

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: Teien Central SchoolOther names/site number: District No. 9, Teien Town HallName of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 1395 160th AvenueCity or town: Teien Township State: MN County: KittsonNot 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 ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___ **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D****Signature of certifying official/Title:****Date****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**

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

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 ☐

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</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

GOVERNMENT/town hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Georgian Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood

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

Teien Central School, District No. 9 School, more frequently referred to as simply Teien Central School, is located in Teien Township, Kittson County, in the far northwestern corner of Minnesota. The school building sits on a slight rise in the Red River (of the North) watershed near the intersection of two country roads, in a rural, primarily agricultural area. It is visible from four directions. The school building is a large wood-framed, two-story structure with intersecting hip roofs and a small, gabled portico marking the entrance on the east façade. The windows are mostly one-over-one, double-hung sash utilizing standard millwork. While no record of an architect or designer exists, the school building was likely constructed by members of the community using standard lumber and building materials. The interior maintains its historic one-room configuration on each floor. Historic materials consist of floor, ceiling, and wall coverings as well as millwork, built-in furniture, and historic voting booths.

The grassy lawn around the school building sets it apart from the surrounding farm fields. To the south and west, the edges of the school property are defined by a grove of deciduous trees. In addition to the school building the property has a historic hand pump and a historic swing set frame situated in open play space. The original cast-iron school bell and its cupola were removed from the entrance hall/stair tower roof for safety and sit on the ground at the northeast corner of the building.

The property retains sufficient historic integrity to convey its significance during the period of significance, 1904-1954.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

Narrative Description

The Teien Central School, District No. 9 School building is located in Teien Township, Kittson County, Minnesota. In the broad Red River (of the North) watershed at the far northwestern corner of the state about one and a half miles east of the river. The school building is situated at the intersection of paved County Road 7 / 160th Avenue and gravel road 140th Street on a two-acre plot known by the locals as “Sixteen” for Section 16 (Bloomquist, 2001). Historically this site was most likely on-grade with the surrounding landscape; however, over time the roads have become elevated. The school, while still prominently visible from four directions, is now slightly depressed compared to the roadways (Grover, 2024).

The site of the school is still visibly separated from the neighboring agricultural fields. The original bell and cupola sit on the ground at the northeast corner of the building. An original handpump for the wellhead is located at the southeast corner of the building. The hand pump can still be operated and pumps non-potable water from the well. There is a frame for a swing set to the southeast of the school, most likely part of a playground that is no longer used. The swing set frame is made of steel pipes in an A-frame configuration. Chains for the swing seats remain wrapped around the upper frame; however, the swing seats were removed years ago for safety and liability reasons after the school closed. Historic photos show children playing softball on a ball field to the west/southwest of the building (Figure 8). The ball field diamond itself has lost integrity and any outline of it can no longer be determined (sketch plan).

Two outhouses, known as “the little houses” separated by a large woodshed were located west of the school building (Figure 9). The outhouses were removed when the indoor gendered toilets were installed in the cloakroom area of the building entrance hall in 1948. Historic photos also show a barn and a woodshed on the property located to the west of the building (Figure 8). Neither of these structures exist today (Bloomquist, 2001).

School Building

The Teien Central School building is a large wood-framed, two-story building with nearly square massing except for projecting bay on the east façade that holds the entrance hall and stair tower. The building measures 32’8” north to south by 26’8” east to west. The building features a truncated hipped roof with a gable dormer (north) on the main, classroom massing. Historic photos show that a similar gable dormer was originally located on the south side of the building. It is not known when that was removed. The entrance stair/hall tower bay also has a truncated hipped roof that ends just below that of the classroom section of the building. The entrance to the school is marked by small gabled portico on the east façade the projecting bay. The original cast-iron school bell sits in a cupola on the ground at the northeast corner of the building. Until the 1980 renovations, the cupola was located on the flat roof area over the entrance hall and stair tower directly above the primary entrance.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

While not ornate, the school represents a vernacular adaptation of the Georgian Revival style. The hipped roof, gabled entrance, square massing, and symmetrical fenestration are typical of Georgian Revival buildings.

The building rests on concrete foundation. The main floor structure rests directly on this foundation, spanning east to west under the entrance hall/stair tower and main school room. According to a recent (Grover, 2024) condition assessment, there is significant deterioration of the first-floor structure at the common wall between the entrance hall/stair tower and the main school room, which is likely related to a failure of the roof causing water infiltration and thus rotting the timbers of the support structure.

The school building's exterior was originally clad with wood lap siding which remains intact under the overlaying vinyl that now covers the lower level of the building and the north elevation. In the mid-1980s, the building was covered with removable vinyl siding in an effort to preserve the historic underlying wood. In 2022, partial removal of the vinyl siding from the upper level of the building took place to reveal the upper-level window openings on the east, south, and west elevations. The vinyl siding, where it exists, is in fair condition; however, the original wood siding that is now visible on the second floor shows peeling paint, wood deterioration, and small holes. The entire north side of the building, which is historically windowless, remains covered with vinyl siding with the original wood intact beneath.

Fenestration of the building remains historic. Where windows exist, they are double hung, wood windows. Historically, all windows had simple trim with projecting sills at both the exterior and interior. In the mid-1980's the trim at the exterior of the second story was removed to accommodate the vinyl siding.

The main entry features a historic, five-panel, wooden exterior door painted white with a historic hardware (Grover, 2024). There is a gabled portico over the entrance door, supported by two brackets and two non-historic 4x4 columns (Figure 7). In the pediment there are painted, decorative shingles, similar to those found on the dormer. The east façade has four original windows on the first floor, two smaller windows on either side of the portico of the primary entrance and two on the main mass of the building. The entrance hall/stair tower has three evenly spaced window openings at the second floor. The opening at the east is covered with plywood and holds a historic window visible from the interior. A single window can be seen at the second story of the classroom section at this facade. The south elevation has three evenly spaced window openings on the first floor and three on the second floor. The west façade has four window openings on both the first and second floors. The north side of the building has never had window openings on either the first or second floor.

The roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles on the pitches and metal on the low sloped flat areas. Historic photos show the roof was originally wood shingles (Glover, 2024). On the north elevation of the roof is a gable dormer. The wall of the dormer is covered with painted, decorative wood shingles. In the historic photo there was also a shed dormer on the south

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

elevation that had three small windows. This dormer was removed at an unknown time. Historically a brick chimney was centrally located on the north side of the building (Figure 9). The chimney has been removed although the bump-out for the chimney remains on the interior of the first and second floors on the north wall.

In 1921, a wrought iron fire escape was added to improve egress from the second floor on the south side of the building. This fire escape was removed for safety reasons during building maintenance in 1986 and placed in storage.

The interior of the school building reflects its history and use over the past 120 years since its initial construction. The general layout of the building includes a main entrance on the east side of the building. In the entry hall is a closet immediately to the right and two gendered toilet rooms to the left that were installed in the former cloakroom in 1948.

On the left side of the entry hall is one of the most ornate features of the building, U-shaped open stairs reach from the entry hall to the second floor. The first set of stairs is exposed in the entry hall with the door at the first landing closing off the remaining steps to the second floor. Original wood railings, a decorative newel post, decorative balusters, and simple tread/riser construction were “originally naturally finished oak but are now painted over in white.” The stairs to the second-floor feature “simpler newel posts, rails and balusters with the simple riser and tread continued from the first floor” (Grover, 2024).

An original 5-panel interior door, similar to the front entry door, separates the main classroom on the first floor from the entry hall. Entering the classroom through this east doorway reveals a large, open classroom with a closet to the left. Features found in this classroom include original wood strip flooring and beadboard wainscot around the room, with painted plaster chalkboards between the windows on the west and south sides of the room, milk glass pendant electric light fixtures, and an antique upright piano. Bookshelves line the walls of the southwest corner of the room. Four wooden voting booths that stand on the east side of the classroom reflect the use of the building by the township board as a polling place.

A ceiling-mounted propane furnace in the northeast corner of the room replaced the original cast-iron jacketed barrel stove. It is not known when the wood-burning stove was removed, and propane installed. Today there is no heating or electricity to the building.

The first floor is in fair to good condition having been actively used as a meeting place until recent years, in contrast, the upper floor is in poor condition related to water damage from a failed roof and lack of maintenance over the years. The layout of the second-floor classroom is similar to the first floor with a closet to the left of the entrance off the stair, painted plaster chalkboards mounted between the windows on the west and south sides of the room, beadboard wainscotting around the room, and a decorative stamped metal ceiling. Student names can still be found written on the wall of the closet on the east side of the classroom.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

Integrity

The Teien Central School, District No. 9 School building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance under Criterion A in the areas of education and politics/government during its 1904-1998 period of significance.

The building and schoolyard remain in their original location, situated on a slight rise in terrain, at the intersection of two county roads. The building's prominent visibility makes it a familiar landmark in a gridded agricultural landscape. The site and setting for the building are mostly open land near a grove of deciduous trees that was used as a windbreak and an extension of play area for the school children. The unfenced playground/schoolyard afforded a supervised open area for structured and unstructured play at recess time, and those qualities are still evidenced, although the playground equipment is not maintained in usable condition. The aspects of design, materials, and workmanship have been compromised at the exterior through residing, removal of historic trim, historic chimney, and relocation of the bell and copula.

While the first floor is in fair to good condition having been actively used as a meeting place until recent years, the upper floor is in poor condition related to water damage from a failed roof, lack of maintenance, and neglect during lack of use over the years. According to the Conditions Assessment, "water damage has significantly damaged the original wood strip flooring" near the doorway of the second-floor classroom to the stairwell on the east side of the room to the point that it is no longer safe to walk (Grover, 2024). Despite the deterioration, the interior of the school retains all seven aspects of integrity due to the extant historic materials on interior services, historic built-in furniture, millwork, and volumes.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

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

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1904-1998

Significant Dates

1904
1948
1954

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

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 Teien Central School, District No. 9 School, is locally significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas of Education and Politics/Government for its association with rural elementary education and local governance in Teien Township with a period of significance from 1904-1998. The property does not need to meet Criterion Consideration G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years, because the bulk (74 years) of the school's association occurred more than 50 years ago.

Classes were conducted on both the upper and lower floors from 1904 until the early 1930s. From the mid-1930s to 1954 classes were held only in the lower floor. The Teien Central School closed in 1954 after the State of Minnesota began consolidation of school districts. The local governing board of Teien Township purchased the building from the school board in 1954 and changed the name to the Teien Town Hall in 1955. Until 1998, the Town Hall building served as a meeting place for township business conducted by the township's elected Board of Supervisors as well as a meeting hall for local social activities. Since 1998, the building has remained vacant and used for storage.

For nearly a century the school building served as an important community resource for this sparsely populated region of northwest Minnesota. The Teien Central School building remains a visible local landmark in Teien Township and Kittson County.

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

Teien Township

Like many other townships in far northwestern Minnesota, Teien Township's development was shaped by the westward expansion of settlers into the Upper Midwest. The immigrants who settled in Teien Township mainly came from Norway and Sweden. Andreas C. Teien from Drammen, Norway, was one of the first settlers in Kittson County in 1879. Three years later, in March of 1882, the township was organized and named Teien, after him (1976, *Our Northwest Corner*). Teien Township, which boasts flat terrain and, fertile soil, was particularly suited for agriculture. Early settlers established farms and built churches, schools, and other local institutions as the population grew.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

The first Teien Township school was constructed in 1882, closely followed by two local churches founded around 1883. The original Skjeberg Lutheran Church, which served many of the families attending the school, was built in 1892.

As infrastructure improved with the construction of roads and railroads, the township became more connected to larger markets, which aided in the growth of its agricultural output. However, Teien remained largely rural throughout the 20th century, with modest population growth and development.

In the early years of settlement, education in Teien Township was provided in one-room schoolhouses. These schools were often small, typically located near central farming communities to be accessible to children living in the area. They offered basic education focused on reading, writing, arithmetic, and practical skills to prepare children for life in the farming community. As the population in the township grew, the need for education expanded. Local school boards were established to manage the schools throughout Kittson County. Teien Township relocated the original one-room schoolhouse and constructed a new two-story replacement in 1904.

As consolidation of school districts in Minnesota came about, 92 one or two room schools throughout Kittson County closed and students began attending one of the five consolidated central elementary and high schools located in the five larger towns in the county. This also brought about expansion of the curriculum taught in schools to include new departments such as Home Economics, art, music, physical education, business, vocational training, and other classes that were not considered possible in smaller school districts (c.1976, *Our Northwest Corner*). Today, Teien Township no longer has its own school, with children attending schools in neighboring districts.

School District No. 9

District No. 9 was formed in the town of Teien by the Kittson County Board of County Commissioners on July 24, 1882, at the request of R. Solibakke, A.C. Teien, and others (1882. Minutes of Proceedings. Kittson County Board of Commissioners). School District No. 9 served students living in 16 sections of Teien Township, Sections 3-10 and 15-22. Section 16, where the school is located, was central and led to the school's common moniker "central school" and the nickname "sixteen" for the location.

The original District No. 9 school building was a one-room schoolhouse constructed in 1882 (Figure 7 & 11). The building was relocated one mile south of its original location in 1908 and used as a town hall until 1956. There are few records of this early school building, attendance, or the teachers but the population of the township was growing steadily during its use (1882-1904). A newspaper article in the Kittson County Enterprise, April 16, 1898, states "Dist. No 9 closed one of the most successful terms of school on Thursday last week. Mr. J. B. Stewart will long be remembered as one of the many good instructors Dist. No. 9 has had." U.S. Census records for Minnesota showed a population of 321 in 1890 which then increased to 503 in 1900 (1913. Supplement MN). Prior to 1904, approximately 45 families lived within a two to three-mile

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

walking distance of the school. A summary page of teachers, superintendents and number of students indicates enrollment of 57 students for the school year 1904-1905.

As the number of families grew the township began to need a larger facility to accommodate the larger class sizes. The first one-room school building on "Sixteen" was replaced with the larger two-story building known as the Teien Central School in 1904.

While no record exists of the architect/builder or the planning that went into constructing a large two-story school building, it was most likely constructed by members of the community (Bloomquist, 1993. Skjeberg). In the early 1900's, other two-story frame schoolhouse buildings existed in Kittson County towns such as Lake Bronson (Percy Twp.), Lancaster (Granville Twp.), and Northcote (Hampden Twp.). The closest comparable school was in South Red River Township. The District No. 7 School, constructed in 1903, was located about ten miles northeast from Teine Central School. It is no longer extant. It is unknown whether or how these buildings may have influenced the design and construction of the Teien Central School building.

From 1904 until the early 1930s, classes were held on both floors of the school with grades 1-4 on the first floor and grades 5-8 on the second floor. More detailed attendance records show the names of students who attended school each year beginning in 1909 until 1954. Records beginning with the school year ending July 31, 1909, lists 78 students by name with 8 students under the age of 8, 55 students ages 8-18, and 3 students ages 18-21, with one more student over the age of 21. During 1908-1909, 78 students attended for the school year, with 30 students in Room 1, on the first floor and 48 students in Room 2 on the second floor.

The students enjoyed recess for 15 minutes twice a day, and an hour at lunchtime, where they would play outside in the school yard in nice weather, using the swing set or slides, playing in the woods, playing softball, and enjoyed various games such as "Fox & Geese," "Run Sheep Run," "Hide & Seek," "Find me in the woods," and "Anti-I-over." (Bloomquist, 2001). Softball was a favorite from the early days of the school and students enjoyed playing with other rural schools in the township whenever they could. Historic photos show students playing softball on the playground west/southwest of the building. The school did not have an athletic curriculum, but after the second floor was no longer used as a classroom, students would use the space for recess, flying small airplanes, roller skating, and playing basketball, as the upstairs room had a "good wood floor and plenty of space for play" (Nelson, Marlys, 2021).

A collection of letters from former students/graduates of Teien Central School reveal many fond stories about their education in the "3 Rs," the teachers, and shared experiences. One teacher in particular was regarded as "an excellent teacher, able to make complex concepts easy to understand while also skilled in making simple concepts engaging enough to be building blocks for additional learning" (Quoted in Martens, 2021).

Many teachers lived with nearby families during the school year, specifically with the Andreassen family and the Peterson family both just north of the school. Mr. Peterson took care of the janitorial work and maintenance at the school. Later, the Peterson's son Albert and wife Amanda

Teien Central School

Kittson, MN

Name of Property

County and State

continued the tradition of having teachers stay with them. Their daughter, Marlys, recalled in her reminiscence:

“Having teachers live with my parents for nine years was like being homeschooled since my birth. The teachers were always so willing to share their daily activities with me and do projects with me. They encouraged me to learn how to read at a very young age.”

Another former student who attended the school in the early 1950s recalled that a teacher lived at the school during the week and went to her own home on the weekends (Nelson, 2021. Teien Township Country School).

Enrollment declined to only 25-30 students each year beginning the early 1930s. As the number of pupils declined the second-floor classroom was no longer needed and classes were only held on the first floor (Kittson County Auditor Superintendent Reports). By 1954, the Minnesota State Legislature had passed laws granting educational aid to districts that chose to consolidate. Kittson County was one of the earliest counties in the state to complete this consolidation, doing so by 1958. The Teien Central School served as an educational facility from 1904-1954. In 1954, the last class graduated from Teien Central School and the school was closed. Students from Teien Central School were bused to the new CISD #354 (Consolidated Independent School District) school in Kennedy, Minnesota, 14 miles east. Many students from Teien Central School had already been attending secondary school, after graduating from 8th grade, in Kennedy for several years.

Community Uses

Although the Teien Central School building served primarily as an educational facility from 1904-1954, the school building, as the only public building in the township, also served as a meeting hall for community activities such as Homemakers Club, summer parochial school, and the local 4-H Club.

The Homemakers Club met at the school building in the late 1930s and 40s, during World War II. In 1933, with the passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), every agricultural county in the United States was required to have a county agent to administer the federal programs. The Homemakers Club filled this requirement and was guided by the local County Extension agent and the information materials published by the Extension division. Homemakers clubs in Minnesota and North Dakota educated women on a variety of homemaking topics, including: gardening, canning, nutrition, child rearing, finances, food, health, home decorations, shopping, social awareness, handcrafts and sewing. Clubs would record membership and meeting minutes which were then sent to the County Extension agent (2024. Minot Daily News).

The Teien Central School also served as the location for a two-month long summer parochial school, sponsored by the Skjeberg Lutheran Church, from the early 1900s until 1919 and again from 1928 until 1949. The first teacher hired to conduct the parochial school received a salary of \$55 (Figure 12) (Bloomquist, 1993).

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

The Teien 4-H Club began functioning as a youth club in Teien Township in 1937, with monthly meetings held at the Teien Central School until 1954. The club continued to meet at the Teien Town Hall when the building was renamed until full-time use of the building was discontinued in 1998. Youths from almost every farm family in the township participated in the club. The Teien 4-H Club was an active club in Kittson County, holding monthly meetings where members prepared projects to show at the county fair, practiced their demonstrations, learned how to conduct meetings and hold office, and participated in summer activities including baseball games with other clubs (4-H records, Kittson Co.).

The 4-H program was initially created in 1902 to keep young people on the farm by providing education, community service, and social opportunities. In Minnesota, 4-H became available in every county, run by the University of Minnesota Extension; and continues to be the largest youth development organization in the state (4-H records, UMN).

The Teien Central School building was frequently used as a polling place for elections when the school was active. The exact date elections began at the school in the early 1900's is not known. According to stories told by former students, the school was frequently used as a polling place for elections with classes being cancelled on Election Day (Nelson, Marlys, 2021).

Teine Town Hall

The Teien Township Board of Supervisors has served as the only local government in the township since the town was founded in 1882. As described in *Our Northwest Corner*, "Town meetings were held in the clerk's office or residence or various schoolhouses and halls until 1908 when a vacant school building (the Teien Central one-room school) was purchased for \$300." The original one-room school building was relocated one mile south of "Sixteen" around 1908. The local governing Board of Supervisors of Teien Township purchased the two-story school building for \$100 from the school board in 1954 and changed the name to the Teien Town Hall in 1955. The older town hall (the one-room school) building was then sold for \$456 in 1956 (1976. *Our Northwest Corner*).

After the school closed and the building was sold to the township, the building continued to be used as a polling place for elections as the only public building in the township for elections from the 1950s through November of 1998. The four wooden cupboards that served as voting booths still stand along the east wall of the first-floor classroom on either side of the entrance door and the library closet.

The Teien Township Board of Supervisors discontinued full-time use of the building after the last election in November 1998. Thereafter it continued to be used for storage of township road supplies, flood control supplies and materials, and used for staging during spring flooding. Township board meetings and annual meetings are now typically held in one of the two local churches.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

Conclusion

The Teien Central School, District No. 9 is locally significant under the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its association with Education and Politics/ Government in Teien Township, Kittson County Minnesota. The Teien Central School served as an educational facility from 1904-1954. The property does not need to meet Criterion Consideration G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years, because the bulk (74 years) of the school's association occurred more than 50 years ago.

While the main function of the building was educational during the first 50 years, it also served as a community meeting place for activities such as Homemakers club, summer parochial school, and the Teien 4-H Club. In 1955 the building transitioned to the Teien Town Hall and was the primary location of governmental activities until 1998. For over a century the building served as an important community resource for a sparsely populated region of northwest Minnesota. The Teien Central School building remains a visible local landmark in Teien Township and Kittson County. Local residents today refer to the building as both the Teien School and the Town Hall.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Teien Central School

Kittson, MN

Name of Property

County and State

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Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

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 narrative
☐ 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
Name of repository: University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota
☒ Other
Name of repository: Kittson County Historical Society, Kittson County Auditor, Kittson County Extension Office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): KT-TET-00001

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 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:

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☒ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 14T | Easting: 639600 | Northing: 5384938 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

SECT-16 TWP-159 RANGE-050 2.00 AC TR IN NE COR OF NE1/4NE1/4 as seen in Figure 1

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the original acreage of the Teien Central School, District No. 9.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura Bloomquist-Hammond with assistance from Marlys J. Nelson, Steve Martens and Lawrence Sommer

organization: Township of Teien

street & number: 1395 160th Ave.

city or town: Teien Township state: MN zip code: 58225

e-mail: lbhammond49@gmail.com

telephone: 218-455-3983

date: January 2025

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

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.)

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

Figures:

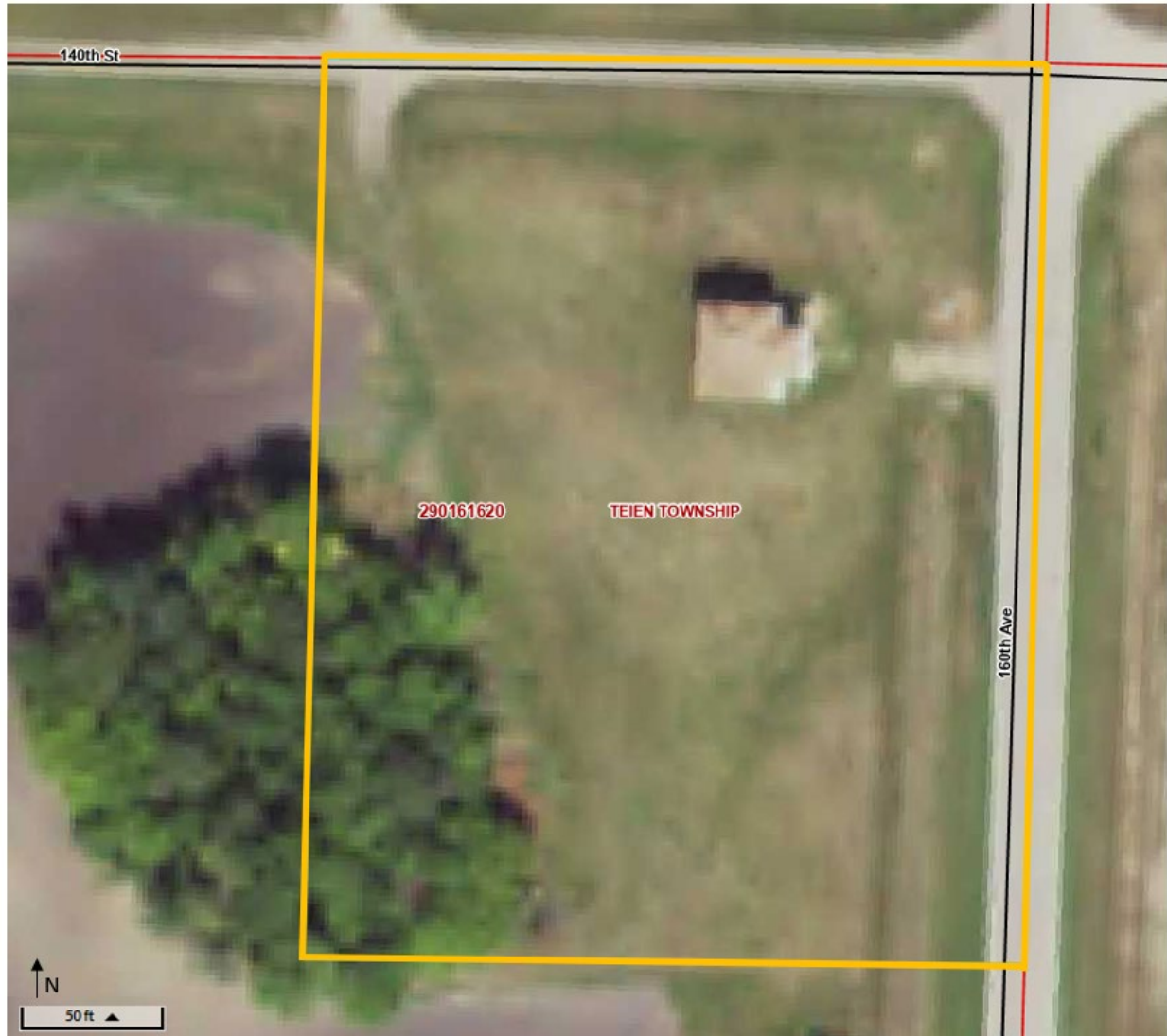


Figure 1: Legal boundary of nominated property, background and parcel line courtesy of Kittson County Beacon Property Search.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

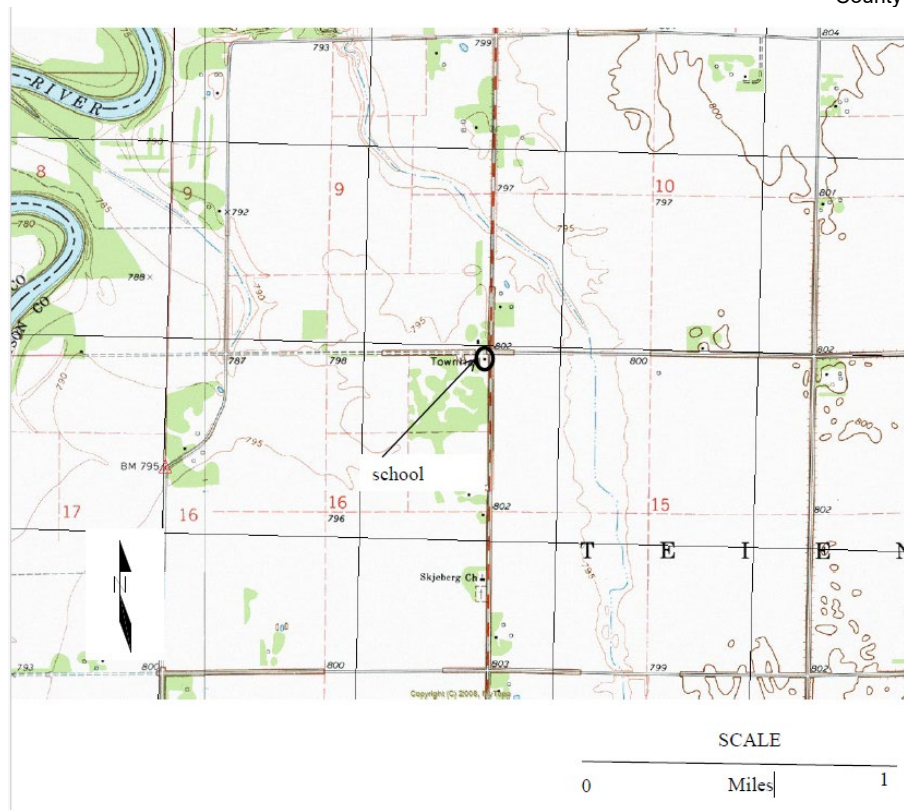


Figure 2: Location of the Teien Township Central School. Drayton SE MINN.-N. DAK. quadrangle (1974), 1:24,000 USGS topographic map.

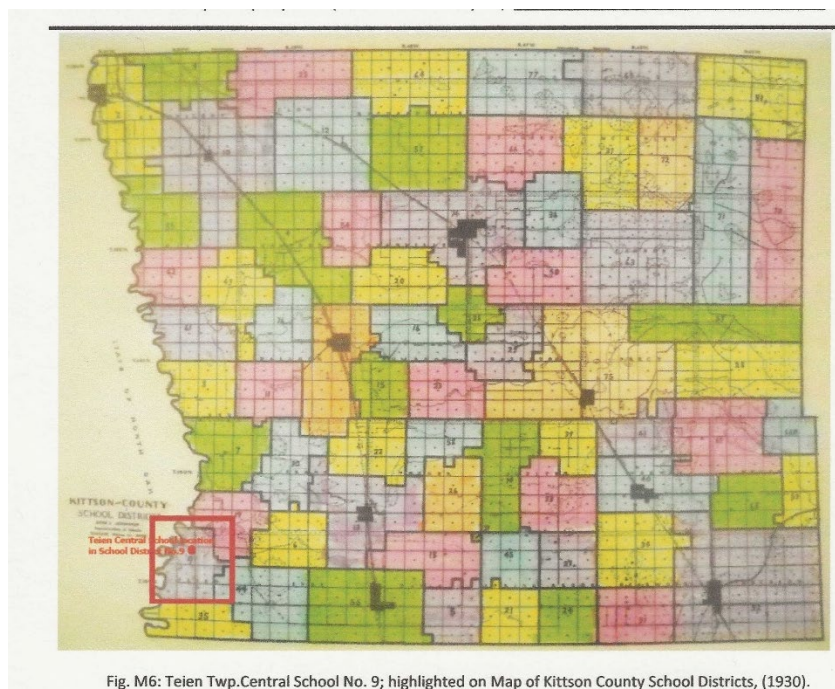


Fig. M6: Teien Twp. Central School No. 9; highlighted on Map of Kittson County School Districts, (1930).

Figure 3: Teien Central School, District No. 9; highlighted in red on map of Kittson County School Districts, (1930).

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State



Figure 4: Sketch Exterior Plan and photo key.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

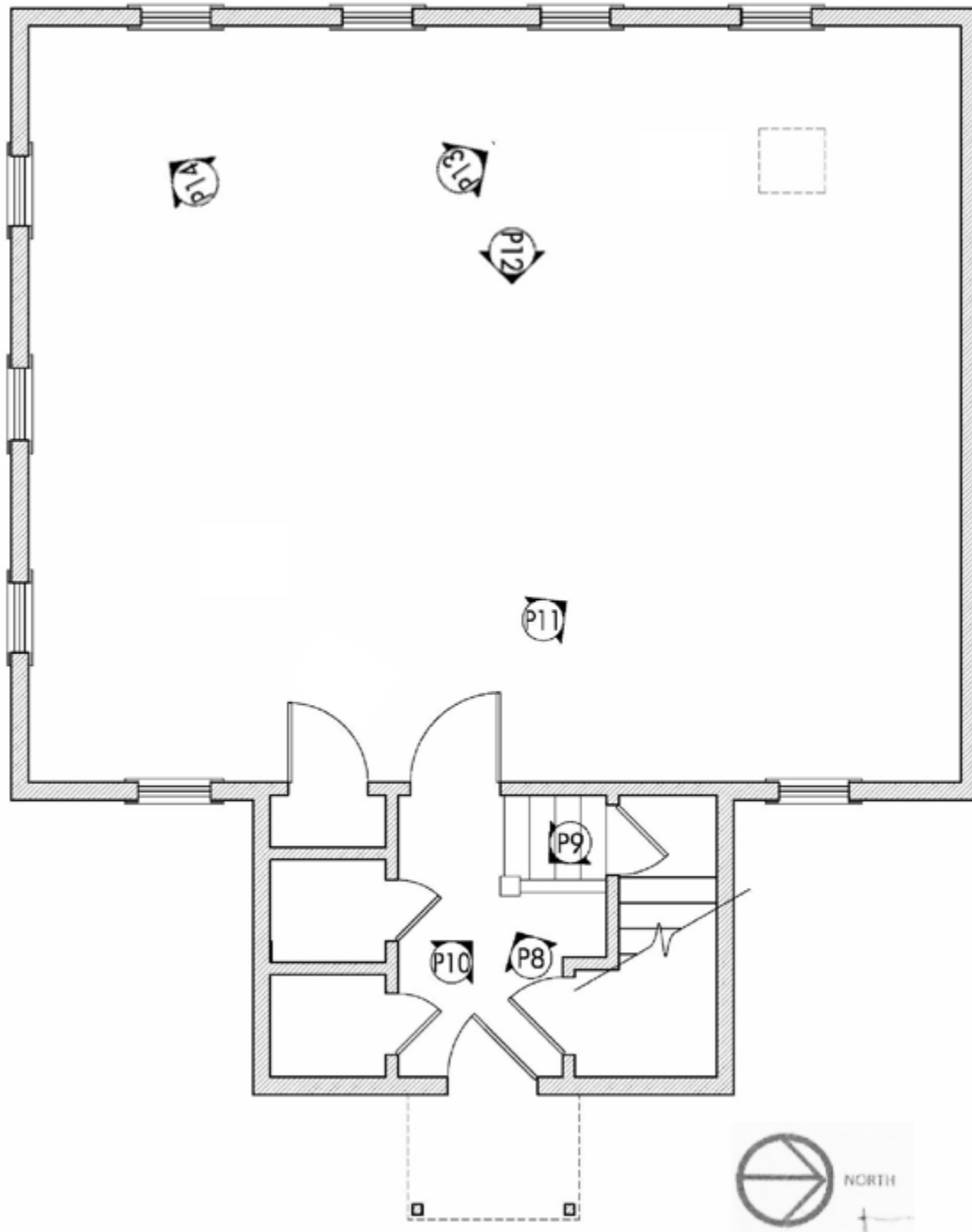


Figure 5: Sketch First Floor Plan and photo key.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State

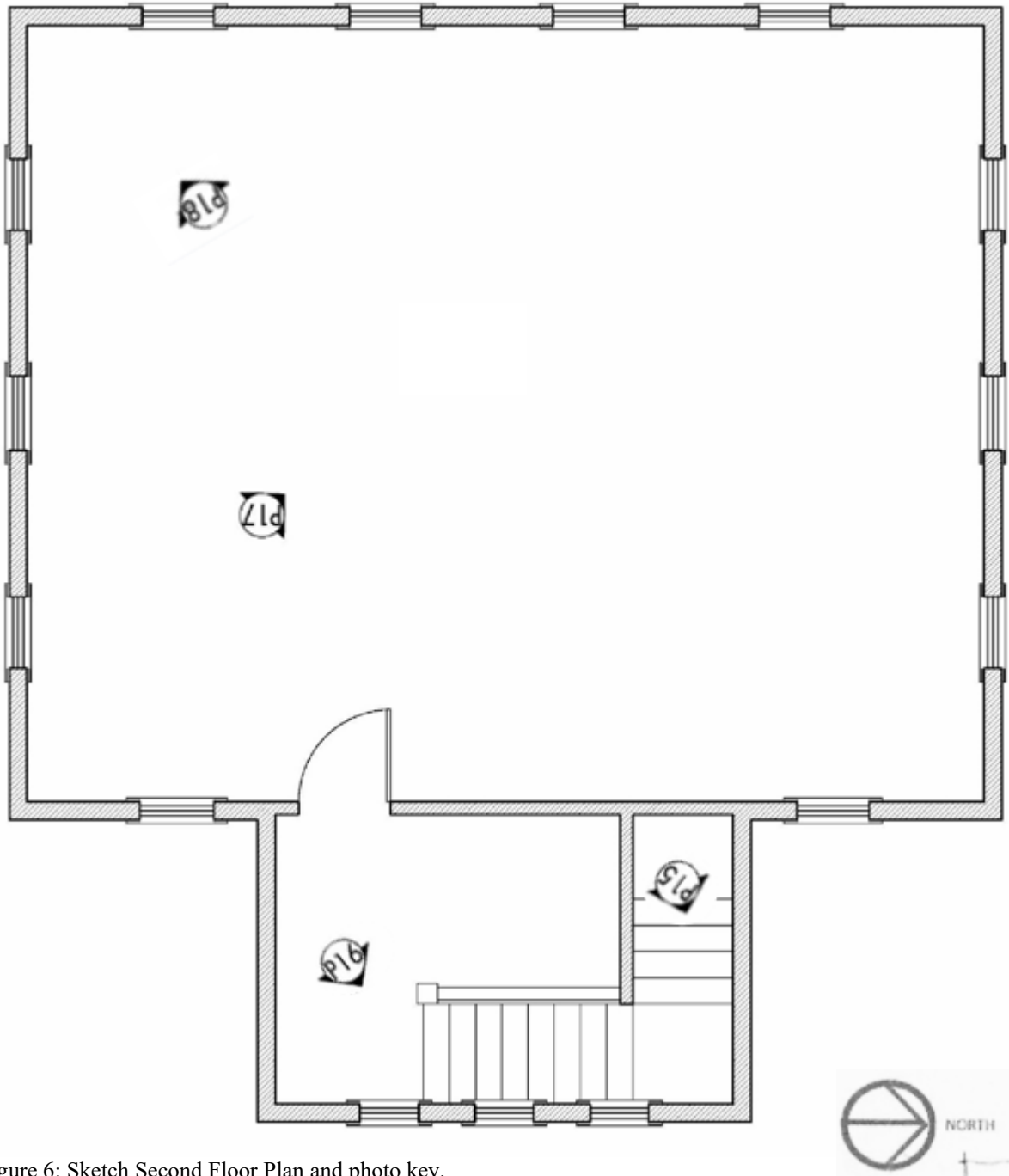


Figure 6: Sketch Second Floor Plan and photo key.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State



Figure 7: Teien Central School, circa 1904. Buildings to the west (on left) of the school are likely a stable and the original one-room schoolhouse. Courtesy of the personal collections of Marlys Nelson.



Figure 8: Teien Central School, circa 1904. Students playing softball in the schoolyard southeast of the school. Courtesy of the personal collections of Marlys Nelson.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State



Figure 9: Teien Central School, circa 1904. Outhouse, known as the “little house,” in background. Courtesy of the personal collections of Marlys Nelson.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State



Figure 10: Teien Central School, circa 1904. A classroom scene Teien Central School students putting on a patriotic play. Courtesy of *Skjeberg: A People, a Church: 1893-1993*.



Figure 11: Figure 11: Teien Town Hall, circa 1908-1910. Previously the 1882 one-room schoolhouse sold to the Teien Township in 1908 and photographed at new location. Courtesy of *Skjeberg: A People, a Church: 1893-1993*.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

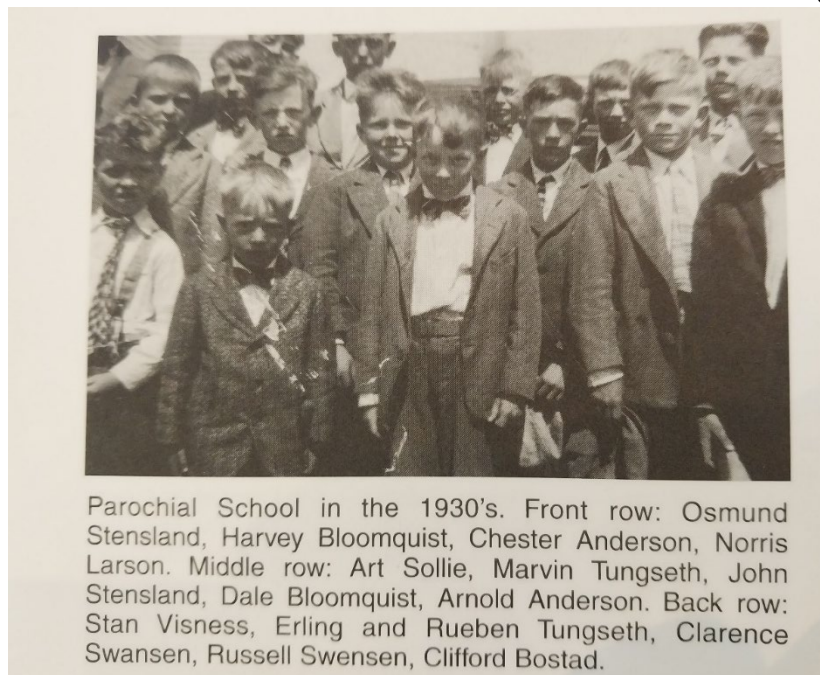


Figure 12: Parochial School, circa 1930. Summer class students at Teien Central School. Courtesy of *Skjeberg: A People, a Church: 1893-1993*.

1909.	
TEIEN CENTRAL SCHOOL	
District No. 9	
Teien Twp., Kittson Co., Minnesota	
MRS. SINE CARTER, Principal	
MISS SOPHIA STRAND, Assistant	
PUPILS	
Room I	
Emma Anderson	Richard Anderson
Alma Bohm	Edith Bohm
Victor Bohm	Alma Brenberg
Nia Brenberg	Ruth Engelbraksen
Henry Engelbraksen	
Harry Emanuelson	Peter Gilleshammer
Hans Hanson	John Hanson
Dina Hanson	Amalia Hanson
Andrea Hanson	Carl Hanson
Anna Hagen	Alfred Hagen
Martin Jensen	Jens Jensen
Albert Jensen	Peter Maurstad
Ole Olson	Conrad Olson
Oscar Pederson	Harold Swenson
Christian Teien	Christine Swenson
Room II	
Fredolf Bohm	Freda Bohm
Lars Brenberg	Peter Carlson
Agnes Engelbraksen	
Melford Emanuelson	
Marie Emanuelson	Olga Gilleshammer
Myrtle Gustafson	Elmer Gustafson
Albert Gustafson	Olga Hagen
Esther Hagen	Helen Hanson
Guðrun Hanson	Olaf Hanson
Christian Hanson	Laura Hanson
Harry Jensen	Carl Jensen
Laura Jensen	Barghild Johnson
Arthur Johnson	Olga Johnson
Clara Kjarsuik	Melvin Kjarsuik
Olga Kjarsuik	Carl Kjarsuik
Ole Maurstad	Emily Maurstad
Guðrun Maurstad	Nora Maurstad
Isaac Maurstad	Arnold Maurstad
Harry Maurstad	Otto Olson
May Olson	Hilma Olson
Arthur Olson	Arnold Olson
Albert Peterson	William Peterson
Judith Westman	Ethel Westman
Dagmar Swenson	Carie Hanson
SCHOOL BOARD	
J. P. Westman	R. Monson
L. Jensen	

Figure 13: 1909 list of Teien Central School District No. 9 students, teachers, and board members. Courtesy of *Skjeberg: A People, A Church 1883-1993*.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State



Teachers having coffee at Teien Central School.



Mothers of Teien Central School students in the 1950's wearing aprons made by the pupils and given to their mothers at a Mother's Day Tea.



Teien Central School students 1917.



Teien Central School students in early 1950's.



Skjeberg members and early students of the Teien School
Front row: Mrs. Carter, teacher, Inga Pederson, Mamie Hanson Monson, Ferdinand Stenquist, Emma Teien, Clara Pederson, Judith Carlson. Back row: Geda Swenson, Hannah Larson, Mons Monson, John Hanson (Little Hans' brother), Oscar Pederson, — Boehm, unnamed, unnamed, Hans G. (Little Hans) Hanson.

Teien Central School
Name of Property

Kittson, MN
County and State



Figure 15: Teien Town Hall, 2020, Photo taken prior to removal of vinyl siding from the upper level of building. Courtesy of the nomination preparer.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

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: Teien Central School, District No 9

Vicinity: Teien Township

County: Kittson County State: Minnesota

Photographer: Laura Hammond

Date Photographed: exterior 2024; interior 2022 (no access to interior available in 2024)

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

1 of 18: Primary (east) façade, bell, and cupola, camera facing west.

2 of 18: South elevation with handpump, camera facing north.

3 of 18: West elevation, camera facing east.

4 of 18: North elevation, camera facing south.

5 of 18: Historic swing set frame on south side of building, camera facing southeast.

6 of 18: Historic swing set in relation to the building; camera facing northeast.

7 of 18: Historic handpump and well head, at the southeast corner of the building, camera facing northeast.

8 of 18: Interior first-floor entry hall, door to classroom in background, camera facing west.

9 of 18: Interior first-floor entry hall, toilet doors at right, front door at center, storage closet at left, camera facing east/southeast.

Teien Central School

Name of Property

Kittson, MN

County and State

10 of 18: Interior first-floor entry hall, stairway to second floor, camera facing northwest.

11 of 18: Interior northwest corner of first-floor classroom, camera facing northwest.

12 of 18: Interior east wall of first-floor classroom with voting booths, camera facing east.

13 of 18: Interior west wall of first-floor classroom, detail of original windows, painted plaster chalkboards, camera facing west.

14 of 18: Interior southwest corner of first-floor classroom, detail of built-in bookshelves, camera facing southwest

15 of 18: Interior stair mid-landing, camera facing east.

16 of 18: Interior upper stair landing, looking down towards the mid-landing, camera facing east.

17 of 18: Interior second-floor open classroom, camera facing northwest.

18 of 18: Interior second-floor classroom, detail of decorative metal walls and stamped metal ceiling, camera facing southwest corner.

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.