

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000570 Date Listed: 5/26/88

South Dakota School for the Blind Deuel SD
Property Name County State

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Poland
Signature of the Keeper

6/1/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Administration Building should be counted as two buildings (see Bulletin 16, p. 43). Therefore, the total count of resources is 9 contributing buildings.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 15 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old South Dakota School for the Blind
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Coteau and Third Streets N/A not for publication
city, town Gary N/A vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Deuel code SD 039 zip code 57237

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ Date 4/13/88
Signature of certifying official
South Dakota SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet. Beth Boland 5/26/88

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

~~EDUCATION/ School~~
~~EDUCATION/ Education-related housing~~

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

~~VACANT~~

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Stone
walls Brick
Wood
roof Asphalt, Wood Shingle
other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Old South Dakota School for the Blind

The Old South Dakota School for the Blind is a collection of eight buildings, which for more than sixty years served as the state's rehabilitation facility for blind children. It is situated on a former courthouse square in the northeastern part of the City of Gary, in the rolling coteau of eastern Deuel County. In 1961, the school was moved to Aberdeen, and the main buildings were used as a private home for elderly people. Since the early 1970s, the buildings have been vacant. Although vandals, weather, and vermin have taken a toll on the structures, none of the buildings have been altered. They are in fair to poor condition. All of the buildings are contemporary to the school's period of significance and are contributing properties within the nominated district.

The buildings are:

1. Administration Building: This building was started in 1899 as a rectangular brick structure. It was connected by an open L-shaped porch to the former county courthouse, a pre-existing wood frame rectangular building. In 1900, the old wood frame structure was demolished and another brick building identical to the first was erected just to the north. In 1903, a third brick structure was constructed to connect the two original brick buildings. The surviving complex is a two-and-a-half story brick building rising from a banked raised basement of cut stone and poured concrete masonry. The two side wings are capped by hipped roofs covered with asphalt singles. The central part is capped by a pyramidal roof also covered with asphalt shingles. Dormers with paired rectangular windows light the half-story attic. Fenestration is symmetrical, comprising long, rectangular, double-hung windows on all facades. A small wood frame porch is located on the southwest corner. In the 1930s or 1940s, in the center of the east (front) facade an enclosed two-story brick porch was constructed to replace an open wood frame sun porch. The building was used for offices, class rooms, kitchens, a dining room, and teachers' living quarters. It is in poor condition.

2. Girls' Dormitory: Built in 1910, located to the west of the Administration Building, the Girls' Dormitory is a 40'X84' rectangular, two story brick building rising from a poured concrete foundation. The lower half of the facade is faced with rusticated quartzite blocks. It is capped by a medium-pitched gable roof covered with asphalt

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Old South Dakota School for the Blind

shingles. The gables are adorned by Classical Revival pediments supported by dentils. The main entrance is on the south gable facade. Originally, the building housed an auditorium with a stage, music studios, and class rooms on the first floor and dormitory rooms on the second floor. All of these features remain intact and in fair condition.

3. Boys' Dormitory: Located just north of the Girl's Dormitory is the Boys' Dormitory built in 1925. Rising from a poured concrete foundation, it is a 40'X100" rectangular, two story building constructed of poured concrete faced with brick. A gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Window and door surrounds and gable-end coping are constructed of pre-fabricated concrete blocks. Above the entry doors and at the upper corners of the axial facades are decorative concrete block reliefs. The building housed class rooms, and industrial labs on the first floor and dormitory rooms on the second floor. Except for severe damage to rooms in the northwest corner due to a leaky roof, the building is in fair condition.

4. Physical Plant: Just north of the Administration Building is the Physical Plant. It is a single story brick building rising from a poured concrete basement. From this structure, steam heat was supplied to the Administration Building and the dormitories. It also served as the laundry for the school. A tall smoke stack rises from the center of the gable roof. The roof is covered with deteriorated tar paper. The building is in poor condition.

5. Garage: North of the Physical Plant and the Boy's Dormitory is a square wood frame garage rising from a poured concrete floor. A small rectangular addition projects to the north (rear) of the building. The entire building is sided with clapboard. It is capped by a pyramidal roof intersected by a gable roof, all covered by deteriorated asphalt shingles. It is in fair condition.

(Several yards north of the main campus are three farm buildings used by the school for rehabilitative and subsistence purposes. They include:)

6. Chicken Coop: The Chicken Coop is a rectangular, wood frame building rising from a poured concrete floor. It is sided with

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3 Old South Dakota School for the Blind

clapboard and is capped by a monitor roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles. According to one report the lumber for this building came from the old wood frame courthouse. It is in fair condition.

7. Dairy Barn: East of the Chicken Coop, the Dairy Barn is a rectangular clay tile and wood frame building rising from a poured concrete foundation and floor. It is capped by a gambrel roof of the Shawver-type truss construction method. The roof is sheathed with wood shingles and features two metal cupulas on its ridge. The barn is in fair condition.

8. Hog House: Just north of the Dairy Barn, the Hog House is a small rectangular wood frame building rising from a concrete foundation. Its steep gable roof is covered with asphalt singles. It is in fair condition.

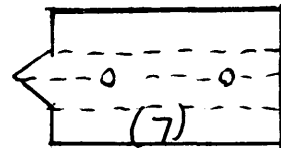
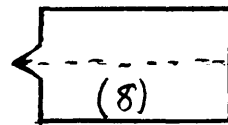
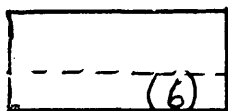
The yard around the main buildings contains many large trees. At several points along the perimeter of this yard are located hand-made, rubblestone lamp posts constructed of native materials. In addition there is a fountain of similar construction just east of the Administration Building. There is a flag pole in the center of the yard, south of the main buildings. The Administration Building, the Physical Plant, and the dormitories are connected by tunnels that crisscross the yard.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

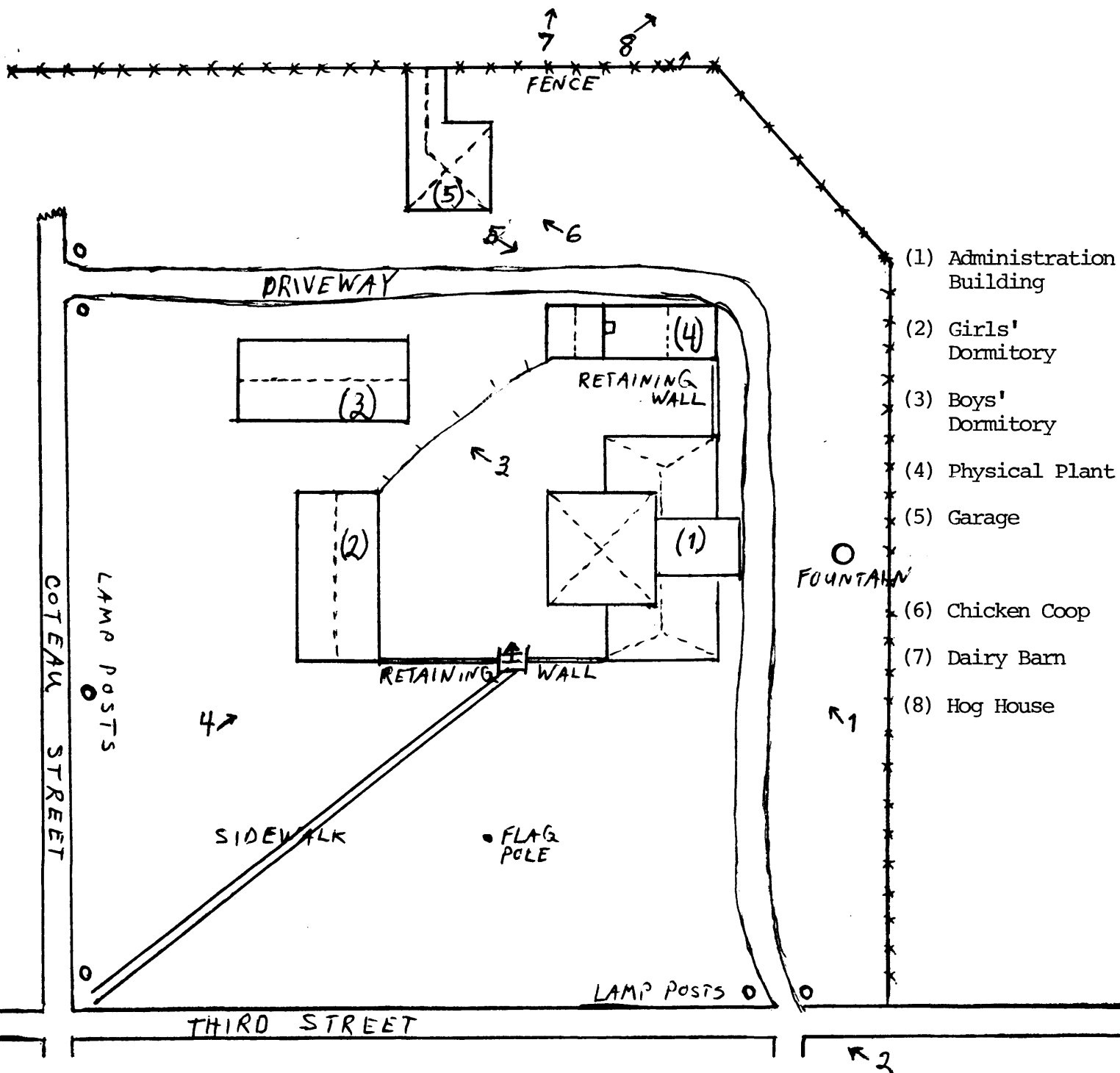
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4 Old South Dakota School for the Blind

SKETCH PLAN ON REVERSE



Numbers with arrows indicate photo number and direction camera facing.



8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1899-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:
South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 11 acres

UTM References

A 14 701210 4963340
 Zone Easting Northing

C 14 701400 4963110
 Zone Easting Northing

B 14 701400 4963340
 Zone Easting Northing

D 14 701210 4963110
 Zone Easting Northing

Quad: Gary, Minn.-S.Dak., Scale: 1:24000.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph V. Kurtenbach, committee member (w/ techn. assistance by John Rau, SHPO staff)
 organization Gate City Development Association date January 31, 1988
 street & number Box 51 telephone 605-272-5731 (Rau:605-677-5314)
 city or town Gary state South Dakota zip code 57237

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Old South Dakota School for the Blind

Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, the Old South Dakota School for the Blind is significant in the area of education, because for over sixty years it served as the state's rehabilitation facility for blind children. Established in 1899, the school provided special educational services not before offered in the state. Throughout its history, hundreds of students from across the state attended the school. Advocated by a prominent local publisher, the school was nurtured by the local community and was a vital part of the social and economic environment in Gary. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the property relates to the historic context labeled: V. Depression and Rebuilding, C. Civic Improvements and New Government Related Activities.

Average enrollment at the school was 30 to 35 students per year; however, it may have reached a high point of some sixty students at one time. Subjects included manual communication skills for the blind, as well as regular elementary and secondary courses, music, and industrial arts. The rehabilitative industries included sewing, rug and hammock making, basketry, broom making, and piano tuning. In addition, the school campus included animal barns equipped to teach the raising of dairy cattle, hogs, and chickens. It also contained gardens to teach horticulture. For much of its existence the school was noted for its prize-winning dairy herd. In music, many students competed with sighted children in statewide contests.

Deuel County was created in 1862 and organized in 1877 in the northeastern corner of the state. Gary, founded in 1877 by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad is located on the extreme eastern edge of the county, next to the Minnesota-South Dakota border. Originally it was named Stateline, then Headquarters, and finally Gary in honor of early local mail agent H. B. Gary. In 1894, local publisher Doane Robinson came upon the idea that the state needed a facility to educate its blind children, and he advocated its establishment in Gary. Robinson had a good deal of influence across the state and later became a leading historian and secretary/executive officer of the state historical society. A few years earlier Gary had lost the county seat to nearby Clear Lake, vacating the old wood frame courthouse building then owned by the City of Gary. Under Robinson's guidance, the city proposed giving the building to the state if it would establish the the so-called "blind asylum" there. However, the legislature and other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Old South Dakota School for the Blind

officials did not want to house such a facility in a wood frame building. Therefore, a deal was struck in 1899 whereby the city would construct and donate to the state a new brick building, and in return the state would establish a school for the blind in Gary.

Work began on the building that summer under the direction of J. H. Little, an Ortonville, Minnesota, bricklayer. Excavation and stone masonry work on the foundation was accomplished by local contractors A. G. Smidt and John Adams, respectively. The building was completed, dedicated, and opened for enrollment by March 1, 1900. Governor Andrew E. Lee was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the state and praised the community's efforts. The school's first enrollment totaled fifteen students, including three tuitioned from North Dakota. The first superintendent was Miss Dora Donald. Shortly after opening, the state appropriated more money to demolish the old wood frame building and to build another brick structure identical to the first. In 1903, the two brick buildings were connected by a third brick structure. The completed complex has long been known as the Administration Building. More buildings were added as the enrollment and needs of the school grew. In 1910, the state added a Girl's Dormitory with a small theatre and music studios. A Boy's Dormitory was constructed in 1925.

The local community always supported the school and its activities. It was a source of cultural activity and personal income for citizens of the small town. Students were often invited into private homes when severe winter weather did not permit them to go home for holidays. Naturally, Gary did not welcome the idea of moving the school, when it was proposed by Superintendent Hack in the late 1950s. In fact two years of heated debate erupted before the school was officially moved to Aberdeen amid disappointment and hard feelings. Many of the local citizens still hold fond memories of the school. The campus and all its buildings were soon purchased from the state for use as a private home for the elderly. In the early 1970s, the home was closed. The buildings have remained vacant and neglected ever since. They are currently in a poor state of repair, but are unaltered and structurally sound.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 Old South Dakota School for the Blind

The local development association hopes that Register listing will encourage preservation and use of the facility.

The period of significance for the nominated property extends from the school's establishment and construction of the first building in 1899 to 1938, the established cut-off date for the National Register.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Old South Dakota School for the Blind

Robinson, Doane. Doane Robinson's Encyclopedia of South Dakota. Sioux Falls, SD: Will A. Beach Printing Co., 1925. p. 85.

South Dakota School for the Blind. N.p. N.d. (information brochure, c. 1931).

South Dakota School for the Blind. N.p. N.d. (information brochure, c. 1939).

Stone, William L. Gary, South Dakota: Gate City to the Dakotas, 1872-1972. Gary, SD: The Gary Interstate, 1972. pp. 87-91.

Tax Assessors' Records. Deuel County, South Dakota.

The Gary (South Dakota) Interstate. various issues, 1899-1962.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Old South Dakota School for the Blind

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded by imaginary lines that intersect to form a rectangle around all of the buildings on the campus. The southern boundary is a line lying along the north edge of Third Street. The western boundary is a line lying along the east edge of Coteau Street extending north from the terminus of Coteau Street. The northern boundary is a line lying 10 feet north from the north wall of Hog House (feature #8 on sketch map) and running parallel to that wall. The eastern boundary is a line lying 10 feet east of the east wall of the Dairy Barn (feature #7 on sketch map) and running parallel to that wall. The property is located in the north half of the south half of Section 3, Township 115 North, Range 47 West (5th Prime Meridian), in Deuel County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary lines of the nominated property are set to include all features of the original campus but to exclude any farm land, other platted parcels not related to the nomination, and public roadways.