

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Erskine School

and/or common Erskine School

2. Location

street & number Sherman Street

NA not for publication

city, town Sturgis

NA vicinity of

congressional district First

state South Dakota

code 46

county Meade

code 093

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

4. Owner of Property

name Meade County Independent School District

street & number 1230 Douglas

city, town Sturgis

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Meade County

street & number Sherman Street

city, town Sturgis

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Site of Sturgis Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion

state South Dakota

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sited on a corner lot and topped with a hip roof, the two-story Erskine School has a raised basement and consists of three sections made of sandstone. The building exemplifies Richardson Romanesque architecture with its heavy masonry construction, crenelated tower, and round arched entranceway and windows.

The main block of the structure, built by Grams and Company in 1901, is a two-story, 22' x 812' rectangle with three bays. Its central tower has a wooden balustrade. Flanking this tower are bays displaying four windows on each level. The second-story windows are double-hung with square transoms while the lower floor openings have round arch transoms. The side facades are two-bay with the windows grouped in threes. These windows also have transoms. Double brick chimneys are located along the north and south walls and each facade has an attached metal fire escape. In 1912, a north (rear) ell was added to the school. The stonework and trim of this addition closely match the original unit. The windows are grouped in fours separated by wood columns on both the first and second floors. Above each column is a rosette. The gymnasium, added in 1926, was also designed to blend with the older sections. Covered with a hip roof, the rectangular gymnasium has four bays comprised of alternating sized windows. A recessed, arched entranceway separates the rear two sections. Surrounding the entire building including the tower is a cornice with corbelling and mouse tothing.

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 1901, 1912, 1926 **Builder/Architect** Grams & Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Erskine School is significant in the areas of architecture and education. The building is one of the finest examples of Richardson Romanesque architecture in the City of Sturgis, highlighting native sandstone through rustication and contrasting intensities of color over the windows and along the water table. Erected after the first school burned in 1900, the building has continued to be the primary educational facility for the city.

As with many late Nineteenth and early Twentieth century public buildings, Romanesque features made popular by H. H. Richardson were adopted including its crenelated tower, masonry exterior and many of its door and window openings. The strong horizontal block, broken by the projecting central tower and rhythmic arched openings create an aesthetic architectural composition.

The Erskine School was named after the Reverend Carroll D. Erskine, who served as President of the Sturgis School Board and was a local Presbyterian minister actively involved in the social welfare of Sturgis' citizens.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sturgis Tribune, Centennial Edition, 1978.

Accounting Records, Meade County Independent School District, pg. 001.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Sturgis

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	3	6	1	8	2	7	0	4	9	1	8	6	0	0
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 boundary of the site is: all of Block 4 including Lot 4A of original town.

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 LeEllen Coacher and Melanie Betz

organization Historical Preservation Center

date March 23, 1984

street & number 216 E. Clark, U of South Dakota

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

date 02/20/84

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 8-16-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration