

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received JAN 17 1986
date entered FEB 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Washington High School

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 315 South Main NA not for publication

city, town Sioux Falls NA vicinity of

state South Dakota code 46 county Minnehaha code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sioux Falls Independent School District #1

street & number 201 E. 38th Street

city, town Sioux Falls NA vicinity of state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessors Office - City Hall

street & number 204 W. 9th

city, town Sioux Falls state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sioux Falls Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Fall 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion state South Dakota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Washington High School is an irregular-shaped building which roughly conforms to a rectangular. Four stories in height, the quartzite-faced school is located at the edge of the commercial area of downtown Sioux Falls. Built into a gradually sloping sites, the structure was constructed between 1905 and 1908, and was added onto in 1922 and 1936.

Construction on the original unit began in 1905 and was completed in 1908 at the cost of \$130,000. This building was composed in three bays along the front facade. The central bay projected outward slightly and contained seven window bays and a central entrance. In the third and fourth stories the windows were combined into one long expanse to light the library and were topped with a semi-circular arch. The flanking bays had four window bays each. A photograph of the building in 1907 shows the side facade was composed in three primary bays with a central door demarcated with a one-story projecting entryway and semi-circular arched opening. Each side bay contained three windows each of multi-paned, double-hung sash windows.

Architect, Joseph Schwarz chose the popular Neo-Classical style for the building. A one-story, watertable were finished with black quartz as were the side entrances which provided a pleasing visual contrast with the pink-colored Sioux quartzite. A full entablature was used at cornice line with dentels and balustrade.

In 1922 a rear addition was made to the south side. This new building was a reflection of the basic form or the older, using the same front (or south) three-bay design with the side bays recessed. This time, however, the central bay had nine window bays. The only relief from the uniform rectangular window openings, were the slight arches used on the second and fourth floors of the central, entrance bay. Although both sections of the building used rusticated stone, the precise method of coursing had changed subtly by 1922. A small, restrained classical pediment covered the entranceway. The recessed side bays contained three window bays. Presently the southwest bay is covered on the first floor with a shed-roofed, glass greenhouse. The watertable as a design element was barely noticeable but a belt course divided the second and third floors. Of the side facades, only five window bays remain visible.

The firm of Perkins and McWayne designed the infill sections in 1936. These architects carefully blended their work into the existing buildings. First, they combined the two units and then extended block wings on the east and west facades. These wings again displayed a slight change in stone masonry techniques. These wings were composed of a watertable base and a flush facade with seven bays, each of which contain windows. The centered entranceways were contained with a rectangular slab which projected from the wall. It appears that Perkins and McWayne may have remodeled the north entrance in the same manner. Alternately, they may have copied Schwarz' design. The side facades have three basic bays, of two windows each and once again, a central entrance contained within a rectangular slab.

The entire structure continues the use of the entablature, dentels and balustrade on all four facades of the building. The stone is carefully blended to match and the building presents a massive, but harmonious whole.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908, 1922, 1936 **Builder/Architect** Joseph Schwarz, Robert A. Perkins and Earl McWayne. J.J. Olson and Son, Contractors

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Washington High School is both an educational and architectural landmark of Sioux Falls. The building is a rare survivor of a central city high school and reflects the architectural skills of its highly competent designers, Joseph Schwarz, Robert Perkins and Earl McWayne, therefore it is significant in the areas of architecture and education.

Until 1962 Washington High School was the only high school in Sioux Falls; it remains the only public high school today. In 1899 when a school census was taken, there were nine schools in the city and a high school population of 2046. By 1905 the pressures for a new building led to the construction of this school. Joseph Schwarz, a highly regarded architect was selected for the commission. Many of Schwarz' buildings are listed on the National Register including the Sioux Falls Central Fire Station, Carnegie Library and First Congregational Church, The Mitchell Holy Family Church and the Vermillion Carnegie Library to name a few. Schwartz worked in many styles, but is especially well-known of his adaptation of a highly-colored, local material, Sioux quartzite, into Neo-Classical designs. His buildings are never flamboyant, but always well-proportioned and elegantly detailed. Among his works, this building uses the classical vocabulary most fully. Only the heavy Romanesque arches over the side doors suggests his freehand blending of certain stylistic details.

The second phase of building used the vocabulary of the Neo-Classical style as well. However, the south facade functions visually as a secondary entrance. The three-part motif of base, main block and entablature was greatly simplified and the door was given only a modest pediment.

Finally the Perkins and McWayne 1936 additions complete the building. This firm was also highly skilled, and was responsible for such National Register buildings as the Codington County Courthouse, the Douglas County Courthouse and the Miller Funeral Home in Sioux Falls. They were proficient in many of the revivale styles popular in the 1920s and 1930s and were also equally skilled at blending their work with Schwarz'. They kept the basic Neo-Classical design, but simplified it and added, blocky Art Deco or prairie school-inspired entrances. Although each part of the building can be seen and explored as a product of its time period, the building design functions as balanced composition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property About one acre

Quadrangle name Sioux Falls East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	14	6	8	13	5	10	10	4	18	2	13	5	12	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of the property are contained within the legal description: Block of J.L. Phillips Addition and Block 2, Gales Addition, Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Trma, Survey Coordinator

organization State Historical Preservation Center date November 22, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 417 telephone 605-677-5314

city or town Vermillion state South Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Office of History date 1/10/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2-13-86

Keeper of the National Register 

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet Washington High School Item number 9 Page 1

Minnehaha County History, "The High School".

Sioux Falls Argus-Leader. November 25, 1907, February 14, 1908.

Sioux Falls Board of Education. "A Century of Progress... A History of
Sioux Falls Public Schools: 1873-1973".