

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MP 3438

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Roosevelt School
Other names/site number: Belle Fourche High School
Name of related multiple property listing:
Schools in South Dakota (NRIS#64500587)
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1010 State Street
City or town: Belle Fourche State: SD County: Butte
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 x A B C D

Gary D. Vogt 12-17-2018
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
SD SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: Date
Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

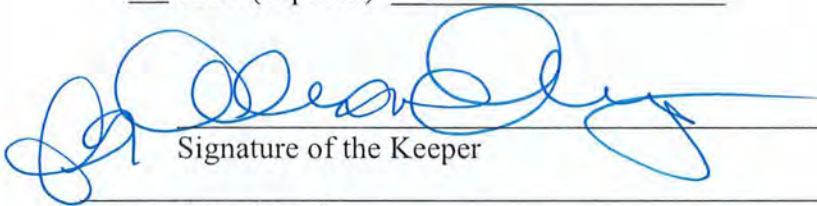
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

3/14/19
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</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 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work In Progress

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Concrete; Walls: Brick; Roof: Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Roosevelt School is located at 1010 State Street. It was built as Belle Fourche's high school in 1921 (addition 1929) and served in that capacity until 1954, at which time it became the junior high school. It ceased being a school in the early 1990s.

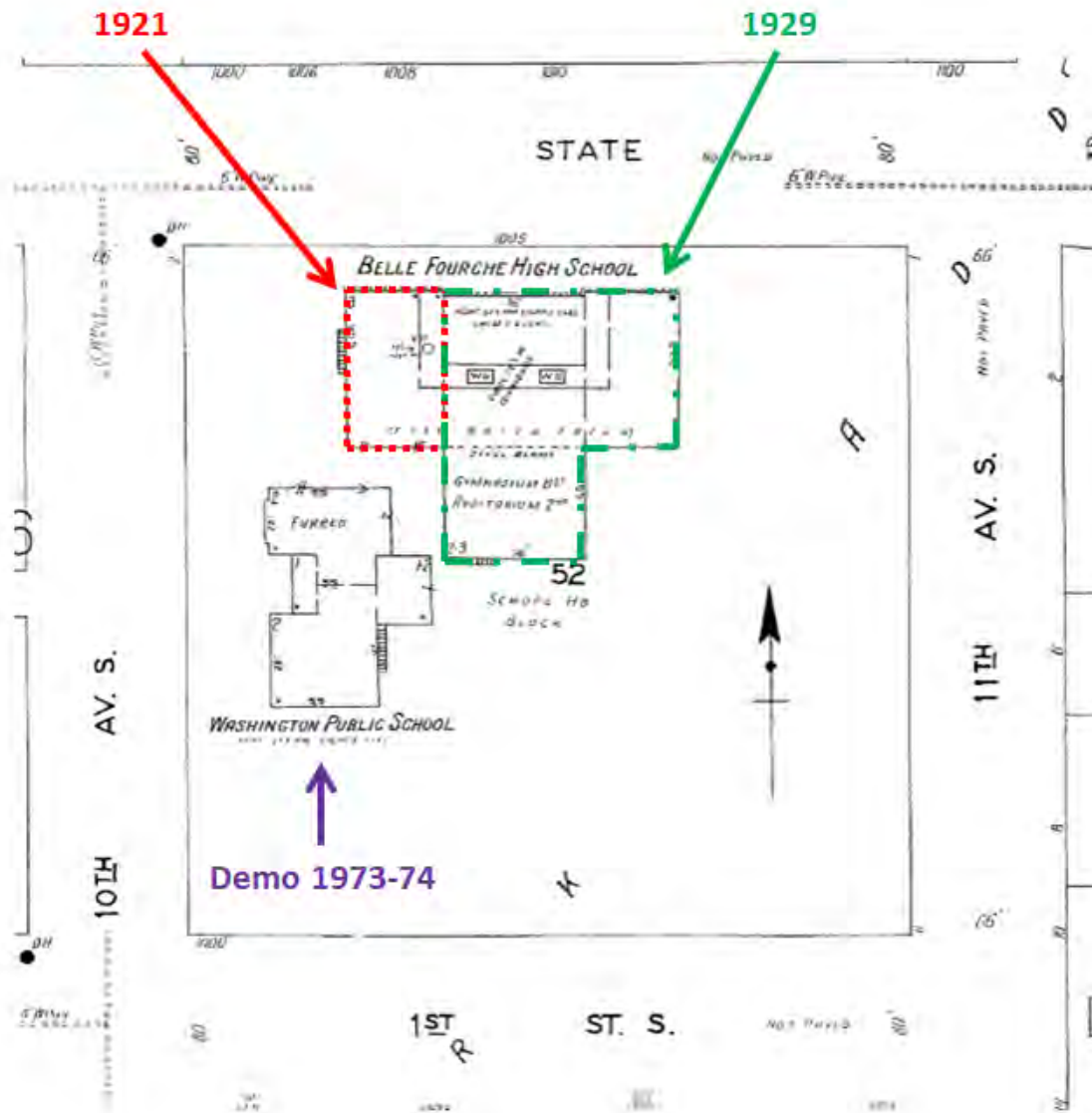
The T-shaped school sits on a block located between State and Harding Streets and 10th and 11th Avenues. This site was also home to the original high school building, known as Washington School, built in 1903 (addition 1907). Washington was a sandstone building located directly southwest of Roosevelt. In 1973-74 Washington was demolished, leaving Roosevelt as the sole building on the block.

Roosevelt is located three blocks east of downtown Belle Fourche in a residential area. The original 1921 portion of the school is rectangular. When an L-shaped addition was added in 1929, the school took its current T-shaped layout. A one-story addition has been added at the rear of the 1929 addition. The building is two-and-a-half stories with a basement level. It has a hipped roof, plaster walls, and a foundation of brick and concrete. The 1921 portion has brick

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laid in a running bond. The 1929 addition has brick laid in a running bond with a Flemish bond every seventh course. Window bays are single, paired, or sets of three throughout the building. Ornamentation is minimal and limited to two belt courses of soldier brick that run around the entire building. Lintels are laid in a soldier bond while sills are laid in a rowlock bond.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. January 1931. Sheet 6. Belle Fourche, South Dakota

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Aerial photo (2018).

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Narrative Description

Setting

The school is centered on State Street between 10th and 11th Avenues. The front of the school faces north. The school has a very minimal setback of approximately fifteen feet. A short, concrete retaining wall runs in front of the school and is interrupted by sets of concrete stairs that lead to the two entrances. The retaining wall continues along the west side of the block.

Deciduous trees ring the east, west, and south perimeters of the block. The open space on the block was once used as a campground for recreational vehicles, with wear patterns in the grass and electrical hookup boxes still denoting this previous use. The east side of the block has a boulevard, but the south and west sides have sidewalks that border the street. Houses surround the majority of the block and the area is primarily residential. Immediately to the southwest of the block is the Parkway Grocery building, a small neighborhood store that was historically popular with students.

General Characteristics

Roosevelt School is T-shaped with a symmetrically organized façade (north elevation). The façade can be divided into three bays; the central bay is recessed slightly. Patterns of fenestration on the other elevations are not symmetrical. Windows were originally wood sash 6/6 and 9/1; most of the current windows are replacement 1/1 under infilled metal panels. Window and door openings have not been altered throughout most of the school. Concrete stairs extend from entrances on the façade to the sidewalk. The hipped roof is comprised of composition asphalt shingles; the flat portions are rock and tar.

Elevation Descriptions

Since the north elevation (front) is the most significant façade, it will be described as one facade even though it is composed of the original 1921 building and the 1929 addition. The descriptions for the remainder of the school will be broken down between the original building and the addition.

North Elevation (front)

The north elevation can be divided into three bays. The west bay is the original 1921 portion. The central bay and east bay are part of the 1929 addition. The central bay is recessed approximately two feet from the east and west bays.

The west bay has an entrance at the east corner. The opening is arched. Bricks of the arch are laid in soldier and rowlock courses. Double metal doors capped by fixed pane wood windows in the arch comprise the entrance. The metal doors are not original and replaced wood doors that contained a single light. The five-pane window transom is original. Above the entrance is a concrete nameplate reading "BELLE FOURCHE HIGH SCHOOL". The keystone of the entrance arch is concrete and forms a pedestal attached to the bottom of the nameplate. Two small pedestal features also appear at the bottom corners of the nameplate and cap a small course of rowlock bricks. Windows at the basement level are single and slightly wider than the

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windows on the upper stories. The first story has two sets of triple windows. The second-story has two sets of triple windows and a set of paired windows above the nameplate.

Each story of the central bay has nine single windows. The windows on the basement level are slightly wider than the windows on the upper stories.

The east bay has an entrance at the west corner. The opening is arched. Masonry of the arch consists of bricks laid in soldier and rowlock courses with a concrete keystone. Double metal doors capped by fixed pane wood windows in the arch comprise the entrance. The metal doors are not original and replaced wood doors that contained multiple lights. The five-pane window transom is original. Windows at the basement level are single and slightly wider than windows on the upper stories. The first story has two sets of triple windows and paired, small windows above the arched entrance. The second story has two sets of triple windows and a set of paired windows.

Original 1921 Building

The west elevation has a metal fire escape that is roughly centered. The basement level has a wood door near the north corner while three windows and a metal door are centered underneath the fire escape. Both the first and second stories have two sets of triple windows.

The south elevation has four windows at the basement level and double metal doors; above the doors are two small, rectangular window openings infilled with metal panels. The first and second stories are identical with two sets of triple windows and one set of smaller, paired windows. The paired windows are set on the upper halves of their respective stories.

1929 Addition

The 1929 addition is L-shaped. For the purposes of this description, the addition can be broken down into the classroom wing flush with the original school and the gymnasium wing extending to the south on the rear of the school.

The east elevation of the classroom portion has paired garage doors and a window. The garage doors are metal. The first story has two sets of triple windows and a single window. The second story has three sets of triple windows and a single window. The south elevation of the classroom portion has a pair of windows, a metal door, and three single windows at the basement level. The first story has two sets of triple windows. The western side of this elevation has three sets of paired windows placed at the half levels.

The eastern portion of the gymnasium addition has a metal double door centered on the basement level with single windows flanking it. The second and third stories each have two sets of triple windows; the first-story windows are smaller. The west portion of the gymnasium addition has a single, a paired, and a triple window on the basement level. The second and third stories each have a paired window and two sets of triple windows; the first-story and basement story windows are smaller. The west elevation also has two engaged pilasters. The south elevation of the classroom addition has a metal door flanked by two single windows on the second story. The first-story has four single windows and a brick-infilled window opening. A modern one-story

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brick addition is attached to the south elevation of the classroom addition. This modern addition has metal doors on the west and south elevations. A narrow, wood addition is attached to the east side of this modern addition. The wood addition has imitation board-and-batten siding and a shed-roof covered in standing seam metal.

Interior

The building was vacant for several years and is currently undergoing rehabilitation. Water damage has occurred in some rooms, paint has deteriorated, and interior walls have been opened to repair/replace plumbing, HVAC, and electrical. However, many original materials remain and can be rehabilitated.

A high degree of historic fabric remains throughout the interior of the building. The gymnasium is two stories with a one-and-a-half story auditorium on top of it. The 1921 building and 1929 classroom wing are comprised of classrooms, storage rooms, bathrooms, and contain lockers in the hallways. The hallways on all floors are single-loaded corridors. Some of the hallways have arched transitions.

Most classrooms, offices, and hallways have original wood flooring and baseboards. Some classrooms have linoleum floors over the wood. Drop ceilings have been installed in some classrooms while hallway ceilings remain original. Fluorescent lights have been installed throughout the hallways and classrooms. Walls are painted plaster. Original doors, most commonly wood with a single light, remain throughout most of the building and retain their original wood trim. Some of these doors have operable wood transom windows. Some original office doors have multiple lights; interior wood windows between office spaces also contain various multiple-light organizations. Classrooms retain original blackboards. Stair towers, located in the corridors of the two main entrances, retain an intact design. The original wood banisters and baseboards remain, and metal hand rails have been added.

The auditorium is a large space. The wood stage is located on the north end and faces rows of wooden opera seats. It projects from the opening and has round corners. The proscenium is a dark-stained wood. Past performers have signed some of the plaster walls backstage. The end cap seats have metal plates with the school's initials "BF". The chairs are in three sections, with the middle section containing more chairs than those on the flanks.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1921-1968

Significant Dates

1921 (constructed)
1929 (addition)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

W.W. Beach (Architect 1921)
William Blatherwick (Architect 1929)
Marshall Engineering (Builder 1921)
Henry Carlson Company (Builder 1929)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Roosevelt School (1921, addition 1929) is eligible for the National Register under **Criterion A** for **Education** and **Entertainment/Recreation**. It served as a high school and junior high school for seventy-three years in Belle Fourche. The sporting events, theatrical plays, and music concerts hosted in the school also filled an important recreation and entertainment niche in Belle Fourche. The school was a hub of community activity, especially from the years 1921 to 1954 when it housed the high school. The period of significance is 1921-1968. The building continued its use as a school until 1994, however per National Register guidelines this continued use is not exceptionally significant enough to extend the POS past the fifty-year cutoff date.¹

Roosevelt School is being nominated in association with the *Schools in South Dakota Multiple Property Listing* (NRIS#64500587). Under the four contexts developed in the multiple property listing, Roosevelt School falls under the third context: *Consolidation and Educational Reform in South Dakota, 1900-1930*.

This building is referred to as Roosevelt School in the nomination. After the completion of Mount Rushmore in 1941, Belle Fourche renamed its four schools after the presidents on the monument – Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Roosevelt. Before being renamed Roosevelt, this building was referred to as the Belle Fourche High School (this was the second high school building constructed in Belle Fourche; a third would be built in 1954). The name Roosevelt School was commonly used during the second-half of the building's period of significance (c.1941-1968). The other schools in Belle Fourche were commonly referred to as Washington, Lincoln, and Jefferson historically. For these reasons, the building is referred to as Roosevelt School in this nomination.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Early School History in Belle Fourche

Publicly-funded education advanced in theory and action throughout the nineteenth century as society acknowledged that the universal right for all children to attend school benefited everyone.² Slowly but decidedly, the movement evolved to provide expanded opportunities across the country, including the frontier. The settlers of Butte County, many of whom came from Eastern states already familiar with educational reforms, established schools immediately as the towns and rural districts of the county gained sufficient populations to support them.

¹ United States Department of the Interior. *National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1997), 42.

² Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr, *Schools in South Dakota National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Listing*. (NRIS#64500587, accepted 30 November 1999), E-1.

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The initial construction of school buildings in Butte County was impromptu with residents in various localities banding together to form districts. The Dakota Territorial legislature had passed laws in 1862 creating the “district” as a unit of school control along with provisions for levying taxes on properties to support school districts (provisions for a per capita tax and general county tax were added in 1866 and 1869 respectively).³ In 1883, the year Butte County came into existence, the “township” system of control was also introduced along with legislation that made provisions for a board of education in every city, town, or village.⁴ Both the district and township models were in use as Butte County developed and began constructing schools. The early school buildings constructed in Butte County were the White School on the upper Redwater River, the little Red School in Minnesela, and the Ingersoll and Beam Schools in the Belle Fourche Valley.⁵ These rural schools would soon be followed by town schools. The principal town to develop in Butte County was Belle Fourche.

When the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad reached Rapid City in the central Black Hills in 1886, the town of Belle Fourche was yet to exist. Seth Bullock, lawyer and rancher, donated a large portion of right-of-way across his ranch to the railroad to encourage the establishment of a railroad headquarters at an early-day stage station called Demores. The railroad built a depot at this location in 1890 and the town of Belle Fourche, which is French for “beautiful fork,” was established. The neighboring town of Minnesela, which had expected to become the railroad headquarters, was bypassed completely and all but disappeared a few years later when Belle Fourche became the county seat in 1894.

Soon after the railroad committed to Belle Fourche, the town was platted and businesses sprung up in anticipation of its growth. One of the citizens’ first priorities was the establishment of a school. Shortly after coming into existence, local leaders gathered in the *Belle Fourche Bee’s* newspaper editor’s office to conduct a straw poll for creating a school.⁶ With the majority in favor, a board was created with E.J. Ford as acting chairman until an election could be held.⁷ In 1892, an election was held with voters passing a \$1,500 bond for school construction.⁸ The Dakota Territorial legislature had granted districts the authority to bond themselves for school construction in 1881, spurring considerable construction across the territory.⁹ This trend continued when South Dakota was granted statehood in 1889, as Article VIII of the state constitution maintained, among other things, that education would be free and open to all and that the legislature had the authority to adopt “all suitable means to secure the people the

³ William W. Ludeman, “Studies in the History of Public Education in South Dakota.” Thesis, University of South Dakota, (May 1923), 382 & 423.

⁴ Ibid, 386.

⁵ Black Hills Half Century Club of Belle Fourche, 268.

⁶ Ibid, 268.

⁷ Ibid, 268.

⁸ Ibid, 268.

⁹ Ludeman, 438.

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advantages and opportunities of education".¹⁰ Importantly, the constitution also gave the legislature authority to levy taxes to accomplish this goal.¹¹

In 1892, Belle Fourche's first school was built on Spruce (now 7th) Avenue. It cost less than \$1,000 and was known as the Gray brick school (this school was later incorporated into a library building).¹² The school term was six months and there were two teachers who were paid \$65 and \$60 per month respectively. Early teachers were Katie Wilson, Edith Cook, and Constance Beach.¹³

The first high school was constructed in 1903 of locally-quarried sandstone. A few years later, the school was overflowing with children, necessitating the expansion of classrooms into Gaiety Hall over the Wide Awake store, in rooms above Smiley-Gay's Hardware, the Congregational Church, and the courthouse building.¹⁴ To relieve this pressure, the high school was expanded with a south wing in 1907 to handle the 207 students enrolled.¹⁵ This school would later be renamed Washington School (razed 1973-74).

Multiple factors contributed to Belle Fourche's growth and school expansion in the early 20th century. Ever since the railroad arrived, the town had continued to grow. Cattle and wool from the area's sheep industry made Belle Fourche one of the most important shipping railheads in the region while its relative isolation on the plains north of the Black Hills allowed it to develop into a regional trade center. Another economic and population boost to the region began in 1905 with the initiation of the Belle Fourche Irrigation Project, a federal reclamation program, northwest of town. The project created Orman Dam and a series of canals, laterals, and drains designed to irrigate over 57,000 acres. With all this economic activity, Belle Fourche's population grew from 451 in 1900 to 1,616 in 1920.¹⁶

Once again faced with overflowing classrooms, the citizens of Belle Fourche committed to building more and larger schools. In 1919, a two-story brick elementary school (which came to be known as Lincoln School (NRIS#01000098)) was constructed at the present 706 Jackson Street address. The school was a basic block form executed with simple ornamental designs. Architect W.W. Beach designed the four-classroom school.

Building the Roosevelt School

A few years later, Belle Fourche decided to build a new high school. Once again, they hired W.W. Beach to design the school. Wilfred W. Beach (1872-1937) was based out of Sioux City, Iowa, though his company, W.W. Beach and Co., worked across the Midwest from "southern

¹⁰ South Dakota Department of Public Instruction, *State School Support For South Dakota Public Schools: A Brief History of the Movement Since Statehood*, (Pierre, SD: Bulletin 2, July 1933) 1-4.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 1-4.

¹² Black Hills Half Century Club of Belle Fourche, 268.

¹³ *Ibid*, 268.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 268.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, 268.

¹⁶ <https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>. Accessed 29 March 2018.

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Illinois to the Black Hills of South Dakota.”¹⁷ He had a South Dakota office in Rapid City that moved to Huron in 1916.¹⁸ Beach was an Iowa native who graduated from Sioux City High School and the architecture program at the University of Illinois.¹⁹ He designed several schools in South Dakota including the Aberdeen Junior High School, Washington Grade School in Aberdeen, the Edgemont School, as well as two schools in Deadwood.²⁰ Beach also designed a variety of other buildings in the state including St. Mary’s Parish Church in Mitchell and the Rapid City Fire Department Headquarters, as well as bank buildings in Fort Pierre, Lake Preston, Philip, Oelrichs, Hot Springs, and Lead.²¹ When he passed away in 1937, his obituary described him as “one of the best-known architect-engineers in the central west.”²²

With Beach’s plans in hand, the city advertised for bids on a brick, semi-fireproof high school building on 5 March 1921.²³ Contracts were let in May with Marshall Engineering of Rapid City awarded the general contracting bid at \$37,136. Heating and plumbing was awarded to John E. Henneberry of Alliance, Nebraska, for \$6,899 and Consolidated Power and Light of Belle Fourche received the electrical award.²⁴ *The Northwest Post* indicated that the new building would be a “two-story structure with a basement, 73.4 x 40.7 feet in dimensions, constructed of brick.”²⁵ The building would be the first of four “units” designed for the high school. Each unit was designed to stand alone, with later units to be added as the need arose. Beach’s plans called for the original unit plus units comprising a gym, theater, and an additional unit containing classrooms and a study hall. The original unit was comprised primarily of six classrooms, storerooms, superintendent’s office, school board room, and boys’ lockers and showers.²⁶

However, only the first unit of the high school was constructed at this time. This may have been due to lack of funding, as the statewide economy was in great distress by 1921. Times had been rather prosperous for Belle Fourche’s and South Dakota’s agricultural-based economy during World War I, but when the federal government dropped its wartime price supports for agricultural products a downward turn began. The Federal Reserve took immediate steps to create deflation and agriculture was the first to feel these negative effects as commodity prices plummeted.²⁷ Land values fell as the products produced on them dipped while at the same time farmers and ranchers that had over extended on credit during the war began defaulting on loans

¹⁷ Timothy T. Orwig, *Morningside College Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination*. (NRIS#97000387, accepted 14 May 1997), 8-46.

¹⁸ *The American Contractor*. v.XXXV11. No.43. 21 October 1916, p.106.

¹⁹ Orwig, 8-46.

²⁰ South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office Architects file. (Pierre, SD).

²¹ Ibid.

²² Orwig, 8-46.

²³ *The American Contractor*. v.XLII, No.1, 1 January 1921. p.42.

²⁴ *The American Contractor*, v.XLII, No.20, 14 May 1921. p. 68.

²⁵ “Contracts Let For New High School Unit” *The Northwest Post* (Belle Fourche), 5 May 1921.

²⁶ “Improved School Facilities” *Belle Fourche Bee*, 12 January 1922.

²⁷ Paula M. Nelson, *The Prairie Winnows Out Its Own: The West River Country of South Dakota in the Years of Depression and Dust*. (Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 1996), 5.

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for land and machinery.²⁸ As defaults mounted, banks began to fail and small towns dependent on farmers' business also fell on hard times.²⁹ As the economy tumbled, school board budgets were squeezed.

Construction on the first unit commenced in 1921 and classes were held in the new building in January 1922.³⁰ There were six classrooms comprised of rooms for French and English, mathematics, commercial science lecture, English and Latin, and a physics room "with a darkroom for experiments."³¹ With the new high school building, grades four through eight were moved into the old high school (Washington); they had previously been housed in the old courthouse and the "Red" school.³² Grades one through three were moved out of the old courthouse and into the "Red" school.³³ After several years of use, the old courthouse was no longer needed for classroom space and abandoned.³⁴

By 1929, there were increasing signs of growth and economic health.³⁵ Western South Dakota's farmers and ranchers fielded decent yields and prices were better than the previous years, allowing folks to pay their taxes.³⁶ Another sign of an improving local economy was an increase in building, which generally signaled economic optimism.³⁷ This economic uptick would prove to be an illusion as hard times set in almost immediately in the 1930s, but this temporary spike in 1928-29 created at least some guarded confidence going forward. These economic factors, along with the economic boost provided by the Utah and Idaho Sugar Company's construction of a large sugar beet processing plant in Belle Fourche in 1927, possibly provided the city the nudge, along with an expanding student body, to finally complete the final three units of the high school.

In February of 1929, the president of the school board asked the city's Commercial Club to support a bond for the completion of the high school. Predicting that home construction would be increasing locally, in turn leading to more students in the district, a plan was outlined to complete the high school and repair the "Gray" school for between \$75,000 and \$100,000.³⁸ The Commercial Club supported the addition, but a 2 April 1929 bond election failed by eleven votes.³⁹ However, supporters redoubled their efforts and the bond passed by seventy percent during a second election held 16 May 1929.⁴⁰ Bonds authorized at \$115,000 were sold to the Minnesota Loan and Trust company for 5¼ percent interest plus a \$475 premium.⁴¹ With the

²⁸ Ibid, 5.

²⁹ Ibid, 5.

³⁰ "Improved School Facilities" *Belle Fourche Bee*. 12 January 1922.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Nelson, 117.

³⁶ Ibid, 117.

³⁷ Ibid, 117.

³⁸ "New Building Units Needed By The School" *Belle Fourche Bee*, 8 February 1929.

³⁹ "Will Dedicate New School January 28-30" *Belle Fourche Bee*. 24 January 1930.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

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bond issue passed, the school district hired architect William Blatherwick to begin working on plans for the addition.⁴²

Blatherwick was originally from Tennessee and graduated from the architecture school at the University of Illinois in 1913. He moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and worked as a draftsman for Perkins and McWayne before forming a firm with George Hugill in 1921. Hugill and Blatherwick worked prolifically across the state designing public and commercial buildings as well as residences. The firm designed several educational buildings including schools and/or school additions in Bridgewater, Bradley, Yankton, Freeman, Lake Preston, Kadoka, and De Smet. The firm also designed four notable courthouses during the 1930s (Clark, Hughes, Ziebach, Lake) and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in Pierre. Blatherwick died in 1960 and is buried in Sioux Falls.⁴³

The 1929 addition completed the unbuilt portions originally conceived in 1921. What is not clear is how much Blatherwick relied on W.W. Beach's original plans. Though the original 1921 school building unit and the 1929 addition are only eight years apart, standards in education were evolving rapidly in South Dakota during this period. In 1915, the state legislature passed laws regulating the standardization of items such as classroom doors, window-to-floor area formulas, artificial lighting, windows, ventilation, and fire escapes, all of which impacted school design.⁴⁴ Legislation continued in 1919 with financial rewards offered to school designs that followed the state guidelines.⁴⁵ These developments continued to impact school design into the 1920s, making it possible that Blatherwick was hired in 1929 to update Beach's earlier plans. It is also possible that Blatherwick's design for the addition was a new approach.

Henry Carlson Construction of Sioux Falls became the general contractor after submitting the lowest bid of \$69,995.⁴⁶ Plumbing was awarded to the Ives Stokke Company for \$22,490 and the Aberdeen Engineering Company won the electrical bid for \$4,900.⁴⁷ The total cost of construction was \$97,385, though furnishing for the school were expected to add \$10,000 to the final cost.⁴⁸

Henry Carlson Sr. immigrated to the United States in 1900 and began work as a construction laborer. As his construction knowledge increased, he formed a company with William Snitkey in 1919. By 1924, Carlson became sole owner of the company and renamed it the Henry Carlson Company. By the 1930s, the company had expanded swiftly and was one of the largest building companies in South Dakota. After Henry Carlson Sr. died in 1961, his son Henry Carlson Jr. took over as president. In 2006, Henry "Chip" Carlson III took over the company. Over the years, the Henry Carlson Company has constructed several landmark buildings throughout the

⁴² "New Building Units Needed By The School" *Belle Fourche Bee*, 8 February 1929.

⁴³ South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office Architects file. (Pierre, SD).

⁴⁴ Elliot, Mark and Melissa Dirr, E-5.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "Bid For New School is Let Wednesday" *Belle Fourche Bee*, 28 June 1929.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

Roosevelt School

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state along with multiple public, commercial, and residential projects including new construction, additions, and renovations.⁴⁹

The 1929 addition to the Belle Fourche High School was L-shaped to conform to the existing building. The walls were all brick (no clay tile) with the Black Hills Clay Products Company⁵⁰ of Belle Fourche supplying the bricks.⁵¹ The auditorium was specified to be 60' x 60' with a 20' x 60' stage; plans identified room for 600 people.⁵² The gymnasium was designed to be 60' x 80' and included a 45' x 26' basketball court.⁵³ Bleachers and gallery seating called for a 750-person capacity.⁵⁴ Also included in the addition was a study hall and library with floor coverings of "battleship linoleum" to deaden sounds.⁵⁵ Another section of the addition called for eleven standard-sized classrooms, a domestic science room, two manual training rooms, and a boys' locker room.⁵⁶

Construction began during the summer of 1929 and continued into the fall. The new addition was formally opened on 28 January 1930 with a basketball game between Belle Fourche and Sturgis.⁵⁷ Belle Fourche defeated Sturgis 12 to 8 with 700 people in attendance.⁵⁸ The auditorium was also christened with concerts from the Belle Fourche Municipal Band and the Junior and Senior High glee clubs.⁵⁹ Novelties of the new addition pointed out in the 31 January 1930 addition of the *Belle Fourche Bee* included an electric clock and bell system for every room, 350 lockers recessed into the wall, and a telephone booth in the reception room.⁶⁰ With the new addition, the Belle Fourche high school building became the largest, most modern school in the district.

Sometime after construction, the high school and three other schools in Belle Fourche were renamed for the four presidents featured on Mount Rushmore. The high school (1921, addition 1929) was renamed Roosevelt while the old sandstone high school (1903, addition 1907) turned middle school was renamed Washington (demolished 1973-74)⁶¹. The two-story brick elementary school (1919) located at the current address of 706 Jackson was renamed Lincoln School (ceased use as school pre-1989).⁶² Another grade school built in 1950 was named

⁴⁹ South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office Architects file.

⁵⁰ Plant was located in SW part of Belle Fourche along Highway 85; company mined its clay approximately four miles south of town.

⁵¹ "Bid For New School is Let Wednesday" *Belle Fourche Bee*, 28 June 1929.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "Will Dedicate New School January 28-30" *Belle Fourche Bee*. 24 January 1930.

⁵⁸ "Dedication Of New School Building Held" *Belle Fourche Bee*, 31 January 1930.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Helen Herret, "Schools in Belle Fourche", in *Butte County South Dakota: A History*, (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 66.

⁶² Ibid, 66.

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Jefferson School.⁶³ Due to its modern design, with a low-pitched shed roof, this school was referred to as the “chicken coop” or “chicken coop school” (currently headquarters of the Belle Fourche Police Department).⁶⁴

By 1948, Belle Fourche schools were once again overcrowded. A \$350,000 bond issue passed and a new high school building was constructed in 1954 to accommodate the district’s 1,114 students.⁶⁵ When the high school moved into the new building, the junior high transferred to Roosevelt.⁶⁶ In 1992, the Belle Fourche school district had its largest enrollment ever, prompting the construction of a new middle school building completed in 1994.⁶⁷ After ceasing its use as a school, the property was transferred to Wendell and Mary Anne Johnson who owned and lived in the building for twenty years.⁶⁸ The Johnsons rented portions of the building to attendees of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and carnival workers, as well as using the land around the school for a campground.⁶⁹ In 2017, James and Provatia Pietila purchased the property for \$85,000.⁷⁰ The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation, but several spaces within the facility are being used and public access for class reunions and similar events are common.

Roosevelt School Entertainment and Recreational Value

Roosevelt School was a place of learning for students, but also a socializing institution for residents of Belle Fourche. Small-town schools, especially before the encroachment of leisure-habit altering technologies such as television, served an educational purpose and as the cultural center of the community.⁷¹ Activities over the years held at Roosevelt including athletic contests, concerts, drama programs, graduations, dances, etc. fulfilled an important recreational niche for residents. Activities such as these play a vital role in community life and identity in small towns.⁷² Small-town life, with its pronounced focus on high school life and sports, historically shaped small-town culture along with other important institutions such as Main Street and the church.⁷³ Though somewhat diminished, this culture is still prominent in small towns like Belle Fourche.

Belle Fourche, whose population grew from around 2,000 to 4,000 during the years Roosevelt served as a school, embodies this small-town culture. For many years Roosevelt School – the

⁶³ Ibid, 66.

⁶⁴ Ibid, 66.

⁶⁵ Ibid, 66.; “School Enrollment Hits Record High” *The Daily Belle Fourche Post*, 8 September 1954.

⁶⁶ Herret, 66.

⁶⁷ “Belle Fourche School Enrollment Largest Ever” *The Belle Fourche Bee*, 5 September 1992; “Middle School Complex Nears Completion” *The Belle Fourche Bee*, 20 August 1994.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Bruce A. Miller. “The Role of Rural Schools in Community Development: Policy Issues and Implications” *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, v.11, No.3, (Winter 1995), 164.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Timothy R. Mahoney. “The Small City in American History” *Indiana Magazine of History*, v.XCIX, (December 2003), 318-19.

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actual building – was a large part of the town’s identity. Its role has changed since being decommissioned as a school, but many alumni and residents still associate the building with Belle Fourche and recall activities that demonstrate the historic entertainment and recreational importance of the building.

Many residents remember the concerts and plays hosted in the school’s auditorium. Linda Wiley recalled that the theater series held at the school, including piano concerts, jazz concerts, plays, and singing groups were “top quality.”⁷⁴ Another student, Shanna Howell, remembered participating in the Junior Miss Pageant at the auditorium, while Lindsay Brown recalled her eighth-grade graduation.⁷⁵ Nic Thimmesch recollected participating in several plays over the years, summing up his experience as “good times.”⁷⁶ Several students also commented on the junior high dances held in the auditorium where boys stood on one side and girls on the other.⁷⁷

Roosevelt School and the *Schools in South Dakota Multiple Property Listing*

Roosevelt School fits the broad contexts of the MPL as a standardized high school built during the consolidation period in South Dakota (1900-1930). After World War I, school curricula became more specialized. As a result, modern high school designs incorporated science laboratories, home economic kitchens, industrial education shops, auditoriums, study halls, and gymnasiums. Roosevelt’s design, both the 1921 original and the 1929 addition, reflects this specialization.

Under the MPL, Roosevelt is eligible under Criterion A for its association with educational development in the state of South Dakota. Windows are circa 1970s replacements and there is a one-story garage addition on the building’s rear. However, the survey for the MPL detailed that these are common, almost universal, changes that do not automatically disqualify eligibility. Since window openings are unaltered and the addition is subordinate, the school retains the integrity of design needed to convey its educational significance.

The building is in its original location and its setting remains largely unchanged as it remains the only building on the block. The neighborhood, a mix of residential and commercial, also remains intact from the period of significance (1921-1968). Aspects of workmanship are limited to the exterior masonry, as the building contains very little ornamentation. Integrity of materials – both inside and out – is good with original brick, plaster, wood flooring, etc. retained. Integrity of the above aspects allows for a strong sense of feeling and association both inside the school and when viewing it from the outside.

The MPL’s guidance for eligibility under Criterion C is limited, other than a general offering that schools can be eligible for their architectural significance. Roosevelt, with its common design and utilitarian facades, is not eligible under Criterion C. Many standardized, consolidated schools in South Dakota from this period have more architectural value in comparison. High

⁷⁴ Personal Correspondence, Provatia Pietila.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

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schools from this era executed in Classical Revival, Prairie, Beaux Arts, and Art Deco are numerous and can better convey architectural significance of the consolidation period.

Roosevelt School
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Miller, Bruce A. "The Role of Rural Schools in Community Development: Policy Issues and Implications." *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, v.11, No.3, (Winter 1995), pp. 163-172.

Nelson, Paula M. *The Prairie Winnows Out Its Own: The West River Country of South Dakota in the Years of Depression and Dust*. Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press, 1996.

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The American Contractor. v.XLII, No.1, (1 January 1921).

The American Contractor. v.XLII, No.20, (14 May 1921).

The Lather: The Journal of the Wood, Wire, and Metal Lathers International Union. v.21 (August 1921), p. 24.

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United States Department of the Interior. *National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1997.

Newspapers

The Belle Fourche Bee

The Daily Belle Fourche Post

The Northwest Post (Belle Fourche)

Website

<https://www.census.gov/prod/www/decennial.html>. Accessed 29 March 2018.

Personal Correspondence

Provatia Pietila. 30 June 2018.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BU-000-00258

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 13 | Easting: 591509 | Northing: 4947093 |
| 2. Zone: 13 | Easting: 591607 | Northing: 4947095 |
| 3. Zone: 13 | Easting: 591610 | Northing: 4946996 |
| 4. Zone: 13 | Easting: 591512 | Northing: 4946996 |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
School House Block, Park Addition, Belle Fourche

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary is the area historically associated with the school.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: C.B. Nelson
organization: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us
telephone: 605-773-3458
date: 5 August 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Roosevelt School

City or Vicinity: Belle Fourche

County: Butte

State: SD

Photographer: Kate Nelson

Date Photographed: 12 December 2017 & 10 August 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 28.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0001

Looking towards the SW at the front of the building. Photo taken from State Street.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0002

Looking towards the SE at the front of the building. Photo taken from State Street.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0003

Looking towards the SW at the front of the building. Photo take from State Street.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0004

Looking towards the S at the west entrance to the building. Photo taken from State Street.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0005

Looking towards the NE at the rear of the 1921 portion where it joins with the 1929 addition. Photo taken from 10th Avenue.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0006

Looking towards the W at the 1929 addition's east elevation. Photo taken from 11th Avenue.

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SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0007

Looking towards the N at the rear of school complex at portions of the original building, the 1929 addition, and the modern addition. Photo taken from Harding Street

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0008

Looking towards the NW at the rear of the school complex at portions of the 1929 and modern additions. Photo taken from 11th Avenue.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0009

Looking S down a hallway on the first floor. Photo taken near the entrance.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0010

Looking S at office space on the first floor. Photo taken in the office area.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0011

Looking SE at a classroom on the first floor. Photo taken inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0012

Photo looking W at hallway on second floor. Photo taken from inside the hallway.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0013

Photo looking NW towards the stage inside the auditorium. Photo taken from the corner of the auditorium.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0014

Photo looking N towards the stage in the auditorium. Photo taken from the back of the auditorium.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0015

Photo looking NE towards the stage in the auditorium. Photo taken from near the stage.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0016

Photo looking E at the opera chairs in the auditorium. Photo taken from inside the auditorium.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0017

Photo looking SE at a classroom on the second floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0018

Photo looking SW at classroom on the second floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0019

Photo looking SE at classroom on the second floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

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SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0020

Photo looking NW at classroom on the first floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0021

Photo looking SW at classroom on the first floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0022

Photo looking NE at classroom on the first floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0023

Photo looking NW at classroom on the first floor. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0024

Photo looking N at hallway on the first floor. Photo taken from inside the hallway.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0025

Photo looking NE at classroom on the ground level. Photo taken from inside the classroom.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0026

Photo looking S at hallway on the ground level. Photo taken from inside the hallway.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0027

Photo looking N at hallway on ground level. Photo taken from inside the hallway.

SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool_0028

Looking NW at classroom on ground level. Photo taken from inside the hallway.

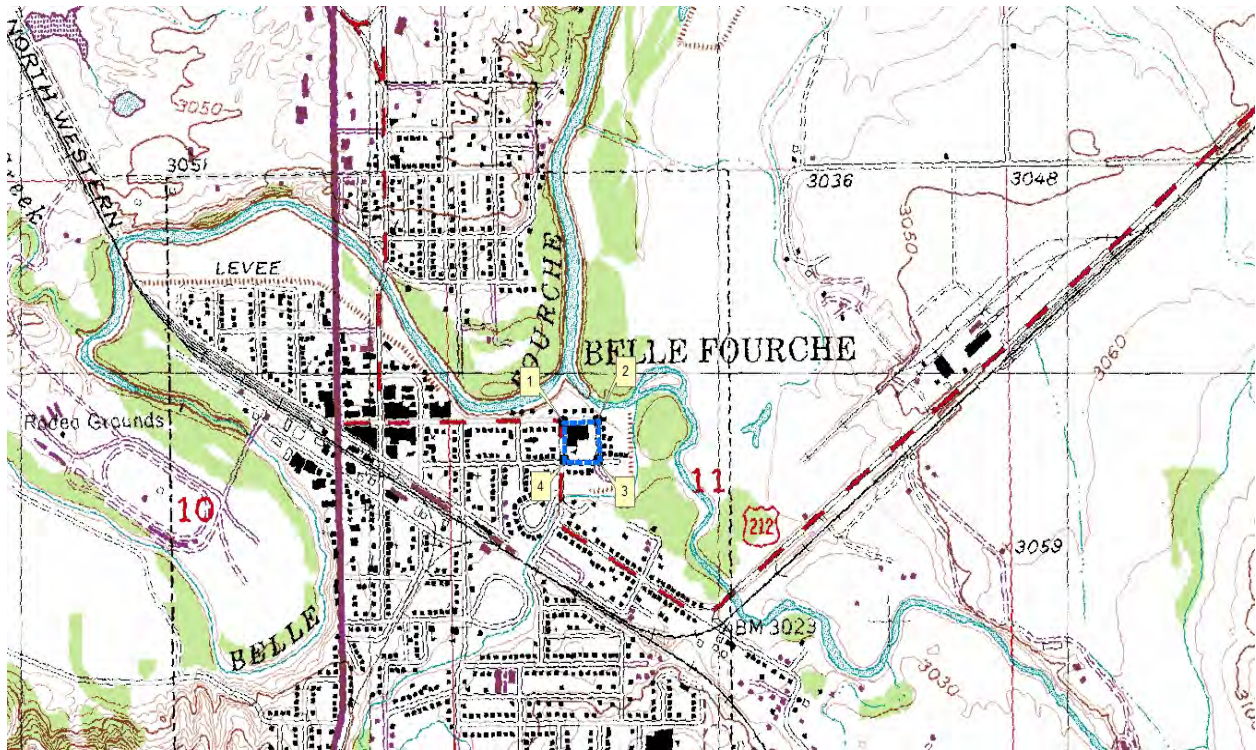
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

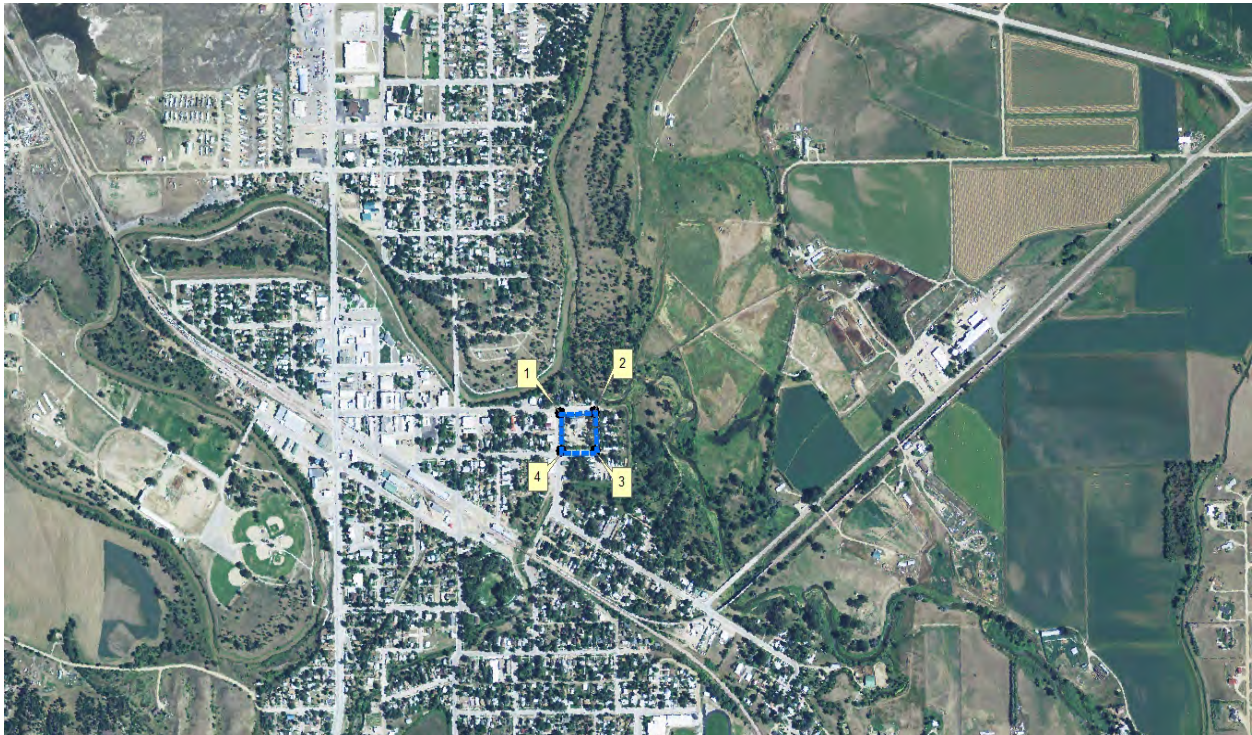


SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool: SE1/4, NW1 /4, S11, T8N, R2E; 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map.
1:10,000. Produced in ArcMap 27 June 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2



SD_ButteCounty_RooseveltSchool: SE1/4, NW1 /4, S11, T8N, R2E; 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map with FSA imagery. 1:10,000. Produced in ArcMap 27 June 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3

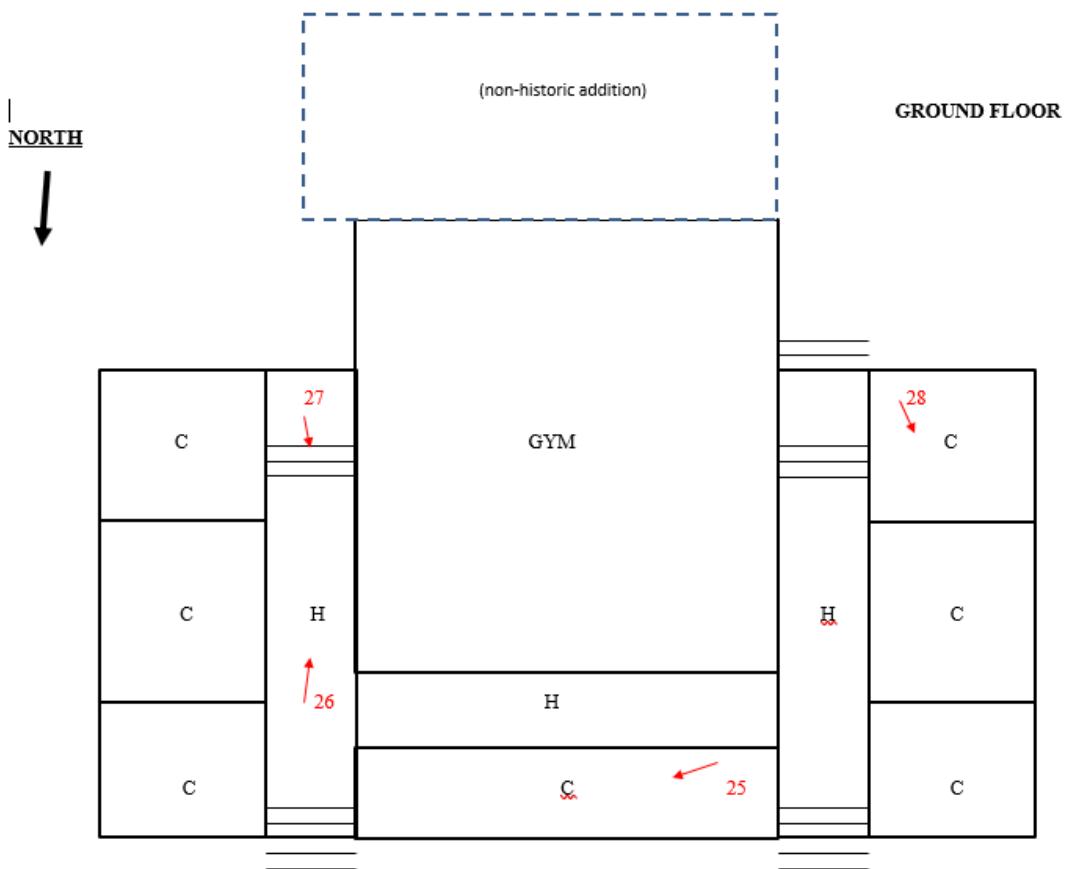
PHOTO KEY MAPS/SKETCHES (4)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

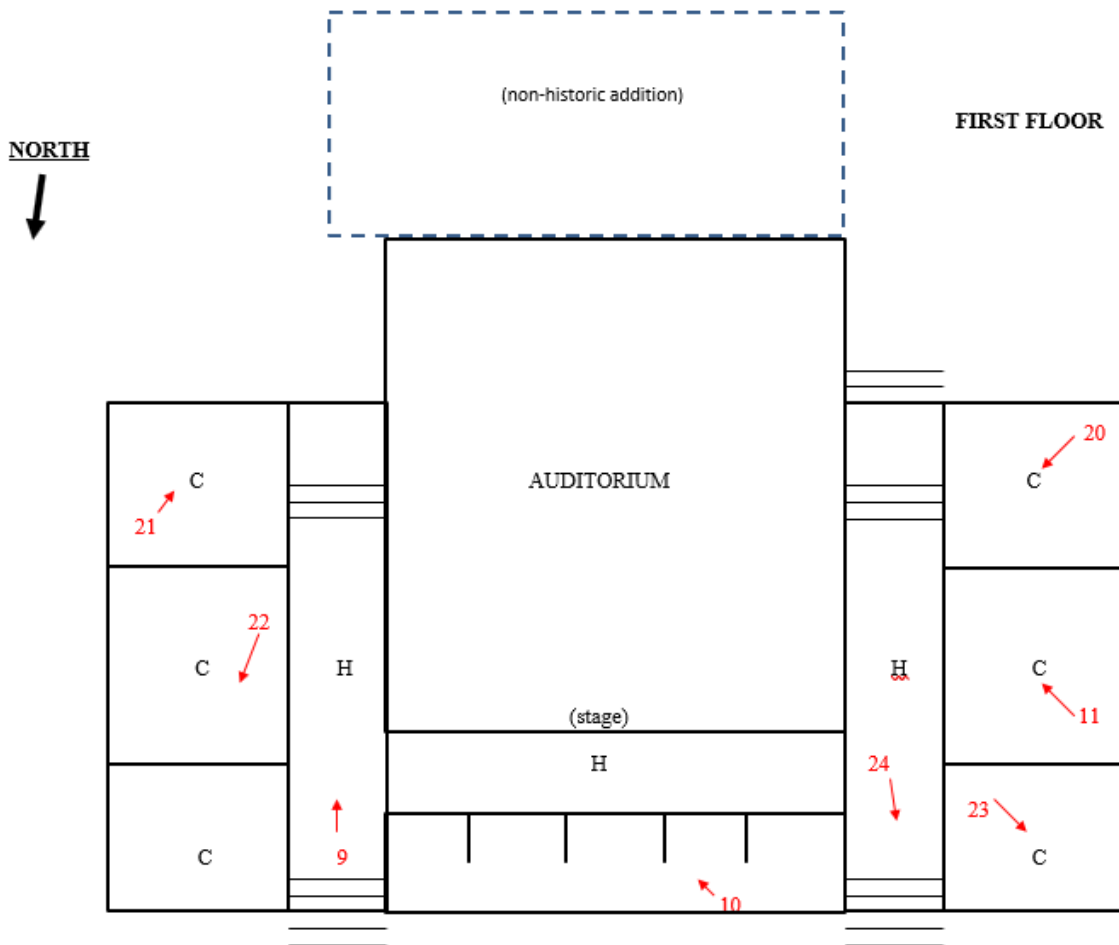
Section number 10 Page 4



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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BELLE FOURCHE
HIGH SCHOOL



BELLE FOURCHE
HIGH SCHOOL



























H

B

F





A man wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt, khaki cargo shorts, black socks, and brown shoes. He is wearing a cap and glasses.

Mrs Smith
Giang
ident in Jafed was here

Red and blue paint can on the floor.

Yellow and red paint can on the floor.



1980s
Lobby Kiosk
Sneeze
Tracy
STPO
+

T-Sizzle
CIAY



Welcome to the
ROSEBUD

Thank you
Mr. Hattner for
keeping me in
school your
student
Arthur Gordon

Mrs. Kahler - Mom
I was here in
the 60's

$$F = 1.8c + 32$$





Happy
4th of
July

WELCOME
to the
ROOSEVELT

White
Blue

Susan Pifer
2/17
CLASS OF 2010

Aaliyah
Thompson
4/11
7/3/14

The Nielson
Biology
8th grade 1990

Remember
Mrs. Gazzo
1977

do
chalk

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Parandak

live
my life



Class of 1981
We were more sexy
We were more fun
We were the class of 1981

NO
SMOKING

NO
SMOKING



EXIT









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/28/2019 Date of Pending List: 2/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 2/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 3/14/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

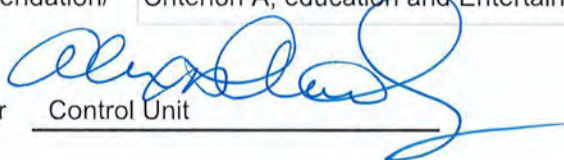
Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 3/14/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer  Control Unit _____ Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date 3/14/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



19 December 2018

Keeper of National Register
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240



To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Dickens Round Barn, Worthing vicinity, Lincoln County, SD
 - Perkins Congregational Church, Springfield vicinity, Bon Homme County, SD
 - Roosevelt School, Belle Fourche, Butte County, SD
 - Chambers Dugout, Belle Fourche vicinity, Butte County, SD
 - First Presbyterian Church of Groton, Groton, Brown County, SD
 - Haakon County Courthouse, Philip, Haakon County, SD
 - Solomon and Martha Hann Homestead, Nemo vicinity, Lawrence County, SD
 - Rapid City Commercial Historic District Amendment, Rapid City, Pennington County, SD
 - Jackson Boulevard Historic District, Spearfish, Lawrence County, SD.
- Number of property owners: 55 Number of objections: 5

Please contact Sofia.Mattesini@state.sd.us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sofia Mattesini
Historic Preservation Specialist