



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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 an 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 Renner Ball Park

other names/site number Renner Ball Park

2. Location

street & number 3/4 mile west of 258th St. & S.D. Hwy 115 intersection [] not for publication

city or town Renner [] vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Minnehaha code 099 zip code 57055

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt State Historic Preservation Officer 09-11-2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 11-8-06 Date of Action

Renner Ball Park
Name of Property

Minnehaha, South Dakota
County/State

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
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

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

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture
Playing Field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture
Playing Field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood and metal
roof metal
other n/a

Narrative Description

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

Renner Ball Park
Name of Property

Minnehaha, South Dakota
County/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.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Periods of Significance

1921-1956

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Local volunteers

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

Renner Ball Park
Name of Property

Minnehaha, South Dakota
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 14 683312 4834956
Zone Easting Northing

2.
Zone Easting Northing

3.
Zone Easting Northing

4.
Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mike Vogel

organization State Historic Preservation Office

date July 25, 2006

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)

Property Owner

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

name Renner Monarchs Amateur Baseball Team Attn: Steve McGee Secretary/Treasurer

street & number 47056 260th Street

telephone (605) 334-4022

city or town Sioux Falls

state SD

zip code 57107

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Renner Ball Park
Minnehaha, South Dakota

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Renner Ball Park is located on the west edge of town in Renner South Dakota. Renner is located in the center of Minnehaha County just a few miles north of Sioux Falls. Minnehaha County is in the southeast part of the state with its eastern boundary reaching both northwest Iowa and southwest Minnesota.

On March 17, 1862, the first Territorial Legislature convened at Yankton, the temporary capital. At that session an Act was passed establishing Minnehaha as a county. In August of that same year, the entire region was evacuated because of an Indian uprising, and in 1868 it was necessary to reorganize it.¹

The town of Renner was named after Leonard Renner, who was born in Germany in 1840 and immigrated to the United States with his parents when he was eight years old. Leonard and his wife, Catherine, moved to Dakota Territory from Illinois in 1878 and became owners of 960 acres of land in Mapleton township. The present day town of Renner is located on this land.²

Baseball started in Renner in 1899. The first games were played in pastures east and north of the town. In 1921, land was rented from the Renner family where the present baseball field is located.³

Until 1950, when lights were erected, all of the games were played during daylight hours. It was also necessary to make other modifications to the ball park during the 50's because of flooding that had occurred in this area. The playing surface was re-landscaped to promote drainage and prevent water from settling on the field and destroying the grass. The two dugouts were also reconstructed and lifted to a higher level which, along with the new landscaping, helped keep the water from collecting in them.

In 1963 the grandstand was also remodeled after a storm had destroyed the roof. The roof was replaced with steel and a press box was erected that featured controls for an automatic scoreboard located beyond the outfield fence. The speakers, which are over 50 years old, are still used to announce the players during the games and provide other pertinent information to the players and fans attending the game.

A concession stand is located some 30 feet east of the grandstand. The existing stand was constructed in 1996 and replaced the original one that had existed for several decades.

Directly behind home plate and situated between the fans and the playing field is a chain link backstop attached to the grandstand itself that protects those fans from hard lined foul balls that could certainly injure someone watching the game. Located on both the left and right field sidelines is a 6' chain link fence that runs from the dugouts all the way to the outfield fence some 5' feet in foul territory. A wooden outfield fence some 7' high with painted advertising surrounds the field except for an area about 20 feet wide in right center field where the scoreboard is located about 25 feet above the playing field. The outfield fence forms a semi-circle. The distance from home plate to the left field foul pole is 297 feet. The distance from home plate to dead center field is 375 feet and the distance from home

¹ Charles A. Smith, *A Comprehensive History of Minnehaha County, South Dakota (Educator Supply Company, Mitchell, SD)* 1949 p.2

² Renner Area Centennial, 1996 p.2

³ Ibid

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Renner Ball Park
Minnehaha, South Dakota

Section number 7 Page 2

plate down the right field line is 317 feet.

The playing surface of the ball field consists of grass in the infield and outfield as well as behind home plate to the backstop. A grass surface is also existent in foul territory beyond the right and left field foul lines toward the chain link fences. Additionally, grass exists between each dugout and the foul line of the infield except for a 4' walking path made of clay and sand from each dugout to the batters box at home plate and a 3' stretch of sand and clay in front of each dugout. Coaching boxes measuring 4' by 8' made of sand and clay are also placed some 10 feet off of both first and third base in foul territory.

A sand and clay mixture is featured in the base paths approximately 25 feet wide in a semi-circular fashion. This same mixture is used down the foul lines from home plate to first base and from home plate to third base in a 4 foot path. That same type of soil is used in a semi-circle area of approximately 15' surrounding home plate.

A pitching mound, approximately 6' by 9' is located in the center of the infield consisting of the clay and sand mixture as well. The mound has a gradual elevation from home plate of approximately 10 inches with a pitching rubber centered on the top.

To the west of the playing field the complex has a parking lot that can accommodate approximately 45 vehicles.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 3Minnehaha, South Dakota

SIGNIFICANCE

The Renner ball park is a significant site in South Dakota for the role it has played in amateur baseball in the state. The ball park built in 1921, is one of the oldest ballparks that is still located on the same property that it was originally constructed.

Renner is the smallest town in South Dakota to host a state amateur baseball tournament and they have done so four times. They won seven championships and were runners-up twice in the first 61 years of the annual event.⁴

In 1939, Renner became the smallest town ever to qualify for a national play-off, which that year was held at Battle Creek, Michigan. Sunday September 24, found Renner matched against Chicago Heights, Illinois in what proved to be the longest game in the history of the Amateur World Series—17 innings.⁵ Renner lost the game 6 to 5 but gained the respect and admiration of those who witnessed one of the greatest games in national amateur baseball history.

The townspeople and players from the little town of Renner have proved time and time again that you don't have to live in a larger city with bigger ballparks and more players to be on top of amateur baseball in South Dakota. The local leaders in Renner with their storied ball park and magnificent record, have provided an outstanding example to many small towns across the state about what amateur baseball can mean to a small community.

Long before television and including the great depression era, many small town South Dakotans, during the summertime, spent most of their Sunday afternoons at the local baseball park enjoying one of the greatest pastimes in the state. For many, amateur baseball was the highlight each week during the summer. Bitter and long lasting rivalries, that are still talked about today, developed during the early amateur baseball years in South Dakota. A town team's success became the pride and joy of the community and fostered a town loyalty and unity unlike any other event in these formative years of amateur baseball. Renner, and its impressive ball field and baseball teams, is a prime example of what amateur baseball has meant to the state of South Dakota.

In honor of the achievements the community of Renner and its ball park has attained, the 1982 South Dakota Legislature proclaimed Renner as the Baseball Capitol of South Dakota. This distinction finally made it official what many South Dakotans have known for decades. Renner is synonymous with amateur baseball.

The Renner baseball field is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an outstanding example of what amateur baseball has meant to all South Dakotans. The ball field is a designed landscape that has been modified. The modifications however, have not harmed its integrity in setting, location, feeling, and association. Although the field was re-graded to induce water drainage, the actual layout of the field stayed the same, allowing the field to "play" like it did historically. Also, the modification of the dugouts and grandstand did not alter their orientation or impact in size of

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 4Minnehaha, South Dakota

the scale to the field, allowing the ball field to retain its excellent integrity; in feeling and association. All of the materials used in the modifications were compatible to the overall setting, which allowed the park to retain its historic feel obtained from its period of significance.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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

Section number 9 Page 5

Minnehaha, South Dakota

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Smith, Charles A. *A Comprehensive History of Minnehaha County, South Dakota:*
Educator Supply Co., Mitchell, SD 1949

Renner Area Centennial, 1996

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 10 Page 6County, South Dakota

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary is an imaginary line that starts 60 feet north of the northwest corner of the parking lot and runs 407 feet eastward. The line then runs southward 538 feet and then directly westward toward the parking lot 472 feet away. The line then runs 538 feet directly north to the original starting point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is an imaginary line drawn to encompass the area historically associated with the ball park complex which includes the playing field, the dugouts, the grandstand the concession area and the parking lot.