs. Winebiennner in August of 1923 to discuss the appointment of a teacher for the winter term for the North Fork School.⁵⁶ Other local educational opportunities occasionally existed, however, as represented by Murray Bowman teaching a summer session for the Upper North Fork school at her cabin in 1925.⁵⁷

The Columbian folded in 1925 bringing an end to its coverage of North Fork activities. Despite the lack of coverage that documented activities at the schoolhouse after that date, every reason exists to assume the Ford Schoolhouse continued to serve the local community as a gathering spot, hosting events through its educational lull, just as it did during its educational use.

The Ford Schoolhouse (24FH0919), 1930-1942

The demise of the Columbia Falls newspaper in 1925 makes it difficult to determine where school was conducted in the Upper North Fork from 1925 to 1930. Schooling recommenced in 1928, but it appears this occurred in a building at the Wurtz homestead, not in the Ford Schoolhouse. In March 1930, *The Whitefish Independent* reported that Miss Elsie Mero was the teacher “at the Holcomb school,” a reference to the property ownership where the Ford Schoolhouse sat, strongly indicating the reopening of the Ford Schoolhouse by that year. By 1934, Nonie Day, Harry Holcomb’s granddaughter, attended class in the building until 1942. Other Ford Schoolhouse students during that time included Naomi Hoiland, Leonard Wurtz, and Buddy Holcomb. Teachers that provided instruction from the schoolhouse during this period included Tommie Thompson (1934-1936), Bette Nicholson (1937-1939) and Ruth Coan (1939-1942). On November 10, 1941, *The Whitefish Independent* reported the eminent closure of the

⁵² “Upper North Fork,” *The Columbian*, February 6, 1919, p. 1.

⁵³ “Polebridge,” *The Columbian*, September 9, 1920, p. 1.

⁵⁴ Although it remains highly likely the Ford Schoolhouse temporarily closed following the 1919-1920 academic year, the September 1923 announcement clearly articulates the district’s decision to end classes for the foreseeable future.

⁵⁵ “North Fork,” *The Columbian*, September 13, 1923, p. 4.

⁵⁶ “Polebridge,” *The Columbian*, August 28, 1924, p. 1.

⁵⁷ Walker, 2020, p. 25.

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North Fork school “following removal of five of the eight pupils from the district.” In 1942, Nonie Day represented one of the last two students to study in the Ford Schoolhouse, marking the end of the schoolhouse’s service to the remote Upper North Fork area.⁵⁸

Although the use of the Ford Schoolhouse for educational purposes displays a gap in service, the importance of the building to the community extended beyond its original academic intent. The building hosted a variety of activities, associated with both its operation as a school and as a community gathering locale. These activities occurred independently of the building’s educational service at the time. The schoolhouse filled an important role to the tightly-knit rural community allowing neighbors a location to not only educate their children in an accessible location, but also a place to gather and celebrate the activities important to maintain the social ties in the rural community.

The Ford Schoolhouse (24FH0919), post-1942

A search of the Flathead County Clerk and Records office conducted September 27, 2021, indicated a chain of private ownership for the Ford Schoolhouse property spanning from 1950 to 1981. It was during this period that the school building was converted to a private residence with many of the alterations occurring to the property. The earliest record indicates a transfer of ownership dated June 19, 1950, from Ralph and Esther Day of Polebridge, Montana, to George and Ruby Rockwell of Milford, Ohio. On July 17, 1967, the property was sold by the Rockwells, who then resided on South Padre Island in Port Isabelle Texas, to Robert and Inabelle Funk of Madison New Jersey. Lastly, a transfer of ownership from the Funk family to the U.S. Forest Service was enacted on January 15, 1981. Since 1981, the Ford Schoolhouse has sat empty, with occasional use by the Forest Service to store small amounts of lumber for use toward the school’s rehabilitation.

The importance of the school to the community still resonates today. Local community members and Forest Service staff, recognizing the significance of the Ford Schoolhouse and the rarity of one-room schoolhouses that remain standing in the North Fork Flathead region, took action on its state of disrepair and its diminished historic character related to the later additions during private ownership. In response, Region 1 Forest Service Historic Preservation Team drafted a master historic restoration plan with the help of professionals and input from local community members.⁵⁹ The ongoing historic restoration project, started in 2019, used public volunteers through the Forest Services’ Passport in Time program.

Remaining work on the Ford Schoolhouse includes the restoration of approximately six deteriorated logs, removal of metal roofing and replacement of wood shingles, removal of the non-historic porch, installation of a concrete and stone pier foundation, restoration and reinstallation of windows and doors, and cleaning and repainting of the interior. Upon completion of this work, the Ford Schoolhouse will be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural value as an example of a prototypical

⁵⁸ Naomi Hoiland, Interview, 2019, Johnny Day Mathison, Notes, n.d.

⁵⁹ Jackson Poppen, *Historic Preservation Assessment, Ford Schoolhouse, Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead National Forest, USDA Forest Service Region One*, 2018.

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rural one-room schoolhouse that displays several design elements articulated a year later in the 1919 W.R. Plew report.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ W.R. Plew, "One and Two Room Rural School Buildings," University of Montana Bulletin, State College Series - No. 11, (Bozeman, Montana, 1919).

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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
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: Flathead National Forest

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD 83
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Latitude: 48.878339 | Longitude: -114.377986 |
| 2) Latitude: 48.878394 | Longitude: -114.377367 |
| 3) Latitude: 48.877875 | Longitude: -114.376897 |
| 4) Latitude: 48.877766 | Longitude: -114.377878 |

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

The property is bound by the north-south trending North Fork Road to the west and the North Fork Flathead River to the east. The northern east-west running boundary lies 10 feet north of the outhouse, the northern most contributing building on the property. The southern east-west running boundary lies 10 feet south of an old fence post that likely marked the historic property boundary. This boundary completely captures the property with a small portion of the surrounding setting. See attached map, pages 28 and 29; reference to the aerial view and sketch maps confirm this boundary.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The east boundary of the North Fork Flathead River and west boundary of the North Fork Road are geographic features that naturally constrain the property. The northern and southern boundaries were selected so include all contributing and noncontributing features on the property, a similar property boundary to the historic property boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary H. Williams, Cherie Peacock, David Schwab, Alex Schwab

organization: Ethnotech LLC

street & number: P.O. Box 1591

city or town: Polson state: MT zip code: 59860

e-mail dschwab@ethnotech.com telephone: (406)-261-7351

date: 9/17/22

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.)

Photographs

Photo Log

All Photos:

Name of Property: Ford Schoolhouse

City or Vicinity: Polebridge

County: Flathead

State: MT

Photographer: Cherie Peacock, Mary Williams, Dave Schwab, Alex Schwab

Date Photographed: August 2021

Please see Continuation Sheets for photographs.

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number: Additional Documentation—Maps

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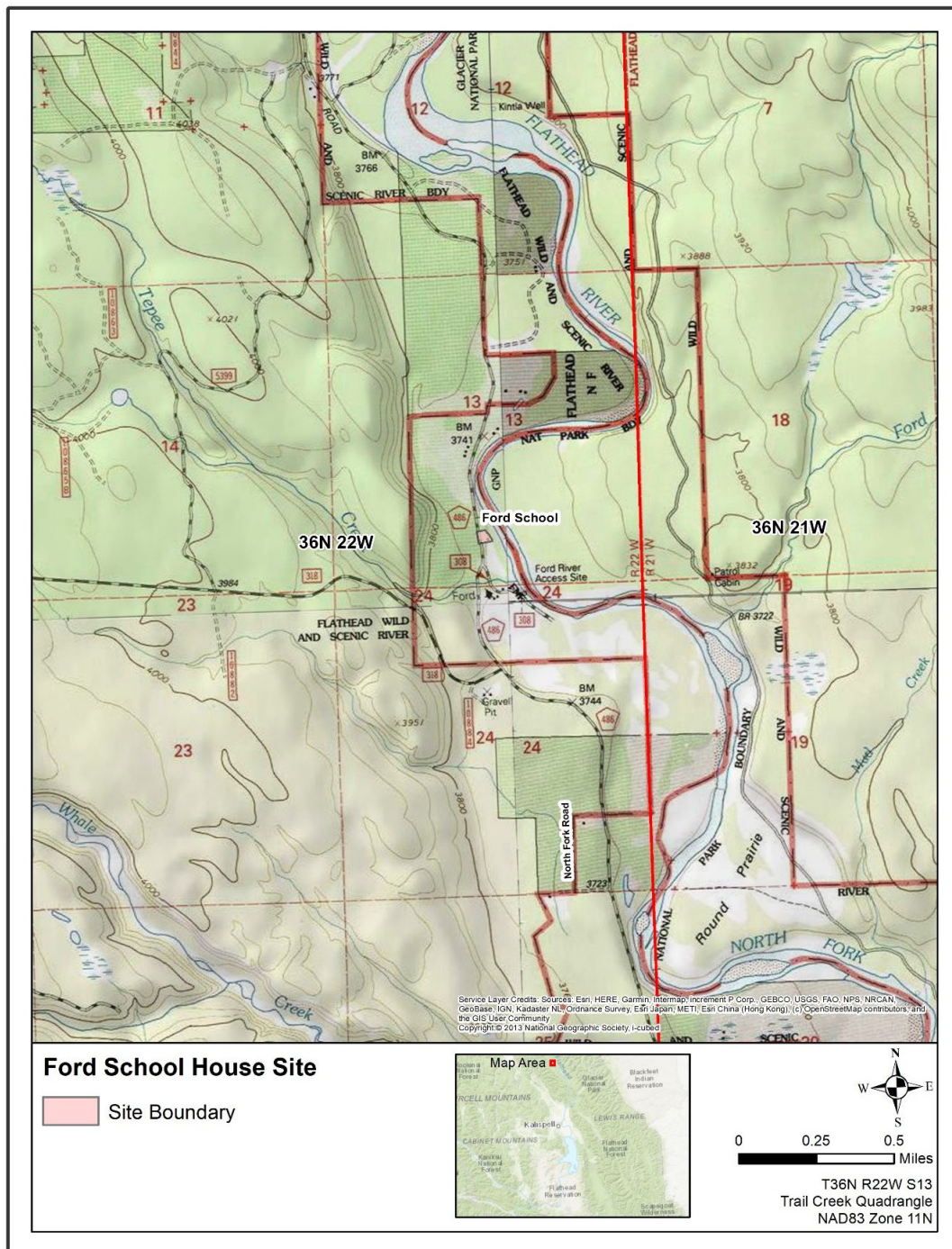


Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map showing Location of Ford Schoolhouse. Trail Creek 7.5' Quadrangle, T36N R22W SW1/4 S13. Location of Ford Schoolhouse indicated by orange polygon near center of map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Ford Schoolhouse

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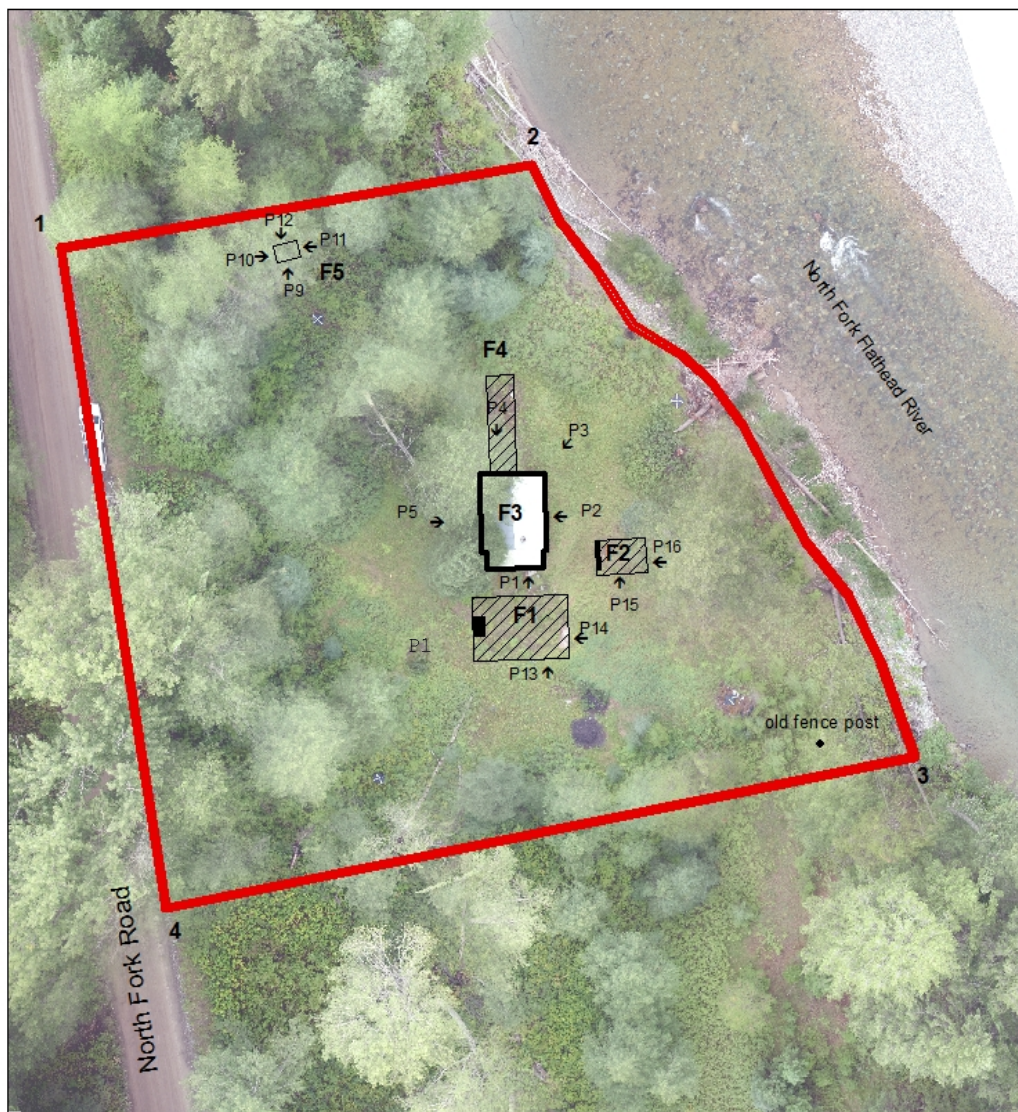
Flathead County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number: Additional Documentation—Maps

Page 28



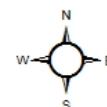
Legend

Description

- Concrete Foundation Pad
- Ford Schoolhouse
- Foundation Depression
- Outhouse
- Photo Points

Ford Schoolhouse Site 3cm Resolution Aerial Photo 2021

T36N R22W S13
Trail Creek quadrangle
NAD83 Zone 11N



0 20 40 80 Feet

Figure 2. Site sketch map including UAV derived orthoimage of property (3cm GSD). 1) Latitude: 48.878339 Longitude: -114.377986, 2) Latitude: 48.878394 Longitude: -114.377367, 3) Latitude: 48.877875 Longitude: -114.376897, 4) Latitude: 48.877766 Longitude: -114.377878

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Ford Schoolhouse

Name of Property

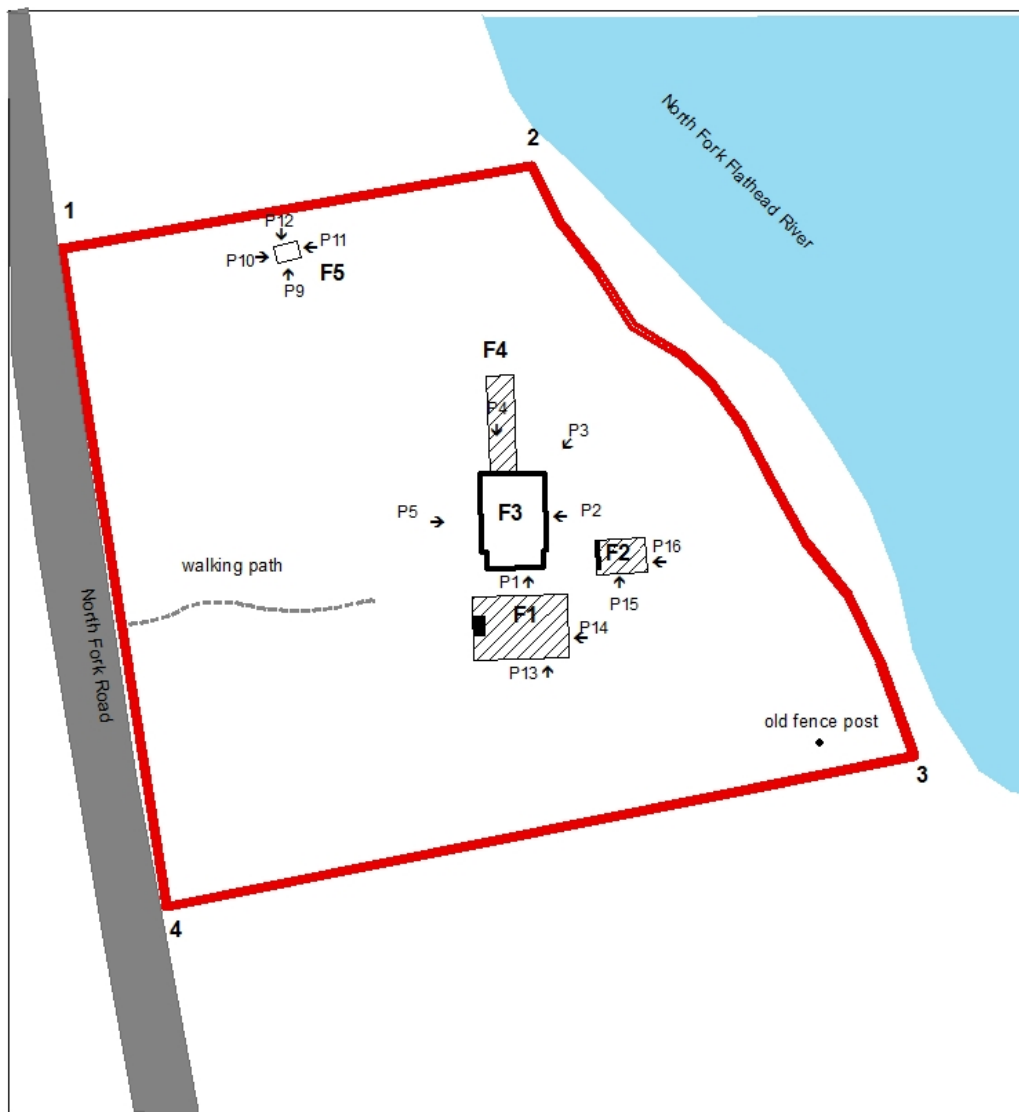
Flathead County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number: Additional Documentation—Maps

Page 29



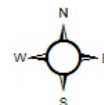
Legend

Description

- Concrete Foundation Pad
- Ford Schoolhouse
- Foundation Depression
- Outhouse
- Photo Points

Ford Schoolhouse Site

T36N R22W S13
Trail Creek quadrangle
NAD83 Zone 11N



0 20 40 80 Feet

Figure 3. Site sketch map with plain background. Photo locations from above are depicted. 1) Latitude: 48.878339 Longitude: -114.377986, 2) Latitude: 48.878394 Longitude: -114.377367, 3) Latitude: 48.877875 Longitude: -114.376897, 4) Latitude: 48.877766 Longitude: -114.377878

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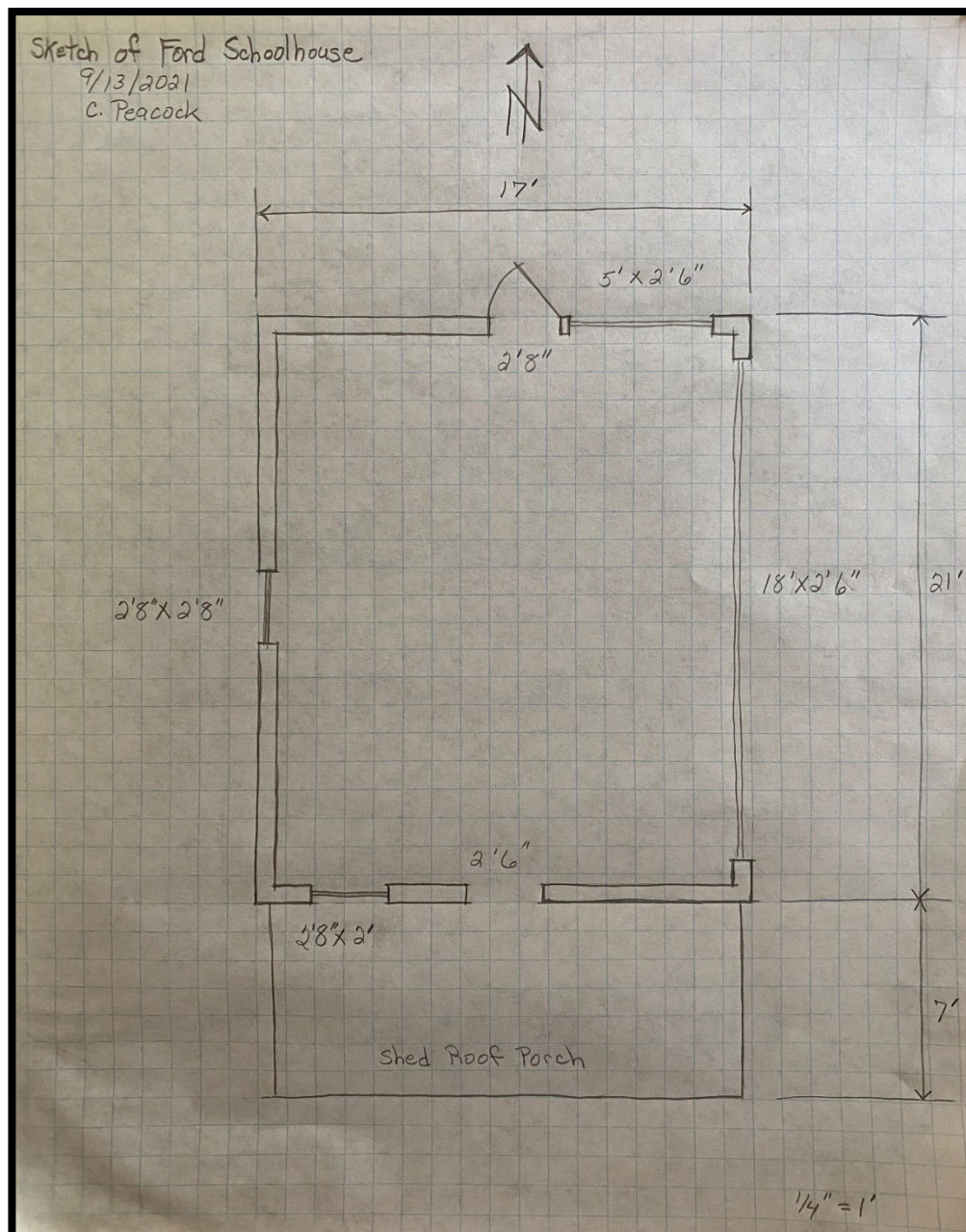


Figure 4. Architectural sketch of Ford Schoolhouse.

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Figure 5. Unknown students at Ford Schoolhouse. Date unknown.



Figure 6. Ford Schoolhouse and Outhouse 1919, south and east elevations view facing NW

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Figure 7. Ford Schoolhouse and barn in winter. Barn corresponds to Feature 2 on site sketch map.

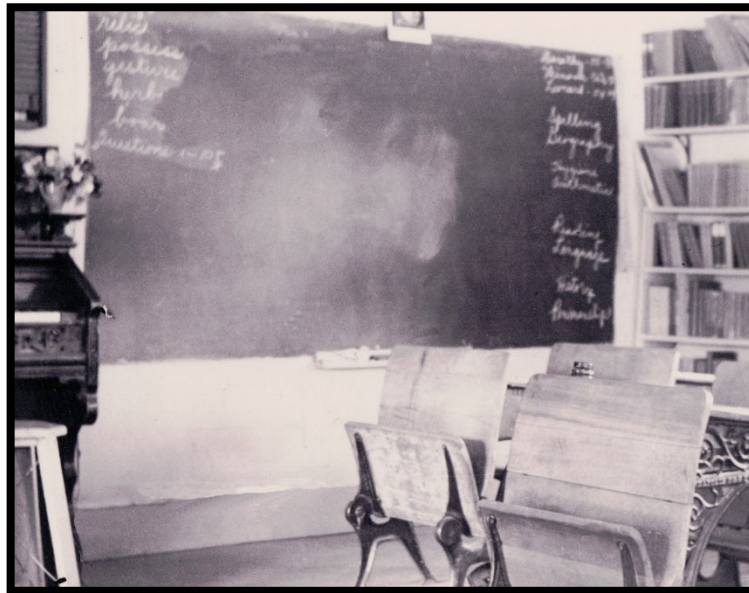


Figure 8. Ford Schoolhouse, interior, circa 1920s.

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Figure 9. Ford Schoolhouse with students and Nonie Day (center), winter, circa 1940.



Figure 10. Ford Schoolhouse, winter, post-1942.

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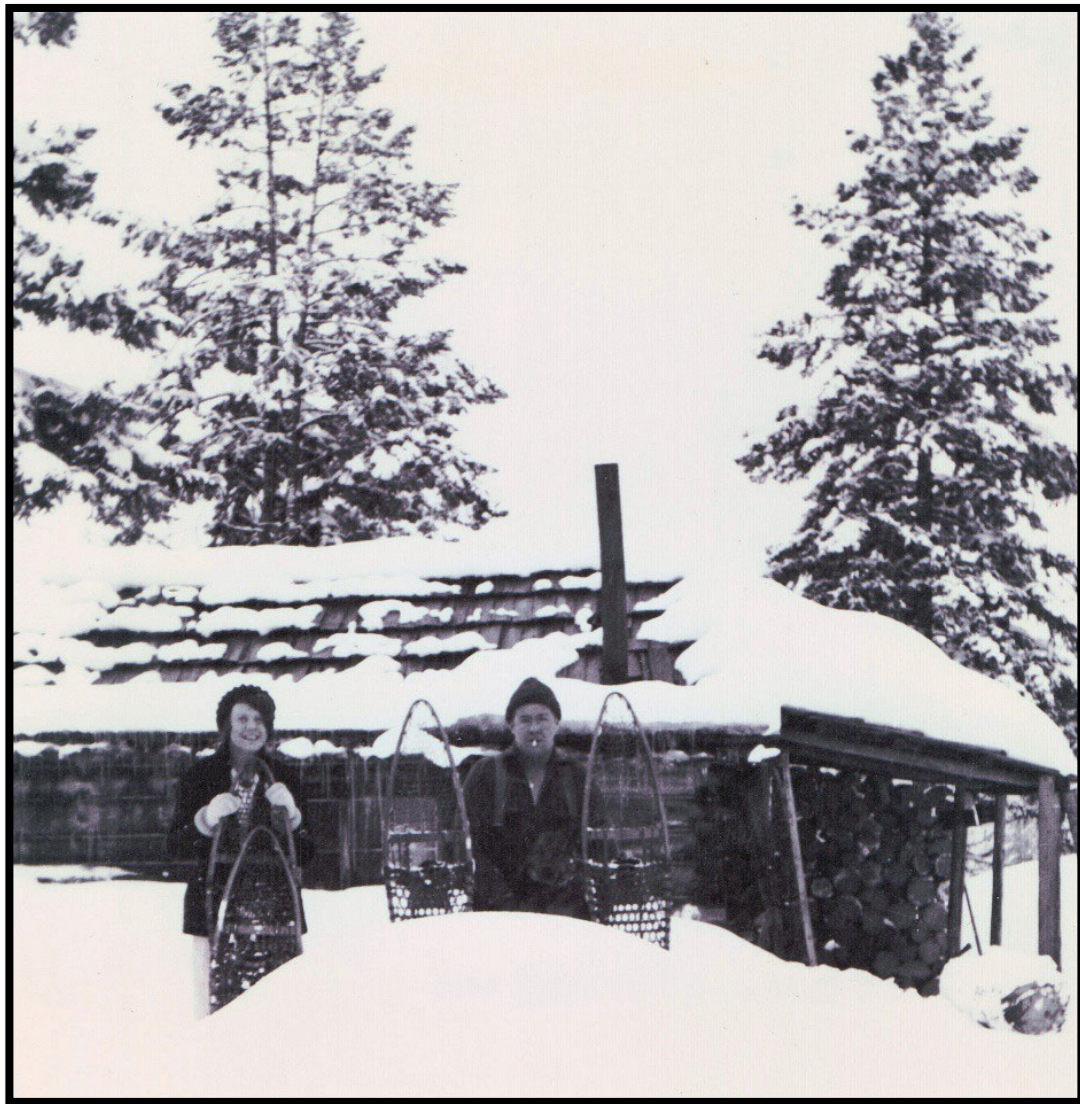


Figure 11. Ford Schoolhouse, winter, post-1942.

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0001, Ford Schoolhouse south elevation view to the north



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0002, Ford Schoolhouse east elevation view to the west

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0003, Ford Schoolhouse northeast elevation view to the southwest



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0004, Ford Schoolhouse north elevation view to the south

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0005 Ford Schoolhouse, west elevation view to the east



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0006, Ford Schoolhouse interior view to the southeast

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0007, Ford Schoolhouse interior view to the south



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0008, Ford Schoolhouse interior view to the northeast

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0009, Outhouse south elevation view to the north



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0010, Outhouse west elevation view to the east

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0011, Outhouse east elevation view to the west



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0012, Outhouse north elevation view to the south

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MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0013, Foundation/depression (Feature 1) view to the north.



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0014, Foundation/depression (Feature 1) view to the west.

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MT_FlatheadCounty FordSchoolhouse 0015, Foundation/depression (Feature 2) view to the northeast.



MT_FlatheadCounty_FordSchoolhouse_0016, Foundation/depression (Feature 2) view to the west.