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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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Municipal Field House
other names/site number Wessington Springs Park Fieldhouse

2. Location

street & number 418 Second Street SW not for publication N/A
city or town Wessington Springs vicinity N/A
state South Dakota code SD county Jerauld Code 073 zip code 57382

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally x statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt
Signature of certifying official

04-25-2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.

other,
(explain:)

Signature of 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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Auditorium/Hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Auditorium/Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: WPA Era

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Cedar Shakes
walls Stone
other Sandstone

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

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1936

Municipal Field House
Name of Property

Jerauld County, South Dakota
County and State

Significant Dates 1936

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder F.C.W. Kuehn-architect;
Michael Kieffer & Leo Schwartz-stone masons

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

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Municipal Field House
Name of Property

Jerauld County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u>	<u>534278</u>	<u>4880288</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynda B. Schwan, SHPO staff & Arlien Fransen

organization SD SHPO Staff date December 10, 1999

street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-6056

city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

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

Municipal Field House
Name of Property

Jerauld County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

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

name City of Wessington Springs
street & number 116 North Wallace St. Telephone _____
city or town Wessington Springs state SD zip code 57382

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

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Narrative Description

The Municipal Field House is located in the Wessington Springs City Park approximately one block off of Dakota Avenue. It is surrounded by trees, ball fields, a swimming pool and natural green spaces. It is an excellent example of a WPA era project that still functions for its original intent.

Architectural Description

The Municipal Field House is a WPA era stone building constructed in 1936. The stones are from a local farms and laid in a random pattern. The pyramidal roof is covered in cedar shingles and has louvered dormers on the east elevation. A chimney is located at the north end of the roof. The façade (east elevation) of the field house has a central entry flanked by sidelights and stone steps leading to the entryway. The entry has a limestone lintel and sill. On either side of the entryway is a three part window with an eight-over-one double hung window in the center and four-over-one double hung window on either side. Above each of the three part windows is a stone lintel and below is a stone sill. Located at the south and north corners of the building are eight-over-one double hung windows with stone lintels and sills. The addition of a wood ramp for accessibility to the front of the building has had very little visual impact.

The north elevation has two enclosed openings at the basement level for windows. These also have stone lintels and sills. The main floor has two eight-over-one double hung windows with stone lintels and sills.

The west elevation has seven openings. In a sequence from north to south, the openings are as follows: one small door opening, an entry door, three three-part windows comprised of an eight-over-one double hung window in the center with a four-over-one double hung window on either side, a small door opening and a entry door. Each of the openings has a stone lintel and sill.

The south elevation has a window in the center. It is a three-part window with an eight-over-one double hung in the center and a four-over-one on either side. This window also has a stone lintel and sill.

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Interior:

The interior is divided into three areas. The south end of the building has an open kitchen area. The north end has women's and men's restrooms and a stairway leading to the basement. The main room, centrally located has a stone fireplace at the north end designed with the same stone as the exterior.

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Municipal Field House is individually eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Works Progress Administration, as this Field House was constructed with federal assistance and used local laborers for its construction. It is related to the historic context of "Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941" and is classified with the associated property type for Social and Recreational Facilities. The Field House is also eligible under Criterion C for its WPA era style.

Historical Background

By the end of 1934, it was obvious that President Roosevelt's New Deal programs, while successful to an extent, had not yet resulted in a strong economic recovery and plans were begun to develop a broader program to address the continuing depression. Federal funding was made available under the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of April 1935 and more than 40 agencies went to work to operate the projects under the new works program, the most central being the Work Progress Administration (WPA).

As a work-relief program, the WPA consisted of projects initiated and sponsored by counties, cities and towns as well as state and federal agencies. Need and employability were the two fundamental qualifications for WPA employment. Construction workers were paid even if time on the project was lost due to weather conditions or other factors beyond their control. Construction projects were under the direction of the Division of Engineering and Construction. One of the seven building categories included Public Building Projects, which the Municipal Field House falls into. The total number of public buildings constructed during the eight years of the WPA was approximately 40,000 on the national level. In the State of South Dakota, only 373 public buildings were constructed or added on.

The Municipal Field House is a social and recreational facility that was constructed under the WPA program. Social and Recreational Facilities were the most commonly constructed property types.

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The federal relief programs provided funding assistance to construct buildings that for many communities had been previously unaffordable. Community buildings in South Dakota varied in scale and design and also varied in material from wood to stone. Other distinctive elements included in South Dakota's community buildings included community gathering space, hardwood floors, a kitchen and restrooms, all of which the Municipal Field House exhibits.

In 1935, Wessington Springs City Council approved the construction of the Municipal Field House for \$6,500.00. \$4,000.00 of that amount was labor furnished by the Works Progress Administration. Another federal government grant gave \$900.00 for materials. Smaller pledges from local organizations made up the difference. In February of 1937, when it was realized that more funds were needed to complete the building, the City Council approved \$160.00 and the Works Progress Administration agreed to fund the remaining labor.

F. C. W. Kuehn was the architect for the Municipal Field House. He insisted that the building be constructed of native stone and he gave explicit instructions on how to construct the stone walls. He insisted that the walls be built and then pointed with lime and cement mortar. Michael Kieffer and Leo Schwartz were the master stone masons. The Municipal Field House clearly embodies distinctive characteristics associated with federal relief construction projects including the use of local building materials, fine craftsmanship and stone/masonry construction.

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Bibliography

Center for Western Studies. *Prairie Architect, FCW Kuehn, His Life and Work*. 1984.

Dennis, Michelle L. *Federal Relief construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941*. 1998.

Dunham, Fred N. *A History of Jerauld County, 1909-1963*. 1963.

Marken, Jack, ed. *The Making of a Community: A History of Jerauld County to 1980*. Dunham Historical Society, 1982.

Wessington Springs Independent. August 22, 1935; May 28, 1936; October 15, 1936; December 17, 1936; February 11, 1937.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is an imaginary line encompassing only the Municipal Field House. Starting at a point 15 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the building the line runs west to a point 15 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the building, the boundary then runs south to a point 15 feet southwest of the southwest corner, it then runs east to a point 15 feet southeast of the southeast corner, the boundary then runs north to its original starting point.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Municipal Field House that has historically been part of the Wessington Springs Public Park that maintains historic integrity. The rest of the property has been excluded based on dates of construction and lack of historic integrity.