

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 28 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pennington County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rapid City

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Dakota

046

Pennington

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

___PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Pennington County

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Rapid City

VICINITY OF

South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Pennington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Rapid City

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1974

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

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

The three-story Pennington County Courthouse is 124 feet long and 102 feet, 10 inches wide. It uses a light select grey stock of Indiana oolitic limestone from the Bedford district as its facing material, which appears in block form 12 by 12 inches. The building utilizes terra cotta for its trim.

The architectural firm of W.E. Halse and Company gave the building a simplified Beaux Arts design. The front facade displays four sets of coupled columns with round arched windows between them. These fluted columns are of the Ionic order and support a medallion decorated frieze and a denticulated cornice, and these continue around the structure. The three round arched windows are two stories high with keystones and have a considerable amount of muntin. The main door is of wood construction with number fourteen gauge cold-rolled bronze plates as covering. Iron grill work divides these double door's window panes and opaque transom light. The encasement features floral medallions, a denticulated cornice and a cartouche. The projection of the podium that flanks each side of the steps displays typical Beaux Arts cast iron light fixtures.

The remaining portion of the building is rather plain, with the exception of the fluted pilasters divided by the first and second story windows. These openings are mildly distracting with modern window panes and colored transoms. The third floor windows are smaller and grouped in pairs. The rear entrance features a pedimental surround. Also the major exterior alteration appears here, an elevator shaft.

A pink Kastate marble along with plaster comprise the major interior materials. Some trim and office furniture are steel, painted brown to resemble wood. The most impressive interior features are Corinthian columns, two curved marble staircases on each side of the building and a balustrade on the second floor. At one time the building had a dome, but it was closed off to add office space in the 1960's.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *W.E. Halse & Co* ^{KOH}

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Pennington County Courthouse is the only example of Beaux Arts classicism in Rapid City, and one of the few examples in the state. W.E. Halse and Company designed this 1922 building, and it is one of the city's most visible landmarks. The Bedford limestone wall, coupled columns, and tall, round arched windows created an attractive structure.

Of course, the building is significant as the center of county government, with various offices such as Auditor, Register of Deeds, and Treasurer being housed here. It is also a legal center with the circuit and county judges presiding in the building. Over the years various events have occurred within the walls that shaped the history of Pennington County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Halse, W. E. and Company, "Architectural Plans for Pennington County Courthouse,"
 Located at Pennington County Courthouse, Rapid City, SD.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 642330 4881950
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Scott Gerloff, Contractor

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

STREET & NUMBER

USD-Alumni House

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

DATE

May 1975

TELEPHONE

605-677-5315

STATE

South Dakota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

[Handwritten Signature]

TITLE

Cult. Pres. Director / SHPO

DATE

2-3-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Initials]

DATE

5/28/76

Noting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE

5-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER