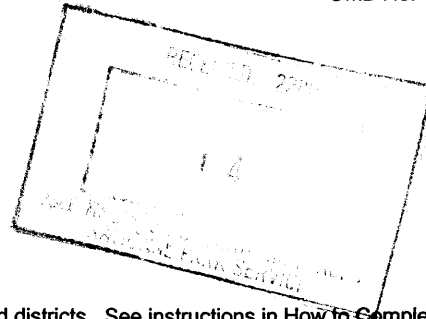


63

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 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 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 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 Gregory Buttes Stone Steps  
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Streets, 200-300 Blocks not for publication n/a  
city or town Gregory Vicinity n/a  
state South Dakota Code SD county Gregory code 53 zip code 57533

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 06-09-2004  
Signature of certifying official Date

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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

**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.
  - other,  
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edgar H. Beall Date of Action: 7/28/04

**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**

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>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

---

## 6. Function or Use

---

### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: Pedestrian related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: Pedestrian related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

## 7. Description

---

### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
Roof \_\_\_\_\_  
Walls \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Stone  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See Continuation Sheets

**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.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1936-1954  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates** 1936

Gregory Buttes Stone Steps  
Name of Property

Gregory County, South Dakota  
County and State

Significant Person N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

(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: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gregory Buttes Stone Steps  
Name of Property

Gregory County, South Dakota  
County and State

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>464610</u> Easting	<u>4787602</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Chris Nelson  
organization SD State Historic Preservation Office date 30 July 2003  
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-3103  
city or town Pierre state SD Zip 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)

Gregory Buttes Stone Steps  
Name of Property

Gregory County, South Dakota  
County and State

---

## Property Owner

---

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

name City of Gregory  
street & number PO Box 436 telephone 605-835-8270  
city or town Gregory state SD zip code 57533

---

**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 1

---

## Description

The field stone steps are either single cut stones or multiple cut stones that together form a single step. The top and downhill faces of the rock have been cut flat, with the rest of the stone embedded in the ground. The stones are laid to take advantage of the natural terrain of the buttes, following the relief of the slope. The name Leland McIntyre and the date 1936 are carved in one of the larger stones near the bottom of the steps.

The Gregory Buttes are on the western edge of town and form the western border of the city park. The buttes are actually two buttes with a saddle like relief between them. There is a large water tank on the northern butte and an observation area on the southern butte. The stone steps climb the eastern edge of the buttes near the middle; they wind up the buttes taking advantage of the natural topographic features of the buttes to reduce the steepness. This designed landscape takes advantage of the natural contours of the slope. The steps run from east to west up the slope of the buttes.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 1

---

The Gregory Buttes Stone Steps are eligible under Criterion A as a fine example of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project that employed local men and materials during the Depression.

Gregory County, South Dakota, was organized in 1898 after the eastern quarter of the county was ceded by the Sioux. The lands west of the Missouri River, including Gregory County, had been designated a permanent Indian Reservation by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. Subsequent treaties in 1876 and 1889 released small portions of the reservation and led the way for the opening of the rest of Gregory County in 1904. The town of Gregory was one of the original government towns from which available homesteads were offered in a lottery. Prospective homesteaders flocked to Gregory in hopes of obtaining one of the 2,500 homesteads available. Farming and livestock production are the major occupations of the area.

The Gregory Butte Stone Steps are 110 steps cut and laid on the side of the Gregory Buttes. The field stones were gathered from the surrounding area and cut by local laborers employed by Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1936. The steps wind up the east slope of the Gregory Buttes, leading from the park to an observation area. This designed landscape take advantage of the natural contours of the slope. The steps are surrounded by native trees, plants and grasses.

The Gregory Buttes are the highest and most distinguishable landmarks in the otherwise flat and rolling prairie in Gregory County. The buttes have been used as a landmark for travelers for centuries. The buttes overlook the city park, an area historically used as a Chautauqua grounds, drill field, and baseball field. Residents of Gregory have used the buttes as an observation area for these events throughout the years. The stone steps now link the observation area on top with modern park facilities at the bottom, but the path and its surroundings remain unchanged.

WPA records for South Dakota indicate projects for both well construction and for park improvements in Gregory during 1936.<sup>1</sup> These records are consistent with local recollections as to when such projects were completed. Local laborer Leland McIntyre was working for the Civilian Conservation Corp in 1936 planting trees on the buttes and throughout the Gregory City Park. He recalls that men working for the WPA laid the stones for the steps at the same time; presumably at the same time that

---

<sup>1</sup> South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office. WPA in SD, p. 91-92, Special Collection, SD State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre, SD.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 2

---

wells were drilled on the buttes.<sup>2</sup> McIntyre carved his name into one of the steps at this time; the historical petroglyph remains today.

An executive order created the WPA in 1935. Perhaps the best known work-relief program of the New Deal programs, the WPA operated at the federal, state, and local levels. In 1936, the WPA employed almost 50,000 people in South Dakota during the peak of its popularity. The WPA administered many types of programs, but construction projects dominated its agenda nationwide and in South Dakota. As a result, the WPA spent over \$62 million on construction projects in South Dakota.

WPA programs were far reaching and diverse throughout the state. The WPA constructed a variety of public buildings, from the Governor's Mansion to privies, along with general infrastructure improvements and highway projects. During its existence, the WPA administered at least 150 projects in Gregory County, South Dakota.<sup>3</sup> The majority of these projects dealt with infrastructure improvements, conservation projects, and other temporary employment jobs such as sewing and library projects.<sup>4</sup> The Gregory Stone Steps are some of the only visible remnants of the WPA in the area.

The Gregory Buttes Stone Steps are eligible under Criterion A as a fine example of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project that employed local men and materials during the Depression.

---

<sup>2</sup> Personal correspondence to Bonnie Johnson, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> *WPA in South Dakota*, p.87-93.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p.87-93.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page # 1

---

## Bibliography

*Fifty Years in the Rosebud Country of South Dakota: Golden Anniversary Edition of the Gregory Times-Advocate.* Gregory Times-Advocate, Gregory: SD, 1954.

Golden Jubilee Committee. *Gregory County Golden Jubilee 1898-1948.* Gregory Times Advocate, Gregory: SD, 1948.

McIntyre, Leland. Letter to Bonnie Johnson, 2003.

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office. *WPA in South Dakota.* Special collections, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre, South Dakota.

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is an imaginary line that encompasses the steps. The boundary starts 20 feet from the northeast corner of the bottom step and runs to a point 20 feet off the northeast corner of the top step. The line then runs south to a point 20 feet off the southwest corner of the top step. The line then runs east to a point 20 feet off the southeast corner of the bottom step. The step then runs north to meet the starting point off the northeast corner of the bottom step.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the area historically associated with stone steps. The boundary runs from point to point with a 20 foot buffer in order to include the twists and jogs in the steps as they progress up the buttes.