



## Five Mile Schoolhouse Is Reborn; Gallery Celebrates History of Prairie

After sitting idle for thirty-six years, the 1939 Five Mile School, located just north of downtown Spokane, is once again serving the residents of the prairie for which it's named – now as a resource center for the Mead School District's supplemental home-schooling program.

Included in the recent renovation of the building is space devoted to a historical exhibit. "The Schoolhouse Gallery," which spans the central hallway of the school, was created by Anderson Mraz Design, who provided concept and design services, research, writing, fabrication and installation, and coordination with project subcontractors.

In the foyer of the school, four introductory panels outline a brief history of the Five Mile Prairie. As visitors ascend the steps to the gallery space, they're greeted with eight additional panels. Chronicling the school's history from its origins more than 100 years ago, the panels house photographs and ephemera that help humanize its story.

"It is truly a remarkable feat to have captured the history of education and life on the Five Mile Prairie," said Marcella Bennett, president of Five Mile Schoolhouse Preservation (FMSP), the group who funded the exhibit. "Anderson Mraz has created a timeless masterpiece to be enjoyed for generations."

"The Schoolhouse Gallery beautifully depicts the intrinsic characteristics and history of the Five Mile Prairie," agreed John Dormaier, Mead School District Director of Facilities and Planning. "It's an insightful glimpse back to a time when rural schoolhouses were widespread as an anchoring force in small communities, symbolizing and expressing each community's bedrock belief in the value and necessity of education."



AMD project manager Tina Swannack lauded the efforts of FMSP. "It was they who understood the value of telling this unique story," she said. "With their help, we were able to weave together what we feel is a captivating history of both the Five Mile Prairie and its schoolhouse."

"AMD has deftly and elegantly created a visual storybook of the essence of those early times in education," added Dormaier, "and the Mead School District is delighted to be able to host this noteworthy exhibit."

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