411

### United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property	
historic name Washington School	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number 514 N. Washington	not for publication
city or town Madison	vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic	
	for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards storic Places and meets the procedural and professional
In my opinion, the property X meets does not reproperty be considered significant at the following level	meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this (s) of significance:
national statewideX_local	
Signature of certifying official	
SDSHPO	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the Nation	nal Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	
Ventered in the National Register	determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National Register
other (explain:)	
a Calau la Beall	6.29-10
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
MIXED	foundation: CONCRETE
	walls: BRICK
	roof: ASPHALT
	other: CONCRETE

7. Description

#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Washington School is located at 514 N. Washington Street in the City of Madison, Lake County, South Dakota. It is located in a predominantly residential area in Madison. Deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs surround the school building. Constructed of brick, this school is of symmetrical plan with a centrally located entrance. A concrete path and concrete steps lead up to the main entrance from the street. Classroom bays without windows flank the central bay of classrooms. These classroom wings have detailed brickwork. Detailed brickwork is also present around the main central door, which has a stepped relief motif in brick; the projecting entrance is capped with a stylized concrete motif.

#### **Narrative Description**

The Washington School is brick, with a flat, asphalt roof, concrete detailing, and a poured concrete foundation. This rectangular, symmetrical building has a total of five vertical bays, including a central, two story projecting area flanked by a bay of windows and a classroom bay. The classroom wings have detailed brick work and no windows. Brick pilasters exist at the corners of these classroom wings. The brick on the school is laid in a common bond, except every seventh row is set in a Flemish bond rather than as a solid row of headers. The fenestration consists of windows that have all been reduced in size. Though it appears that double hung windows originally existed in the openings, the top sash of every window is now covered by a blue panel, and each bottom sash consists of a two-light metal sliding window. The second story windows sit on a continuous brick sill. A decorative beltcourse tops these second story windows, composed of alternating cast stone blocks and groups of three soldier bricks. Another beltcourse tops this one, consisting of a basket weave brick pattern. A stone stringcourse, aligned with the top of the projecting central bay, completes the decorative coursing. The brick walls are topped by a layer of stone that rests flush with the wall.

The Washington School's west (front) façade features a central two-story section containing the main entrance and projecting from the rest of the building. The section is truncated at the top with a stone cap and does not extend to the roofline. The main central door has a stepped relief motif in brick. The entryway consists of modern transom lights and modern glass double doors. The doors are modern aluminum replacements. Decorative features around the entryway include basket weave bricking around the entire entrance and a stone stringcourse a few feet above grade. The projecting one story entrance is capped with a stylized concrete motif. Paired two pane vertical windows are centered on the second story of the central projection. A concrete plaque at the cornice reads "19 WASHINGTON SCHOOL 24." This plaque is flanked by square basket weave brick designs.

The school building's north and south sides have similar configurations. Both have two vertical bays, each consisting of three sets of paired windows on each floor. A decorative beltcourse tops the second story windows, composed of alternating cast stone blocks and groups of three soldier bricks.

Lake County, South Dakota County and State

A beltcourse consisting of a basket weave brick pattern is set above this decorative beltcourse. The basket weave brick pattern extends downward from the beltcourse to surround each of the window bays. A beltcourse of soldier bricks tops the first story windows on each side. The windows on both stories sit on a continuous brick sill.

The building's east (rear) side has a partial width, projecting one-story flat roofed rectangular addition that was constructed in 1988 to the north and an original, one-story, flat roofed octagonal bay to the south. There are no windows on the rectangular addition, and five sets of paired windows appear on the octagonal bay. The octagonal bay has a stone stringcourse between two courses of soldier bricks, just above the windows. A course of rowlock bricks forms a continuous sill on the octagonal bay. A central, six vertical bay portion of the main building projects on this side; the second story has four groups of tripartite windows flanked by a single window of the same style and materials. All windows on this side are the same as those on the main façade of the building.

The interior of the Washington School is typical of the large standardized school designs from the same period. The first floor follows a U-shaped plan, with classrooms lining the walls and hallways surrounding a central gymnasium on three sides. Some of the original interior finishes remain on this floor, including original wood trim. Many original wood doors and transom windows remain on the classrooms as well. Additionally, the gymnasium floor is still intact. The second floor follows a similar U-shaped plan, with classrooms lining the walls and hallways surrounding a central auditorium area, complete with a stage. This area has been partitioned into classrooms and a library, but many of the historic finishes remain. Original doors and transoms appear on the second floor classrooms as well.

Classrooms on both floors have closets with original wood pocket doors that rise up and topped by original wood moldings. Several of these "pull-up" pocket doors actually connect adjacent classrooms as well. Additionally, original wooden built-in cabinets appear in some of the rooms in the school, serving as fine examples of original craftsmanship of the period. Finally, the second floor library has a wooden grid skylight that also features fine original woodwork in the school building.

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)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION
X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE
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	Period of Significance
and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1924-1960
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
	1924
Criteria Considerations Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)	
Property is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)
Owned by a religious institution or used for religious	N/A
A purposes.	
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
C a birthplace or grave.	N/A
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder Unknown
F a commemorative property.	CHAILOWII
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance	

## Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The period of significance corresponds with the period under which the building operated as a school, up to the fifty year mark.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Washington School in the City of Madison, Lake County, South Dakota is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The building is of primarily local significance, although it is certainly reflective of state trends in progressive education in the 1920s and 1930s.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

The Washington School in the City of Madison, Lake County, South Dakota, is significant under Criterion A in the context of education as a school that incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended by experts in the field who took a scientific approach to studying optimal learning environments. The school thus reflects the results of these scientific studies, providing a tangible example of an environment that these researchers felt would maximize childhood learning.

The Washington School is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of the type of standardized school design commonly built in South Dakota in the 1920s and 1930s. Established by the South Dakota Department of Public Instruction's standardized guidelines adopted in 1907 and the South Dakota Financial Incentive Program of 1919, South Dakota's standards for school design and construction set forth new, standardized designs for schools that would promote and enhance student learning. Constructed in 1924, the Washington School incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended for larger schools of the time. Its construction consequently reveals much about the evolution of standardized school design in South Dakota during the early twentieth century.

The school building displays elements of both Prairie and early Art Deco styles, but would certainly not be considered a "high style" example of either style. The stringcourses and horizontal brickwork emphasize the "horizontality" of the building, recalling the Prairie style of architecture, while the geometric brickwork design, projecting, stepped entryway, and stylized, smooth concrete motifs portray very early elements of the Art Deco style.

## The Consolidation and Standardization of Schools in the Early 1920s

Education reform in South Dakota as it affected the design of new school construction had its origin in the Progressive Era policies of the late nineteenth century. During this time, reformers believed that improved school facilities directly affected the quality of education in rural communities and advocated the implementation of standardized school designs. They cited overcrowding, inadequate lighting, and poor heating and ventilation as just a few of the conditions that hindered learning, and believed that modern, properly constructed facilities would bring concepts of progress to rural communities.

In South Dakota, the first statewide effort towards school standardization occurred in 1907 when the State Superintendent of Instruction adopted specific guidelines for school construction. The state legislature formalized these guidelines and granted the State Superintendent the power of approval over all new school construction plans at this time. The "Better School Campaign," organized by county superintendents of schools and the Department of Instruction, promoted the use of these new standards for new school construction in South Dakota starting in the early 1920s.<sup>1</sup>

These new standards for school construction called for at least fifteen square feet of floor space in each classroom, two hundred cubic feet of air space per pupil, and an approved heating and ventilation system among other regulations.<sup>2</sup> The placement of classroom windows was of particular concern as contemporaries believed that improper illumination caused headaches, backaches, and various nervous disorders.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, the state guidelines prescribed specific window arrangements and formulas, dictating the size of windows and limiting their placement on only one wall of a classroom. This design meant that classrooms would line the walls of the school. Hallways, often in a U-shape, would often surround a central auditorium or multi-purpose gymnasium. The hallways would allow for efficient circulation of students and staff through the building, and the central gymnasium area would be easily accessible from everywhere in the building.

These new guidelines and standards, which began to be applied in the early 1920s, are reflected in the Washington School. This building likely represents one of the earlier schools to apply the new standards. The school's façade is symmetrical, emphasizing the order and discipline that would take place inside the building on a daily basis. Every classroom in the school has windows only along one wall, following the standard stating that light coming from too many different angles would cause students to lose focus and even give them headaches.

Additionally, the school design follows a U-shape plan, with classrooms lining the walls, and hallways surrounding three sides of a centrally located gymnasium on the first floor. The addition of gymnasiums in schools during this period reflected a new emphasis on physical activity, as professionals began to understand that physical exercise was as importance as mental stimulation for young children. Large classroom bays flank the central area of the school, again following the new standardized plans, which facilitated student circulation throughout the building. The second floor of the school is also arranged in a U-shape, with hallways this time surrounding a large auditorium. The auditorium represents the realization of academic professionals during the standardization period (roughly 1915-1940) that learning could be expanded outside of the traditional classroom setting with activities like theater and choir. The design of the Washington School thus reflects a clear manifestation of the new standards and guidelines associated with the "Better School Campaign," which began in the early 1920s during the Progressive Era.

## **Architectural Style**

The school building displays elements of both Prairie Style and early Art Deco style, but would certainly not be considered a "high style" example of either. The stringcourses and horizontal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr, Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Development (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1998), 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Erpstad, David and David Wood, Building South Dakota (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1997), 89.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Eprstad, Building South Dakota, 88-90.

brickwork emphasize the "horizontality" of the building, recalling the Prairie style of architecture, while the geometric brickwork design, projecting, stepped entryway, and stylized, smooth concrete motifs portray very early elements of the Art Deco style. It is important to note that the Art Deco style was not officially publicized until 1925, at an art exposition in Paris, and would not emerge in the Midwestern United States until the late 1920s and early 1930s. Thus, while the Washington School would certainly not be considered a high style example of any one style, it does contain elements of the Prairie and Art Deco styles of architecture.

#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

#### The History of Washington School

Madison's first school building, the East Side School, was known locally as "The Little Green Schoolhouse." This building was constructed in 1881 on the same plot where the Washington School now sits. As population rose and school enrollment subsequently increased in Madison, the need for a new, larger school became increasingly apparent.<sup>5</sup>

In 1922, the Madison Board of Education voted to replace "The Little Green Schoolhouse" with a new building. This building would be larger, with more classrooms, an auditorium, and a gymnasium, totaling about 18,000 square feet. It would serve multiple purposes within the community of Madison, not only as a school, but also as a center for civic engagement. The original plan for the school called for a \$45,000 bond, which would have to be voted on by the citizens of Madison.

However, President Higbie, leader of the Madison Board of Education, wanted to enlarge the practice teaching facilities of the Eastern State Normal School in conjunction with the construction of the new school in Madison. With the approval of the Board of Regents, he proposed that the new school be large enough to house grades kindergarten through eight, and that it be designed to accommodate a practice teaching program, which would be run through the Eastern State Normal School. In turn, Eastern would pay the full salaries of the teaching staff, which would be trained under the supervision of licensed teachers. The new Washington School, like all other schools in the system, would be maintained and operated under the administration of the Superintendent of Schools. The practice teaching program would be under the direction of the Director of Education at Eastern.<sup>6</sup>

Not everyone was in favor of President Higbie's plan, including Superintendent C.E. Nickle. After much discussion and several open meetings, the Board of Education finally accepted the proposition

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Poppeliers, John C. and S. Allen Chambers, Jr., What Style Is It? (Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003), 110-113, 120-126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> History of Lake County (Madison: Lake County Historical Society, 1995), 352.

V.A. Lowry, Forty Years at General Beadle, 1922-1962 (Madison: The Karl Mundt Historical and Educational Foundation, 1984), 109.

and increased the bond issue to \$110,000. Construction on the school began in 1923. The school opened in time for the 1924-25 school year, but there was a shortage of equipment, including chairs, desks, tables, and other miscellaneous necessities. Eastern loaned many items to the school, and many were never returned.<sup>7</sup>

President Higbie's plan was successful. The school proved to be an excellent laboratory for Eastern's teacher education program. The well-organized student teaching program, under the direction of the teacher-supervisors provided an enriched program of elementary education for the Washington School. Eastern continued to pay the full salaries of the teacher-supervisors from the time the school opened in 1924, through 1931. In 1931, the Board of Education agreed to assume fifty percent of the salary costs, an arrangement that continued until the beginning of World War II. The student teaching operation ceased in the 1940s as a result of decreased enrollment at Eastern.

Architecturally, the Washington School remained virtually unaltered until the late 1950s. New lighting was installed in 1958, and the windows were replaced in 1968. A new heating system was installed in the mid-1970s. A stage once existed on the north end of what is now the gym, but it was turned into locker rooms. An auditorium on the second floor was divided into three parts, with the former stage converted into a computer room, the south half converted into a library, and the north end converted into a classroom. A 1988 addition was added to the rear of the school at a cost of \$112.000.

The Washington School possesses integrity in setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The school sits on its original location, and it maintains its historic division of space on the interior. The additions to the rear of the school have not significantly increased the footprint of the building, nor have they obscured the main façade in any way. The original double hung wood windows have been removed and plastic in-fill has been placed in the top sash, with sliding windows in the bottom sash. While this replacement damages the integrity of the school, the window openings retain their original locations and size, allowing one to visualize what the school would have looked like with the original double hung wood sash windows. No new window openings have been added to the school. Other than the windows, the school retains all of its original exterior materials.

Lowry, Forty Years at General Beadle, 109.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 110.

<sup>9</sup> History of Lake County, 352.

Name of Property	Lake County, South Dakota County and State
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other so	ources used in preparing this form)
Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr. Schools in South Dak Dakota State Historical Society, 1998.	kota: An Educational Development. Pierre: South
Erpstad, David and David Wood. Building South Darchitecture to 1945. Pierre: South Dakota State H	
History of Lake County. Madison: Lake County Hist	orical Society, 1995.
Lowry, V.A. Forty Years at General Beadle, 1922-1 Educational Foundation, 1984.	962. Madison: The Karl Mundt Historical and
Madison Daily Leader.	
Poppeliers, John C. and S. Allen Chambers Jr. Wh. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 2003.	at Style Is It: A Guide to American Architecture.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)	X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested) previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	X State Historic Preservation Office
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	X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested) previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University
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 #	X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other
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 #  Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):	X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other

Acreage of Property Less than five acres (Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

## **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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	14	651565	4874657					
	Zone	Easting	Northing	= 1	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	_	Zone	Easting	Northing	

#### Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The school is located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 5, T106N, R52W. The boundary is an imaginary line that forms a rectangle encompassing the school. Starting at a point 5 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the school and running south to a point 5 feet southeast of the southeast corner of the school, then running west across the main façade of the building to a point 5 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the school, then running north to a point 5 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the school, then running east to meet the original starting point at the northeast corner of the school.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary encompasses only the immediate area surrounding the building.

11. Form Prepared By			
name/title Jason Biggins/Historic Preservation Specialist			
organization South Dakota State Historical Society	date 10/16/2009		
street & number 900 Governors Drive	telephone 605-773-6056		
city or town Pierre	state SD	zip code 57501	
e-mail Jason.Biggins@state.sd.us			

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- 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. Key all photographs to this map.
- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items

#### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:

**Washington School** 

City or Vicinity: Madison

County:

Lake

State: South Dakota

Photographer: Jason Biggins

Date Photographed: 11-12-2009

#### Number of Photographs:

1.) WashingtonSchool LakeCounty SD 0001.tif - Looking east at main façade of building

- 2.) WashingtonSchool LakeCounty SD 0002.tif Looking southeast at front and side elevations of building
- 3.) WashingtonSchool\_LakeCounty\_SD\_0003.tif Looking northwest at side and rear elevations of building
- 4.) WashingtonSchool LakeCounty SD 0004.tif Looking west at rear elevation of building
- 5.) WashingtonSchool\_LakeCounty\_SD\_0005.tif A representative classroom inside the building

#### **Property Owner:**

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name

Tom Heirigs

street & number 45305 SD Hwy 34

city or town Madison

telephone (605) 256-0123

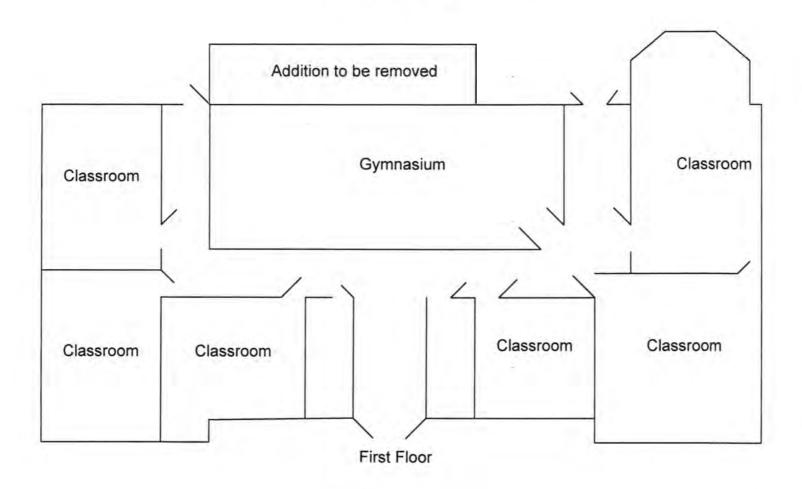
SD state

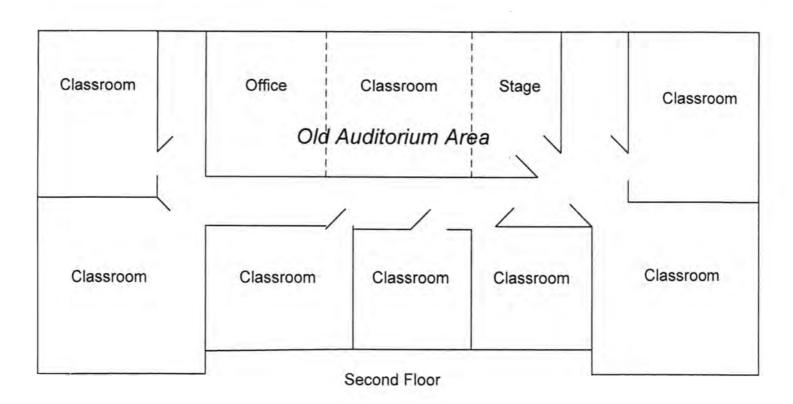
zip code 57042

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 required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

# Washington School, Lake County, South Dakota Interior Layout





# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED A	CTION: NOMINA	TION			
PROPERTY NAME:	Washington Scho	ool			
MULTIPLE S	Schools in Sou	th Dakota	MPS		
STATE & COUN	NTY: SOUTH DA	KOTA, Lak	е		
DATE RECEIVED DATE OF WEEL DATE	ED: 5/14 H DAY: 6/23 KLY LIST:		DATE OF	PENDING LIST 45TH DAY:	: 6/08/10 6/28/10
REFERENCE N	UMBER: 100004	11			
REASONS FOR	REVIEW:				
OTHER: / N	and the second s	N PERIO	D: N	LESS THAN 50 PROGRAM UNAP NATIONAL:	
COMMENT WAIT	VER: N			0	
ACCEPT	RETURN	REJEC	T 6.5	8- <i>1</i> 0 date	
ABSTRACT/SUI	MMARY COMMENTS				
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If a nomination	tion is return is no longer u	ed to the	nominat ideratio	ing authority n by the NPS.	, the



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Washington School - Lake County - 50-0002. +if



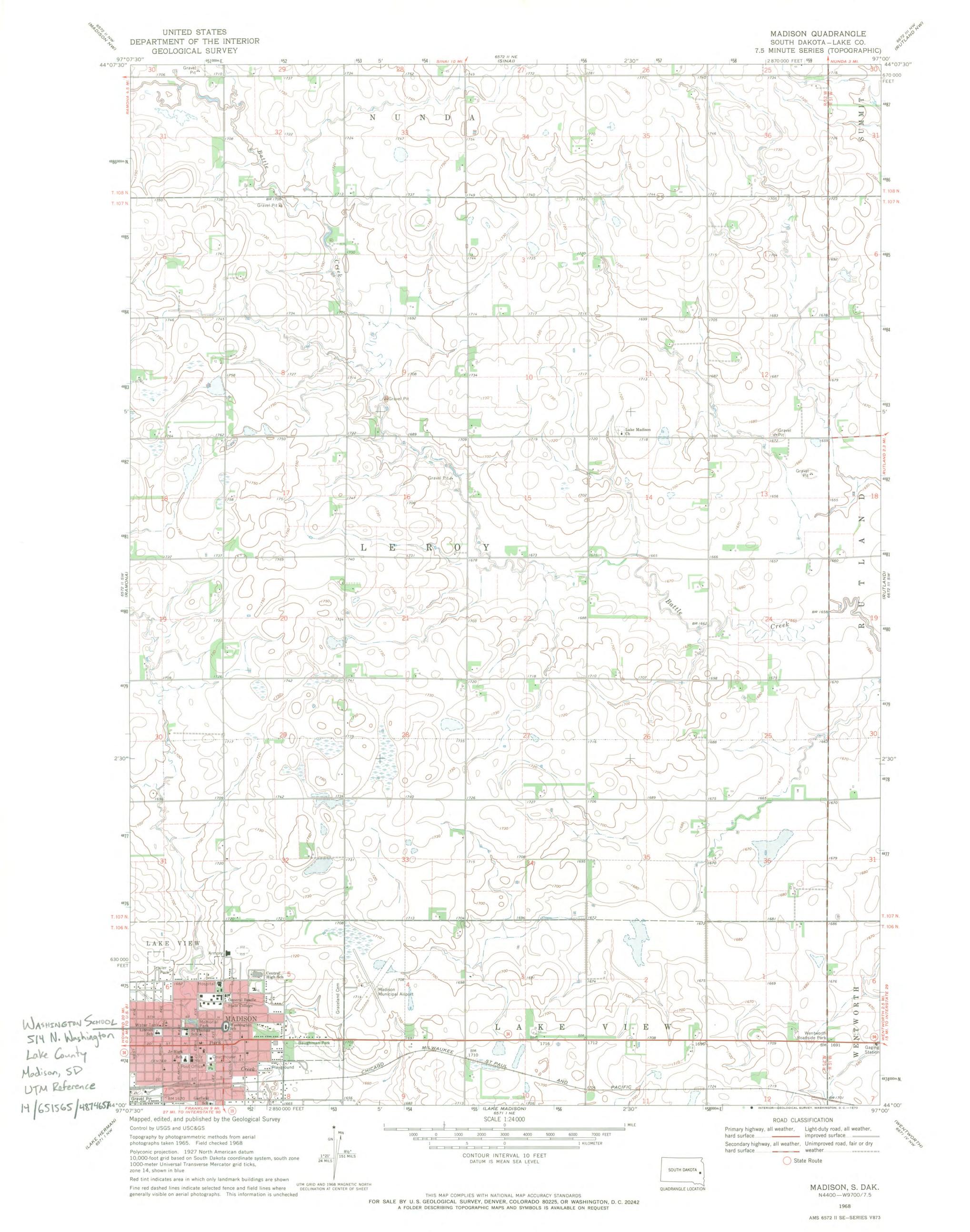
Washington School - Lake County-SD-0003. tif







Washington School - Lake County - 5D - 0005. tif



RECEIVED 2280

MAY 1 4 2010

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



11 May 2010

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

Dear Keeper of the National Register:

Enclosed are four nominations: Rapid City High School, Hilmoe Barn and the The Washington School. Also enclosed is additional information for: The Elster House.

If you have any questions regarding any of these submittals, please feel free to contact me at 605-773-3103 or at <a href="mailto:chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us">chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us</a>.

Sincerely,

Chris B. Nelson

Historic Preservation Specialist

