

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



823

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. In 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 for the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Belle Fourche Band Shell

Other names/site number Chassell Memorial Bandshell; Herrmann Park Band Shell

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

2. Location

Street & number Herrmann Park

City or town Belle Fourche State SD County Butte

Not for publication Vicinity

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 as the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Application National Register Criteria x A B x C D

Jay D. Vogt 09-20-2016
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
SD SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau of 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 of 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) _____

Joe Eason H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12.6.16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public – Local
- public – State
- public – Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		site
1		structure
		object
1		Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Music Facility

Recreation & Culture/Music Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Asphalt shingle
other Wood

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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 Belle Fourche Band Shell is located in Herrmann Park in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. It is a relatively small masonry and wood band shell used for concerts, speeches, and other performances and events. Seating for performances is on the park lawn directly south of the band shell where the audience sets up lawn chairs or spreads blankets on the grass; there is no permanent seating. The band shell is situated in the northwest corner of the park surrounded by trees, gardens, picnic and recreation areas; the park is located a couple blocks south of downtown.

Stylistically it is perhaps best described as a local vernacular adaptation of larger band shells built elsewhere in the state and country. It embraces the overall form of a band shell with its half-dome structure covering the stage but it lacks the decorative ornamentation often found on earlier, larger band shells around the country. The small band shell measures 24 x 42 feet, has a dome radius of 21 feet, and seats up to 50 band members.

The structure is generally in good repair and it retains a very high degree of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

The Belle Fourche Band Shell is located near the northwest corner of Herrmann Park. It faces south to an open lawn area. The western edge of this lawn slopes upward toward a sidewalk and street. There are a number of mature trees throughout the park, some of which provide partial shading over this lawn area. Behind the band shell are flower gardens with pathways, bench seating, and a picnic table. The remainder of the park includes picnic areas, playground areas, a sand volleyball court, restrooms, and open spaces. The Dick Bowman Memorial Hall, constructed in 2004 at the southwest corner of the park, is a small building used for a variety of events. A roadway circles through the park on the south and east sides. The southern and eastern boundary of the park is delineated by Hay Creek, which runs through this part of town; the western boundary is 8th Avenue; and the north boundary is defined by a residential area along 8th Avenue and the railroad tracks, which run through the center of town. The downtown area of Belle Fourche is a couple blocks north of the park.

The band shell is a small structure. Overall, the finished size is 24 x 42 feet; the half-dome "shell" is built on a radius of 21 feet. The overall height of the structure is less than 25 feet from the ground to the top of the shell; from the stage to the top of the shell is 21 feet. The stage is approximately three and one-half feet above ground level and designed to seat up to 50 band members.

The foundation and stage structures are concrete. The stage floor is smooth, unpainted concrete and it extends five feet in front of the shell. Wings of the stage also extend approximately seven feet to each side (east and west) in front of the side brick walls. The structure of the base walls is structural clay tile. The stage apron and the exterior wall surfaces are clad with red brick veneer, in a running bond pattern, on the front, sides and rear elevations. The front edge of the concrete stage has begun to crumble in places, which has allowed moisture to seep in behind the brick on the apron creating a slight bulge in the brick veneer.

The dome is constructed of fir trusses made of 2 x 6 lumber laminated together and cut to form the curved shape. The outside of the trusses is covered with six-inch shiplap; the inside of the dome is covered with a tongue-in-groove flooring material that was bent to fit the curvature of the dome. The original roofing material was slate; the current roofing material is composition asphalt shingle. The portion of the roof surrounding the dome is flat; at the rear elevation the flat roof has been cantilevered outward from the wall surface creating a wide overhang along the rear wall. At the edge of the dome, on the front elevation, is a flat wood fascia board.

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There are lights located just inside the fascia attached to the ceiling; electrical outlets are located along the interior wall at the back of the stage.

Flanking the stage on the east and west sides are interior rooms originally intended for band instrument storage, but currently used for lawn chair storage. Originally these spaces included restrooms accessed through doorways at the rear of the band shell. The restrooms were decommissioned and the doorways have been infilled with red brick similar to the original brick. The west end storage room is now accessed through a doorway on the stage. The stage doorway on the east side has been covered with a sheet of plywood and currently provides no access. Both spaces are connected via a hallway that is located between the back of the dome wall and the rear brick wall.

Two bronze plaques are attached to the front of the structure, one on each side of the stage. One reads "FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC AND THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL 1954." The other reads "PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE OF BELLE FOURCHE BY J.L.CHASSELL, M.D. AND FAMILY." There is no further decoration or ornamentation on the band shell.

Originally, access to the stage was through the rear doors and storage rooms. When the rear doors were sealed off, it became necessary to provide alternate access to the stage. The stage was extended on the east end with a four-by-five foot concrete platform and steps. Later a metal ramp was installed, which connects to the stage extension and provides ADA access as well.

The structure retains a very high degree of historic integrity and has had only minor alterations since it was constructed. Those changes include the removal of the restrooms and infilling the door openings, the replacement of the slate roofing with composition asphalt shingles, the covering of the east storage room entrance and replacement of west storage room door, and the addition of the ramp and stage extension.

Proposed rehabilitation includes the repair of the front edge of the stage and the apron wall, updating the electrical system and lighting, and the re-opening of the east storage room access from the stage.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation
Architecture/Engineering

Period of Significance

1954-1966

Significant Dates

1954

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- 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.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

Carl, Sr. & Carl, Jr. (aka "Bud") Anderson,
builders

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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 Belle Fourche Band Shell is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant contributions in the areas of entertainment and recreation in the community of Belle Fourche. It has served as a focal point for outdoor band concerts, speeches, performances, and other gatherings since its construction in 1954. It is also being nominated under Criterion C as a local vernacular adaptation of a band shell, a resource type made popular throughout the country in the 1920s and 1930s. Although not built until the 1950s, it embodies the features of earlier and larger band shells as interpreted by a local builder/contractor.

The period of significance is from 1954, the date of construction, through 1966, the current 50-year mark recommended by the National Register. It is considered significant on a local level.

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

A Brief History of Belle Fourche

Belle Fourche, located at the northern edge of the Black Hills in South Dakota, is the seat of Butte County. The city is near the geographic center of the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii). With a population of more than 5,500, it is the regional trade center for the "Tri-State" area offering services to people in northwestern South Dakota, southeastern Montana, and northeastern Wyoming.

Prior to the city's founding, the area was a well-known fur trading point and was named Belle Fourche (French for "beautiful fork") by French fur traders for the confluence of the Belle Fourche River, Redwater River, and Hay Creek. Following the Black Hills gold rush in 1876, Euro-American settlement began in the area, bringing ranchers and their cattle to the area. In 1881, the town of Minnesela was founded approximately three miles from the confluence of these rivers. It served as the first seat of Butte County.

In 1884, the Marquis de Mores, a cattle baron from western North Dakota who owned land in western South Dakota as well, established a stage line between Medora, North Dakota and Deadwood, South Dakota. A way station in the Belle Fourche area, called De Mores, included a stage barn and a saloon.¹

In 1890, Seth Bullock, the legendary first sheriff of nearby Deadwood, South Dakota and a rancher who owned considerable land in the Belle Fourche area, convinced the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad to build a depot at the site of the old De Mores station. Although the town of Minnesela had hoped the railroad would pass through their community, it was bypassed when the railroad refused to pay the prices demanded by the town and Bullock offered the railroad free right-of-way across his land and offered to build the depot. Only a saloon remained of De Mores; with the construction of the rail depot, the town of Belle Fourche got its start. The first trainload of cattle heading east to market left the new Belle Fourche station later that year. The town was soon platted; some lots were sold, others given to businesses from Minnesela if they would move to Belle Fourche. Four years later, the county seat was moved to Belle Fourche and Minnesela eventually became a ghost town.²

By 1895, Belle Fourche was shipping 2500 carloads of cattle per month (in peak season) making it one of the largest livestock shipping points in the West. Originally a cow town catering to the needs of cattlemen and

¹ "A Short History of Belle Fourche," on www.bellefourche.com/history.htm (accessed March 16, 2016).

² Ibid.

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cowboys, it eventually expanded to include wool shipping warehouses (still some of the nation's largest today).³

Between 1940 and 1950, the population of Belle Fourche expanded by nearly forty-two percent. The early 1950s continued to show strong growth. The cattle and sheep business continued to be strong, the town had become the center of a bentonite mining industry, and the Utah & Idaho Sugar Company operated a large sugar beet processing plant near town. Black Hills Clay Products expanded their operation. Construction on the new Keyhole Reservoir in nearby Wyoming was completed in 1952, which provided additional water for irrigation systems in the Belle Fourche area; crop production (alfalfa, corn, barley, wheat and beans, in addition to sugar beets) improved to some of the highest rates in years. New businesses opened, new churches and schools were built, the hospital was expanded, and new homes were constructed. Belle Fourche was a vibrant community when Dr. J.L. Chassell, a local physician, donated the band shell to the city.

A Brief History of Herrmann Park

According to *Pioneer Footprints*, a book chronicling the history of Butte County, the first park in Belle Fourche was located east of the old Roosevelt School in a stand of cottonwoods near the Redwater River. It was, reportedly, a popular spot for picnics and camping, included a dance floor and celebration stands, and was often crowded with people from the community.⁴ The second park was located in an oak grove, near the Belle Fourche River in the area of town called Belleview.⁵

The third park in Belle Fourche was Herrmann Park. It was created in 1912 when Joseph M. Herrmann bequeathed \$10,000 in his will for the purposes of purchasing land and developing a recreational park for the city. His will stipulated that W.R. Glassie, L.M. Simons, and Daniel P. Roberts be the trustees to carry out the bequest; Dan McCutchen was named a trustee when Glassie died. The trustees purchased what was known as the Hay Creek cow pasture for the park site and began making improvements, including the planting of native trees. The low-lying area flooded every time Hay Creek was running high and was often considered a muddy bog hole. The city refused to accept the gift of the park and the responsibility for maintaining it.⁶

When Dan McCutchen was elected mayor of Belle Fourche, the city finally accepted the park along with funds remaining in the trust. The funds were used to trim trees, plant grass, clean the creek, and install water lines. The park was transformed and the community began to use the area for recreational purposes. It was further improved under the management of Walt Cunningham, a City Council member, who had the roadway and picnic tables installed, flowers planted, and lawns fertilized and mowed regularly.⁷

The park has served as a popular community gathering place since that time. Numerous public and private events have been held at Herrmann Park through the years. Among these are celebrations of all sorts, including birthdays, weddings, and graduations, as well as family reunions and picnics sponsored by local organizations. Special community events are often held at the park. Two events that have served to bring the community together regularly are the Fourth of July gatherings and the weekly summer band concerts held at the park.

³ "History of Belle Fourche" on www.tristatmuseum.com (accessed March 16, 2016).

⁴ Black Hills Half Century Club, *Pioneer Footprints* (Sioux Falls, SD: Midwest-Beach Co., 1964), 238.

⁵ Pat Engebretson, Kay Heck, and Helen Herrett, *Butte County, South Dakota: A History* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corp, 1989), 27.

⁶ Black Hills Half Century Club, 238.

⁷ Ibid.

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Belle Fourche has a long tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July as a community-wide event. The Black Hills Roundup, which began in 1918 and is one of the oldest continuously held outdoor rodeos in the country, is held during the week of the July 4th. There is also a week-long carnival, which is set up a couple blocks from Herrmann Park, fireworks displays, a mile-long parade on July 4th that passes by the park, and a community barbeque. Associated with the festivities are band concerts, presentations and speakers in the park, which serves as a central gathering place for many of the week's events.

In addition to the Fourth of July celebrations, there are band concerts in the park weekly during the summer. The local Cowboy Band, as well as bands from elsewhere in the Black Hills, provides concerts at the park that are attended by many. These concerts have been held in the band shell since its construction.

Belle Fourche has a history of municipal bands dating back to 1897 when the first band was formed. Bands were also formed in 1910 and 1912. In 1922 a new band was formed, under the direction of bandmaster Charles McClung, Jr., who had played the trumpet with bands on Broadway in New York City and in the John Philip Sousa Band in Chicago. In 1931, McClung approached the Chamber of Commerce and the Roundup committee for financial support for the band. With this help, the band became the Cowboy Band that year. The Cowboy Band was quite popular and was asked to play at several events throughout the area. McClung continued to direct the band until after World War II; after he stepped down a number of others directed the band over the years. For about ten years in the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, the band did not meet or perform. Believing in its importance to the community and having a desire to get back together, past band members reconstituted the band in 1986, which continues today.⁸

Dr. John L. Chassell and the Belle Fourche Band Shell

Dedicated to creating a suitable outdoor venue for band performances and other activities, Dr. John L. Chassell of Belle Fourche donated \$4,000 for the construction of the small band shell in 1954.

John L. Chassell was born September 8, 1871 in Iowa Falls, Iowa. He graduated from Chicago Medical College and practiced medicine in northern Iowa for six years before moving to Belle Fourche in 1906. In 1909, he married May Haims and together they had one son, Jack, and three daughters, Jean, Catherine and Marian.⁹

Dr. Chassell visited Belle Fourche on a trip to see friends and relatives in 1906. He was so favorably impressed he decided to relocate his practice to the community and soon set up a practice in rented rooms located downtown. He was a well-respected doctor and very active in community activities throughout his years in town. He was a charter member of the Belle Fourche Commercial Club when it was organized in 1911. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for more than fifty years. He was a supporter of the Belle Fourche Building and Loan Association. With his wife and children, they were active in church, school, organizations, and community cultural events. Three of his children were active in band and participated in park concerts with the Cowboy Band.¹⁰

According to newspaper accounts, Dr. Chassell had been thinking about a band shell in the park for some time and had been discussing it with Mayor K. L. Arthur for nearly a year before presenting the gift to the City Council. When commenting on his gift to the city, he said, "The town has needed something like that for a long

⁸ Monty Blome, "That Legendary Band" in *On The Banks Historiography* at www.bfhistoriography.com (accessed July 22, 2015).

⁹ Engebretson et al., 157-158.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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time...I'm hoping it will become more than a band shell...available for use by any organization...to be used for plays or political speeches...anything that can be presented in the summer time."¹¹ An initial gift of \$2,000 was given to start the project, with an additional \$2,000 upon completion of the band shell. All work on the band shell was in accordance with plans and specifications agreeable to Dr. Chassell as well as to the city.¹²

A site in the park was selected in April 1954.¹³ Vern Wilson was appointed to supervise the project for the City, and work began on the foundation in May.¹⁴ A local firm, Carl Anderson & Son, was selected as the contractor/builder of the project. Anderson's bid was for \$5,210 for the building of the band shell. The only other bid, from Everett Brammer, was for \$3663 for the woodwork alone.¹⁵ Dr. Chassell's gift, plus funds in the park trust account, would cover the cost of construction.

Carl Anderson came to the Tri-State area when his family emigrated from Sweden to Crook County, Wyoming. He helped build a hotel in Aladdin, Wyoming, where he met Thelma Jones, who became his wife. Carl worked for a time as a carpenter and miller for the Tri-State Milling Company, but in the early 1930s he decided to start his own carpentry business. Although times were rough during the Depression years, Carl eventually built a successful business having constructed several buildings in Belle Fourche including the first bentonite plant, the Eastern Clay plant, the original Belle Fourche Livestock Exchange, the Tri-State Veterinary Clinic, and several homes. He also built a number of elevators around the West River area of the state for the Tri-State Milling Company. His son, Carl Jr. (referred to as "Bud"), worked with him on many projects, under the business name of Carl Anderson & Son; after Carl's death in 1964, Bud renamed the business Anderson Homes. One of their best-known projects was the band shell in Herrmann Park.¹⁶ Bud celebrated his 99th birthday in January 2016.¹⁷

A rough framing plan for the dome was the only plan drawn for the band shell. It was up to the Andersons to design the structure and determine how to implement their plans.¹⁸ In October 2001, Patricia Anderson (Carl's daughter, Bud's sister) wrote an article for the *Belle Fourche Post/Bee* about the construction of the band shell. Most builders in the area refused to bid on the project because they didn't think the curved ceiling and roof could be built. Bud later joked that he and his dad were "too dumb to know that, so we just did it." The Andersons set up an on-site "shop" to fabricate the trusses by laminating six-foot lengths of 2 x 6 fir lumber and then sawing them into the needed shapes. Covering the outside of the dome with shiplap and slate roofing wasn't difficult, but covering the inside of the dome proved to be a challenge. They chose to use six-inch tongue-and-groove flooring material that had to be bent inward and downward at the same time. This required true ingenuity and the Andersons, with local blacksmith Ray Oliver, designed and fabricated a tool that made

¹¹ "Dr. Chassell Donated Band Shell," *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, January 26, 1954.

¹² Dr. J.L. Chassell, Letter to the Mayor and Council, City of Belle Fourche, December 31, 1953.

¹³ "Select Site for New Band Shell," *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, April 24, 1954.

¹⁴ "Start Work on Bandshell," *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, May 6, 1954.

¹⁵ Carl Anderson, bid proposal to the City of Belle Fourche, April 15, 1954.

¹⁶ Engebretson et al., 162.

¹⁷ "Anderson, 99th," *Celebrate, Rapid City Journal*, January 24, 2016.

¹⁸ The dome's framing plan appears to be a rough pencil sketch (no measurements or details) on a notepad stamped with Ewing & Forrette's names; Ewing & Forrette, an architectural firm from Rapid City, SD, were the architects of the new Belle Fourche High School, which was being constructed during this time. It is likely that the Andersons were friends with the architects and asked for suggestions on how to frame the dome of the band shell. There is no evidence that the city or the builders officially consulted with the architects or that the architectural firm provided any design plans.

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this bending process not only possible, but easy to use. This tool is apparently still in Bud's collection at his home.¹⁹

After construction was underway, the City Council discussed the installation of permanent seating in front of the band shell at Dr. Chassell's urging.²⁰ No plan was ever put into action and no information was found to explain the decision not to install permanent seating in the park.

The band shell was dedicated on Sunday, November 21, 1954 in a ceremony attended by hundreds. Dr. Chassell and most of his family, including one of his brothers, were in attendance. Speakers at the ceremony included local officials and businessmen, members of the Chamber of Commerce, Charles McClung (former band director), and a childhood friend of Dr. Chassell's, George Bump. In addition to the speeches, the Cowboy Band played a short program.²¹ The first weekly band concert at the band shell was held on June 23, 1955, launching a summer season of concerts by the Cowboy Band at the band shell.²²

The band shell was originally called the Chassell Memorial Bandshell, but within a year or two of its construction it was commonly called the Belle Fourche Band Shell or the Herrmann Park Band Shell. At this point in time, it almost exclusively referred to as the Belle Fourche Band Shell.

The History and Significance of Band Shells

The concept of the band shell evolved from the bandstand following innovations in acoustics in the early twentieth century.

Bands and orchestras began performing outdoors concerts in Europe in the eighteenth century in the first large public gardens in European capitals. By the mid-nineteenth century, a new structure, known as a "bandstand," designed to provide shelter for band or orchestras was created. The first was believed to be the decorative iron bandstand in the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens in South Kensington, England, constructed in 1861.²³

The bandstand was a circular or polygonal-sided gazebo-like or pavilion-like structure on a raised platform with a roof. They were usually constructed of wood or iron. The degree of decorative detail varied greatly – some were quite ornate, others simple and unadorned. The size of the bandstand varied according to local needs.

In the United States, bandstands became popular in the late nineteenth century. It was during this time that the country experienced its first great period of public park development, which coincided with growing popularity of brass bands. Bandstands quickly became the focal point in public parks throughout the country.

An advantage of a bandstand, in addition to sheltering the band, was the flexibility of audience and band member seating. The circular nature of the bandstand produced an omnidirectional sound so the audience was able to hear the concert from any side of the bandstand. This in-the-round set-up, however, was also a disadvantage in that it was not designed to focus the sound, requiring a greater volume of sound in order to

¹⁹ Patricia Anderson, "Chassell Memorial Band Shell in Belle Fourche," *Belle Fourche Post/Bee*, October 3, 2001.

²⁰ "Council Orders Permanent Seats for Park Band Shell," *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, August 25, 1954.

²¹ "Hundreds Turn Out for Bandshell Dedication," *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, November 23, 1954.

²² "Band Presents First Weekly Concert at Bandshell Tonight," *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, June 23, 1955.

²³ Paul A. Rabbits, "The History of the Bandstand" website at www.paulrabbits.co.uk (accessed March 15, 2016).

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be heard at any distance.²⁴

The science of acoustics had been studied for centuries, dating to ancient Greeks. In the early twentieth century, however, new innovations in acoustics for indoor theaters was applied to outdoor performances with the creation of a “shell” structure. The concave, nearly hemispherical shape of the shell focused sound in a unidirectional manner and helped to amplify it. Although a shell could be built inside an existing stage structure, in the 1920s a number of communities were building them as free-standing structures clad with weatherproof materials, such as concrete. In the 1930s, with the assistance of Federal relief programs that funded improvements in public parks, several communities constructed band shells.²⁵

Band shells of the 1920s and 1930s varied greatly in size, materials, and architectural detail. Examples of the larger, more elaborate and usually architect-designed band shells include the 1923 Naumburg Bandshell in New York City’s Central Park, the 1929 Hollywood Bowl (demolished 2003) in California, the 1935 Grandview Band Shell in Sioux City, Iowa, and the 1938 Daytona Beach Bandshell in Florida. Dozens of examples of smaller, less ornate band shells are found throughout the country, including several throughout the Midwest and Great Plains. Some of these include band stands in East Park in Mason City, Iowa (1924), Sunset Park in Elkhorn, Wisconsin (1926), Valley City, North Dakota City Park (1931), Columbia Park in Marshfield, Wisconsin (1931), Riverside Park in Murphysboro, Illinois (1939), Band Shell Park in Plainview, Nebraska (1930s), West Park in Ann Arbor, Michigan (1930s), the I.O.O.F. Park in Barnes, Kansas (1940), and in Worthington, Minnesota (1941). In South Dakota, at least three band shells date to the 1920s and 1930s. These include the band shells in McKennan Park in Sioux Falls (1927), Pioneer Park in Brookings (1936; listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007), and Campbell Park in Huron (1939).

Although the Belle Fourche Band Shell was constructed much later, its purpose and design were true to earlier band shells throughout the country. It was conceived as a focal point for a city park where the community could gather for band concerts, speeches, theatrical productions, and other events. Its design, though vernacular and unadorned, utilized the acoustic shell form to provide sound amplification in a unidirectional manner. The fact that the band shell has been continually used for events in this community since its construction is a testament to its success.

Conclusion

The Belle Fourche Band Shell is an excellent example of a structure that serves as a focal point for many community activities in a small town city park. Used for various events and performances, it has been the location of weekly summer band concerts since its construction in 1954. It continues to be a center for recreation and entertainment in Belle Fourche and is eligible for listing under Criterion A.

The band shell is also eligible for listing under Criterion C as an excellent example of a small, acoustic band shell. Although vernacular in nature, it exemplifies the half-dome shape and illustrates a local builder’s ability to engineer the structure, using local materials and developing tools to use when necessary.

The band shell is locally significant. Its period of significance begins in 1954 when the structure was built and ends in 1966, the standard fifty-year mark for the National Register.

²⁴ Timothy F. Hegglund, “Columbia Park Band Shell” Registration Form, National Register of Historic Places, 2008 (Washington DC: National Park Service, Department of the Interior), 8-13.

²⁵ Ibid., 8-14.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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www.tristatemuseum.com/history.htm. "History of Belle Fourche." Accessed March 16, 2016.

Belle Fourche Band Shell
Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing
- Previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- Designated a National Historic Landmark
- Recorded by Historic American Building 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 _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

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

- 1. Latitude 44.667627
Longitude -103.848851
- 2. Latitude _____
Longitude _____

- 3. Latitude _____
Longitude _____
- 4. Latitude _____
Longitude _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- 1. Zone 13 Easting 591253.37 Northing 4946522.78
- 2. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____
- 3. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____
- 4. Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary of the Belle Fourche Band Shell includes the footprint on which the structure sits and does not include any surrounding area.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the band shell as it was historically and is today.

Belle Fourche Band Shell
Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Michelle L. Dennis
Organization M.L. Dennis Consulting
Street & number 513 Meade St.
City or town Rapid City State SD Zip code 57701
E-mail michdenn@msn.com Telephone 605-341-8186
Date April 2016

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 district 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.

Belle Fourche Band Shell
Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 dpi (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: Belle Fourche Band Shell

City or Vicinity: Belle Fourche

County: Butte State: SD

Photographer: Michelle L. Dennis

Date Photographed: July/October 2015

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

Photo 1 of 10: Front (south) elevation (camera looking north) (SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0001)

Photo 2 of 10: Front (south) and west elevations (camera looking northeast)
(SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0002)

Photo 3 of 10: Rear (north) and west elevations (camera looking southeast)
(SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0003)

Photo 4 of 10: East elevation (camera looking west) (SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0004)

Photo 5 of 10: Doorway to west storage room (camera looking west) (SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0005)

Photo 6 of 10: West storage room (camera looking north) (SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0006)

Photo 7 of 10: Hallway between back of dome wall and rear brick wall (camera looking west)
(SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0007)

Photo 8 of 10: Plaque on left side of stage (camera looking north) (SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0008)

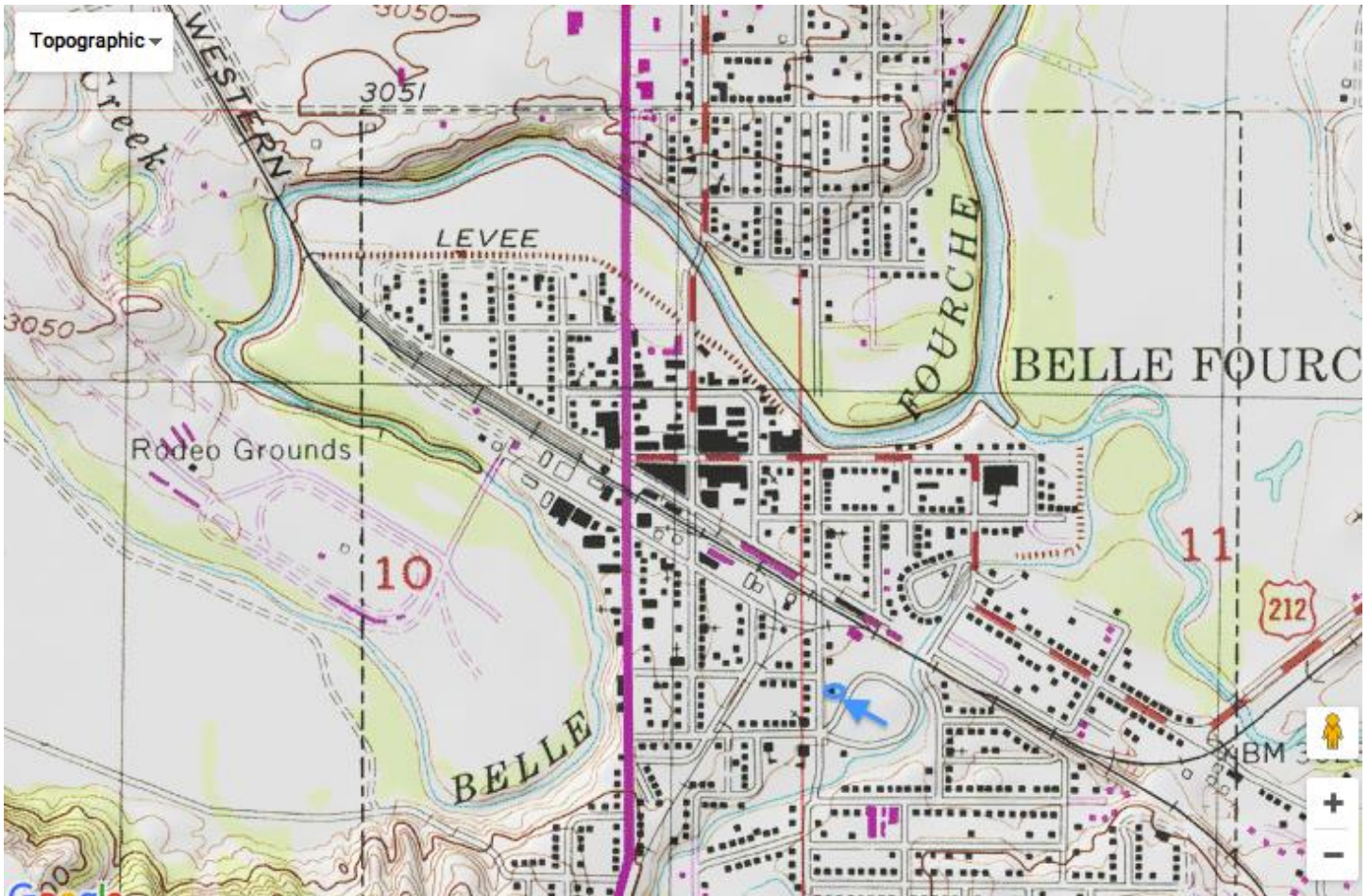
Photo 9 of 10: Plaque on right side of stage (camera looking north) (SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0009)

Photo 10 of 10: Concert in the park by Northern Hills Community Band, July 22, 2015 (camera looking north)
(SD_ButteCounty_BelleFourcheBandShell_0010)

Belle Fourche Band Shell
Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota
County and State

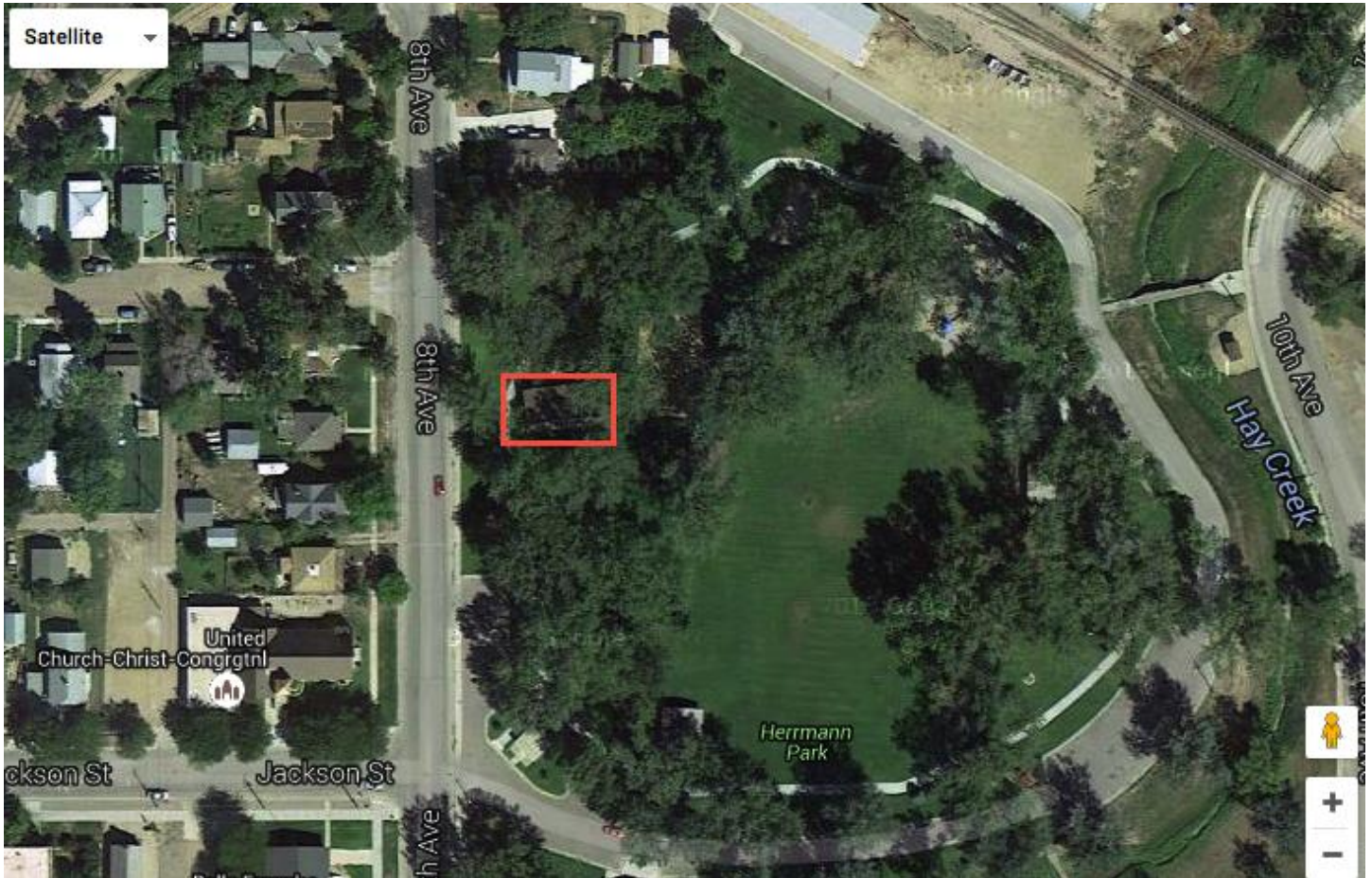
USGS Topo Map of Belle Fourche: Blue arrow pointing to Band Shell, which is circled in blue



Belle Fourche Band Shell
Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota
County and State

Aerial Photo of Herrmann Park: Band Shell highlighted with red box



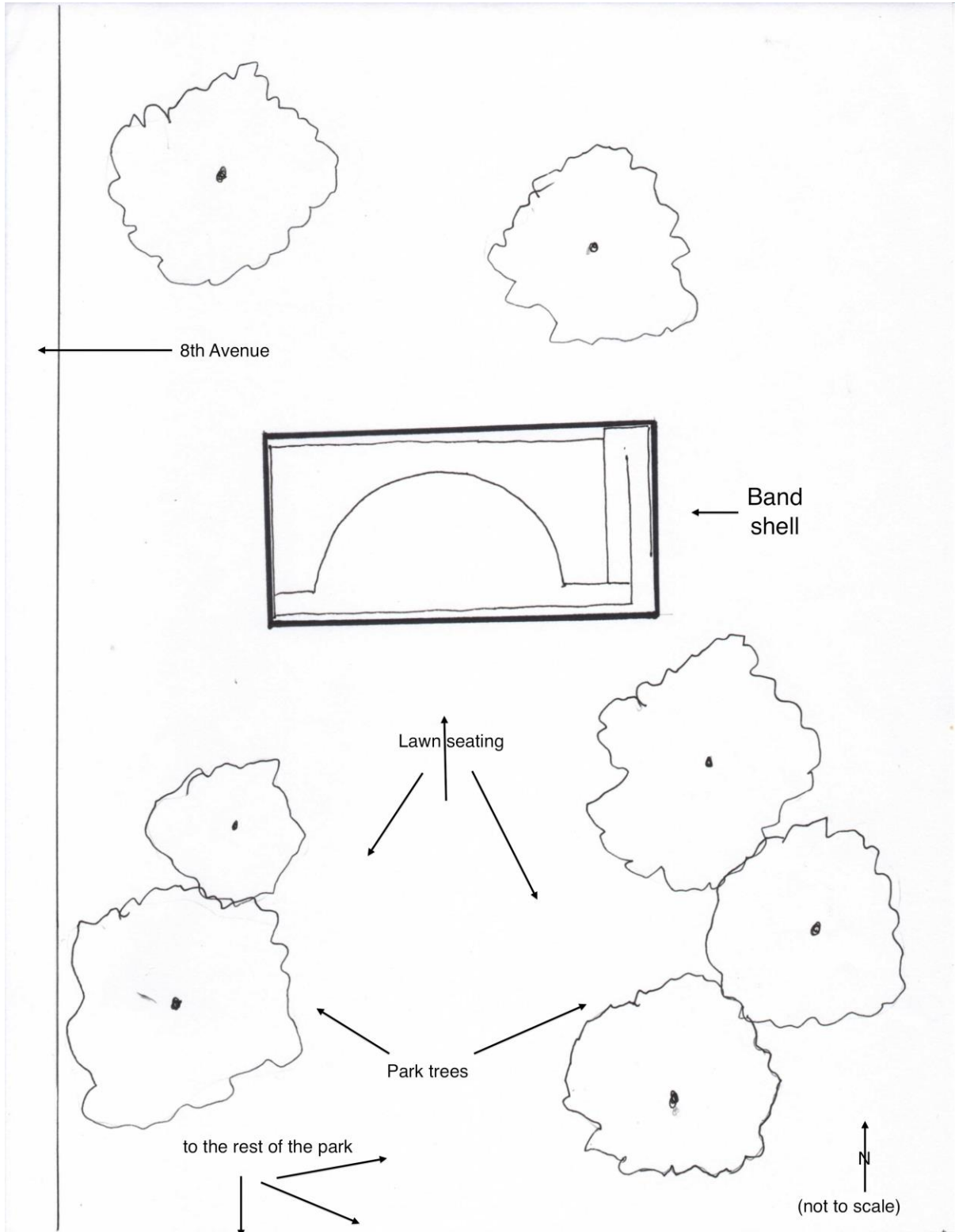
Belle Fourche Band Shell

Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota

County and State

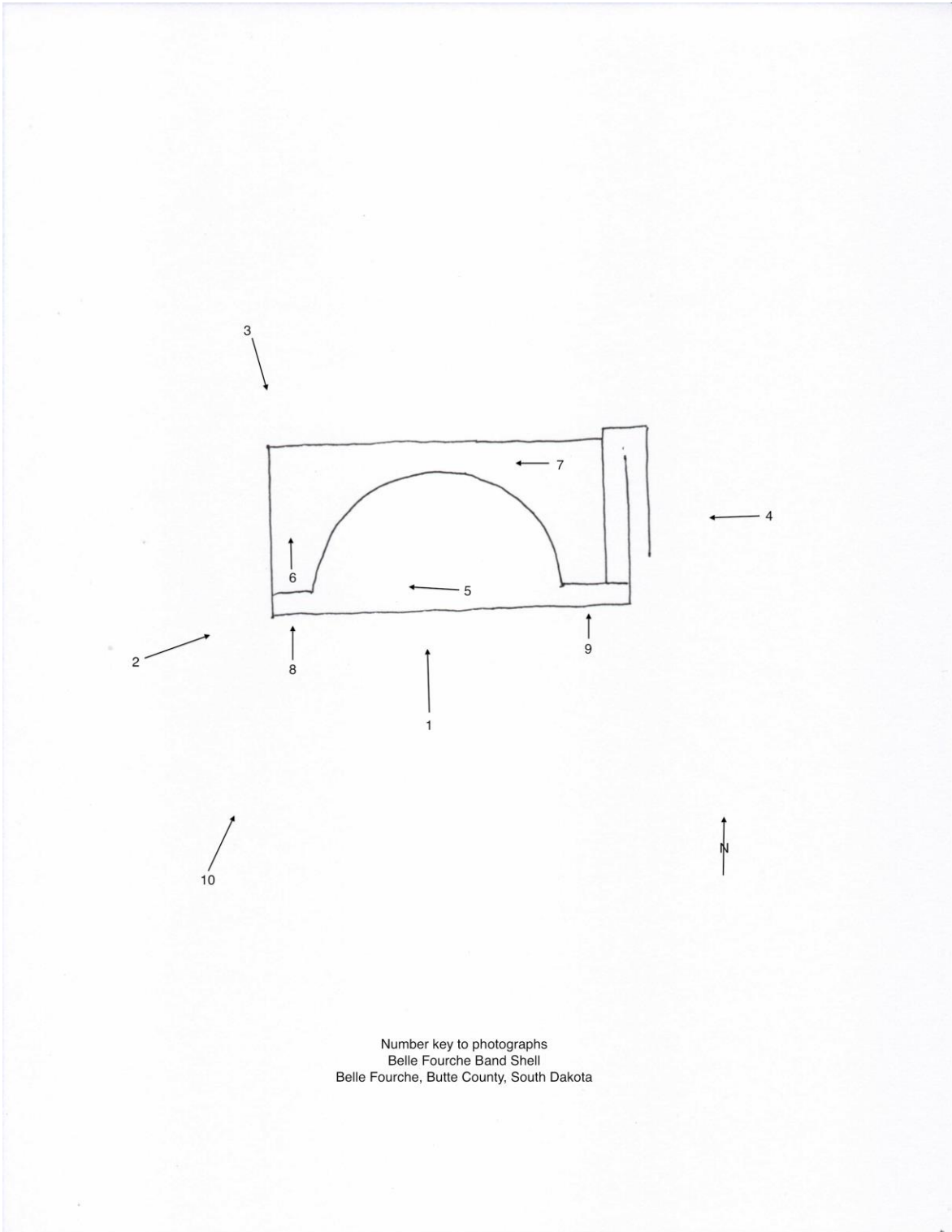
Site plan for band shell – nominated property boundary in heavy black line



Belle Fourche Band Shell
Name of Property

Butte, South Dakota
County and State

Photo identification sketch



Number key to photographs
Belle Fourche Band Shell
Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota











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PRESENTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF BELLE FOURCHE
BY
J. L. CHASSELL, M.D.
AND
FAMILY



FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC
AND THE
ENJOYMENT OF ALL
1954



NORTHERN HILLS
COMMUNITY
BAND



south dakota
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



13 October 2016

Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
National Parks Service
1201 Eye St NW
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington DC 20005

Dear Keeper of the National Register:

Enclosed are seven National Register of Historic Places nominations: *Farmers and Citizens State Bank*, *Belle Fourche Band Shell*, *Sturgis Water Works Company Supply Works Site*, *Rapid City Masonic Temple*, *Canton Carnegie Library*, *Prairie Village Carousel*, and *Lemmon Petrified Park (Amendment)*.

If you have any questions regarding any of these submittals, please feel free to contact me at 605-773-3103 or at chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Chris B. Nelson
Historic Preservation Specialist



south dakota
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



9 November 2016

Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
National Parks Service
1201 Eye St NW
8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington DC 20005



Dear Keeper of the National Register:

Enclosed is one CD containing photographs for the Belle Fourche Band Shell 16000823 as requested.

If you have any questions regarding any of these submittals, please feel free to contact me at 605-773-3103 or at chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Chris B. Nelson
Historic Preservation Specialist