

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



413

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Williston High School

other names/site number Williston Junior High School, Williston Middle School (SITS# 32WI552)

2. Location

street & number 612 First Avenue West (between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets West) not for publication N/A

city or town Williston vicinity

state North Dakota code ND county Williams code 105 zip code 58801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
Signature of certifying official  
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. SHPO

May 16, 2011  
Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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  
 See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 6.27.11

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper

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(s)

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing: None applicable

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK IN PROGRESS Residential multifamily redevelopment anticipated

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT; Art Deco

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Asphalt (BUR), composite shingles

walls Brick/Tile

Steel and concrete structural frame

other \_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

Williston High School  
Narrative description:

The historic building that served most recently as the Williston Middle School is situated a short 2 blocks north from the downtown commercial district of Williston, North Dakota. Originally designated the Williston High School, the building was constructed in 1930-31 according to a design by the architectural firm of Joseph Bell DeRemer, from Grand Forks, North Dakota. The building faces west toward First Avenue West, and occupies half a city block between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street West in Bruegger's First Addition to the original townsite plat for Williston. Surrounding land uses include several churches, a few single-family residences, the large St. Joseph's church and school complex, and the former James Memorial Library to the west (now a museum). The surrounding setting is a combination of civic/social functions compatible with a school neighborhood.

Relative to other nearby properties, the school is positioned close to the west property line (set back just 13 feet) and effectively "fills up" most of the 300-foot by 140-foot site. A series of five boulevard trees (elms and ash, younger than 30-years in age) are placed between the public sidewalk and the street curb on the west. Landscape plantings continue on the north side of the building with a few spruces added to the mix of deciduous plantings. The remainder of the site is either turf grass or concrete pavements for service access at various entrances. A paved alley defines the rear lot line behind the school. Hard-surfaced, paved parking is provided from the alley at the southeast and northeast corners of the property.

The school is a symmetrical 3-story building, constructed of primarily concrete frame structure with a well-detailed brick exterior. The building's architectural style is a somewhat restrained treatment of the Art Deco style. The Art Deco became popular following the 1925, Paris "*Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes*", from which the name derives. It quickly became popular with progressive architects as an appropriate, modern design departure from the more classical forms based on antiquity and European precedents. The Art Deco style in architecture took hold rapidly following the 1933-1934, "Century of Progress Exposition" in Chicago, but the earlier date of this school demonstrates the extent to which the style was already finding prominence, even in somewhat less well-traveled places like western North Dakota.

Defining characteristics of the Art Deco style include geometric motifs, "machine-like ornament" substituted for the more traditional classical ornament, zigzag lines, *bas relief*, and contrasting ornamental metalwork, all evident on the Williston school. Typically the stylistic embellishments were integral to the basic materials of the building; in this instance, brick masonry. Thus, most of the decorative exterior ornamentation is rendered in brick. Prominent North Dakota architects who were "early adopters" of the Art Deco style were typically classically trained (as was the case for Joseph Bell DeRemer) but who

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

wanted to express modern ideas and design values in their architecture (as will be shown to be an inclination of J.B. DeRemer's son and design collaborator, Samuel Teel DeRemer).<sup>1</sup>

***West (principal front) exterior elevation:***

The west (principal front) exterior elevation is organized by a centered entrance element (a modestly-proportioned "tower"), flanked by two symmetrical, three-story classroom wings. Fenestration on each of the wings is, in turn, composed of 8 sets of windows placed between 8 shallow pilasters that suggest classical columns, with their articulated base, shaft, and capital. Terminology used by the design architect on the original construction documents demonstrates the classical derivation of these compositional motifs (frieze, spandrel, capital).

Brickwork at each pilaster emerges from a darker-colored brick base projecting slightly from the brick column shaft it supports. The capitals at each pilaster are composed of darker blackish-brown modular brick (combining both smooth and wire cut or veloured units), in a zig-zag patterned, recessed and corbelled configuration. Pilaster caps are tied together by a continuous band of dark brick soldier coursing that is repeated at the cornice line, just below the parapet cap. The continuous brick frieze is formed of stacked-bond, header coursed modular brick. A subtle but distinctive geometric pattern of reversing interlocked patterning (a sort of "running chain") is imparted to the frieze by slightly darker-brown smooth brick. A similar geometric decorative motif is much more visible on the stacked-bond, header course brick spandrels between each set of windows where the color of the brick patterning is more highly contrasted. All of these ornamental, brick masonry motifs continue on the secondary end elevations, and in an even more restrained treatment on the utilitarian rear and interior side elevations.

The centered entrance "tower"; (its pyramidal, hipped roof clad with asbestos slate shingles in a large diamond pattern), is the dominant compositional element ornamenting the west elevation and features extensive Art Deco embellishment. This entry feature is prominent on the architect's original drawings and in numerous historic photos depicting student activities at the school entrance. Three doors with large-lite glass panels are positioned 4-feet above the surrounding grade, with 8 shallow steps raising the entrance onto a kind of "podium". The entrance doors were originally flanked by a pair of decorative wrought-metal "lanterns". The lanterns were removed at some unknown date and replaced with utilitarian modern light fixtures. A character-defining set of decorative Art Deco "screen" panels made of 1/4-inch steel plate were originally positioned above the entrance doors, in an asymmetrical geometric pattern that abstractly invoked stalks of wheat. A shallow, *bas*-relief cast iron ornamental transom (spandrel) panel was positioned between the door sets and the glazed transoms above.

<sup>1</sup> See discussion in Steven R. Hoffbeck, "Art Deco Architecture in North Dakota," *North Dakota History* (62:4):16-27.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 7 Page 3**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

The entrance "portal" is formed by an elaborate, 2-1/2 story recess, enframed by contrasting dark brickwork. The patterned brickwork is comprised of a series of geometrically set back courses (zigzags in plan), formed of stacked bond header bricks and three courses of vertically oriented soldier courses in a running bond. As the large masonry opening grows smaller, it steps back in two more 4-inch steps, and also steps geometrically upward in three steps at the lintel above the entrance opening. The stepped geometry, claimed by some scholars to be inspired by ziggurats, is definitive of the Art Deco style, as was the geometrically-patterned tracery over the transom windows. Much of this detailing is reflected, at a more diminutive scale, in the secondary (north and south) side entrances.

The central tower entrance element (containing the only staircase that serves all levels of the building) displays three, smaller square windows above the entrance lintel.<sup>2</sup> This entry feature is capped with a shallow pyramid roof with interlocking asbestos-based composite shingles in a diamond pattern. The cornice pulls down above the lintel to emphasize the tops of flanking pilasters, and the crowning pyramid is set slightly back from the parapet. Three, square windows above the recessed portal embellish this entrance. They were once covered with ornamental, geometric patterning (appliqué screen or integral muntins).

At each floor line between the windows (vertically) brick spandrels are formed of stack bond header courses, embellished with a geometric pattern in darker brick that is much more legible than at the frieze. Historic photo documentation shows that for most of the building's life, and especially throughout the period of historic significance, the window system was composed of large sash panels (grouped in sets of six or four) with small lites arrayed 3x3 in each sash unit. Thus, at every interior classroom space, a large expanse of glazing composed of 18 smaller lites in sets of 6 panels would have extended from 42-inches above finish floor at the sill to a full 12-feet above the floor at the window head (8'-6" vertical dimension of typical window openings).

Historic architectural drawings indicate that the original window system was uninsulated steel industrial sash, with casement operating vents at the lower center sash panel. In a few locations the operators were pivot type, rather than casements. On all elevations of the building, window openings have been infilled with notably non-historic energy sash and insulating panels that substantially change the historic character of the fenestration. Exterior sills are dark brown, sloped brick rowlock coursing with ornamental stacked brick header courses at the spandrels between openings.

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<sup>2</sup>

The tower comprises a simplified "lantern" motif that may be identified somewhat vaguely with more formalized lanterns in late-Gothic Revival architecture. In this "democratized" Art Deco version, the pierced and illuminated tower may be characterized more as an architectural allusion to the lamp of learning.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   4  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

***South end (secondary) exterior elevation:***

Materials, details, and motifs used to compose the west front elevation establish the terms of design for the secondary and tertiary elevations as one moves counterclockwise around the building. The monumental front elevation is replicated at a smaller scale on the south elevation and corresponding north elevation, where a 2-story portal surround is detailed with running bond soldier coursing at the recessed entrance portals. Masonry trim at these secondary entrances is accentuated by dark brown hard fired brick with an unusual "branding-iron overburn" diagonal pattern similar to the unusual brick used on the Great Northern Hotel in Devils Lake.<sup>3</sup> Based on contemporary newspaper accounts of the school's dedication, this unusual material was probably shipped to Williston on the Great Northern railroad from an eastern production source.<sup>4</sup> Entrance doors, transoms, and electric lights are unsympathetic modern substitute materials replacing historic Art Deco elements shown in these locations on the construction drawings and in historic photos.

The south elevation is asymmetrically organized with two bays left of the entrance and three bays to the right, formed by ornamented masonry pilasters, spandrels and frieze similar to the front elevation. On all elevations of the building, historic windows on all three floor levels were replaced (in 1981) with large energy panels and small vision panels. Masonry openings remain unaltered, but the compositional pattern of the windows have been substantially changed. Left of the entrance, the lower two floors are blank masonry panels. The brick lintel at the top of the recessed entrance portal is a single, geometric stepped entablature, repeated at the parapet top of this element, similar to the front entrance but with more modest architectural treatment and diminished scale. Historic photos and architectural drawings show that the transoms at the north and south side entrances were originally covered with Art Deco geometrically ornamented metal screens, similarly reduced in complexity from the principal entry.

***East (rear) exterior elevations:***

Continuing around from the south elevation, the patterning of masonry on the east (rear) elevation of the three-story classroom wing is organized by three flush (engaged) masonry pilasters with flush capitals emphasized only by the darker brown color, and not by any surface relief or corbelling. Similarly, embellishment of the frieze is reduced and unornamented except for dark brown soldier courses that continue the horizontal ribbon effect from the other elevations. There are no fenestrated openings on the rear elevation of either the south end or north end classroom wings. Soldier coursed brick, suggesting a "frame" is set flush between each set of pilasters on the classroom wings.

<sup>3</sup> National Register of Historic Places, "Devils Lake Commercial District"; (1989).

<sup>4</sup> *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):13-20.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

The rear elevation is symmetrically organized with the two classroom wings flanking a center, two-story gymnasium/auditorium. Two deep recesses alongside each sidewall of the gymnasium admit daylight to the corridor of the main (front) classroom mass of the building. Historic documentation shows that the east elevation of the auditorium (at the back of the stage) was originally proposed to be constructed with windows for daylighting. Extant corbelling at the top of three center bays suggests that the openings were deleted as a design change during construction, at which time they were replaced with blank brick masonry. Seven shallow brick pilasters are positioned ornamentally on this rear elevation. (The pilasters are not positioned consistently below each of the longspan truss girders supporting the auditorium roof). Slightly projected stacked bond coursing and a change in brick color appear to acknowledge the implied masonry openings on three sides of the auditorium massing. Utilitarian flush doors and exterior stairs provide access from the raised interior floor back down to grade alongside the alley. The only other notable feature of the auditorium element is a square, boiler chimney of brick, extending 40-feet above the roofline toward the south end.

The blank rear wall of the north classroom wing is essentially identical to the south wing. Two masonry openings at the ground floor level have been filled in with slightly mismatched brick. On the rear of the north and south wings, a single flush door provides egress from the third floor by means of an exterior metal fire escape.

***North end (secondary) exterior elevation:***

The north classroom wing is essentially a mirror-image match of the south wing as described above. A two-story portal surround is detailed with running bond soldier coursing at the recessed, stepped entrance portal. Entrance doors, transoms, and electric lights are unsympathetic modern substitute materials replacing historic Art Deco elements shown on the construction drawings and in historic photos. Historic photos and architectural drawings show that the transom above each side entrance was originally covered with a geometrically ornamented Art Deco metal screen, similarly reduced in complexity.

Many of the exterior details are geometric patterns and integrated motifs modestly expressing Art Deco design, particularly the brick embellishments, as are the lintels, pilasters, cornice caps, frieze, spandrels, metal grillworks, doors, windows. As will be discussed in the following "Significance" section, the Art Deco style essentially rendered classical architectural compositions with surface decorative motifs that were integral to the construction. Particular attention has been given to describing these elements in the documentary photos and narrative description.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 6

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

*Interior construction and concealed systems:*

The construction and structural frame of the building utilize the most modern features available for durable fireproof construction at the time the school was built. Concealed features of the building frame are of brick, clay tile, and site cast concrete, with judiciously-placed structural steel where longspan conditions required, such as in the auditorium. The building utilized advanced mechanical systems and carefully planned ventilation, heating and daylighting of all classroom spaces. Concrete tiered seating surrounds three sides of the gymnasium/auditorium space, which originally featured fixed individual "theater style" seating (no longer in place). A set of coiling doors remains in place at the *proscenium* of the auditorium stage (retracted into vertical storage cabinets at the sides of the elevated stage).

Interior floor surfaces are terrazzo in hallways and public entry spaces, with maple hardwood floors on raised sleepers in the classroom spaces. Interior wall and ceiling finishes are constructed of high quality plasterwork. Other intact interior features include black slate chalkboards, extensive custom millwork fabrications (built in shelving units and classroom furnishings), doors and trim moldings. Nearly all of these functional elements remain in place and in good condition. The ceiling in one area of the first floor east wing, originally used as the Public Speaking Room (on the ground floor level near the northeast corner), shows as a more elaborately ornamented, coffered plaster treatment. In other classroom spaces, the concrete drop beams below the structural deck/ceiling have been plastered and left exposed to view. A few doorways and hallways are ornamented with radiused plaster tops (heads of uncased openings).

Interior space layouts on each of three floor levels is organized along a double-loaded corridor running north-south the length of the building's longest axis. Typical classrooms are laid out along the west side of this corridor facing west. Classrooms for dedicated "special academic programs" (home economics, science, study hall etc.) are grouped in the north and south wings. Open stairwells provide access to the ground level and first floor spaces above grade at the main, central entryway and at the north and south ends. The main, central "arrival stair" serves all three levels of classroom spaces with a small room for the "Principal's Office" located at the top, raised half a flight up from the third floor. In a peculiar quirk of space-planning, egress from the upper story (identified on the architect's drawings as the "second floor" above grade) is by means of exterior fire metal escapes, because the upper story corridor does not connect with the main sets of egress stairs at the north and south ends.

Several alterations were made to the historic fabric of the building in the course of a 1981 renovation by Blake, Zieske, Architects. The most notable of these alterations is the replacement of all windows with large energy panels and clear anodized aluminum framing. Art Deco ornamental metal



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   7  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

grillwork originally placed to the outside of transom windows above the three principal entrances was also removed at about the same time. This distinctive character-defining feature appears prominently in historic photos as late as the 1950s. Two large rooftop skylight structures were removed from the east wing, third floor assembly room (study hall) at some unknown date.

Notwithstanding the noted alterations from the 1980s, the Williston High School building retains an excellent overall degree of material integrity, reflecting its historic design and construction methods. Because many of the character-defining Art Deco motifs were detailed in brick, they remain an integral part of the building's architectural expression. The most notable exterior alterations are the replacement windows and the removal of geometric metalwork above the entrances. The interior space arrangements and finish details reflect the commitment to a well-equipped educational facility; a school building that was custom-tuned to the curriculum of the period of historic significance. In its tangible features, the school embodies an important transition in educational design from the 1920s to the 1930s, with increasing emphasis on a more progressive and structured, "scientific" approach to education and acknowledging the potential of high school education to influence civic values.

**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)

Architecture  
Education  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1930-1931 architectural design and construction  
1931-1957 building's operation as a high school  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1931 dedication of the completed school

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Joseph Bell DeRemer; Architect  
Samuel Teel DeRemer; Architect  
Carl G. Steen, Builder

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

See continuation sheets.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   1  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

Williston High School  
Significance Statement

***Introduction:***

The historic 1931 Williston High School building in Williston, ND, meets National Register criteria for statewide significance under Criteria "A" and "C". The property's primary significance is in the category of Architecture. The school building is of high artistic value embodying the very early application of Art Deco stylistic motifs to a classical design vocabulary in an outlying location well away from the states' urban centers of the architectural profession. The Grand Forks-based architects for the project, Joseph Bell DeRemer and Samuel Teel DeRemer are well-known for architectural design excellence in various parts of North Dakota from 1902 to 1955. The Williston High School building is part of the body of work of established architectural masters at roughly the mid-point of a 53 year architectural career that reflects the evolution of the architectural profession in North Dakota during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The restrained, early version of Art Deco style expressed in the school is important in North Dakota because the school may be seen as a precedent for many advancements in school design and in development of the Art Deco style over the succeeding decade. All of these are attributes that demonstrate significance under Criterion "C".

The historical record shows that Williston's location on the Great Northern railroad line facilitated the spread of architectural values, design services, construction expertise, and materials. Methods of construction and the material details of the school reveal both architectural design intent and also the pragmatic emergence of a more progressive, scientific approach to public school education that began taking hold in the northern Great Plains Region in the 1920s, and which continued to grow in influence during the 1930s. Thus, the building is an important link between its architectural characteristics and the secondary area of significance; i.e., "Education" and educational theories that promoted a statewide transition to accredited high schools with standardized and forward-looking curricular content. The statewide importance of the school under Criterion "C" reflects the pattern of events that transformed education, beginning in larger communities and eventually spreading to school systems in all parts of the state.

80 years after the Williston High School's dedication, the building retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity (in its design, material, and setting). The physical "fabric" of the building itself enables analysis about architectural design aspirations and educational purposes. Of further importance, there is remarkably complete and insightful documentation (in architects' drawings and detailed newspaper accounts) of the roles, values and priorities of the architects and community leaders who collaborated in accomplishing a sophisticated school construction project at the very onset of the Great Depression.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

***Historical context and Chronology:***

As the county seat of Williams County, North Dakota, Williston is a regional service center situated on the Great Northern Railroad line that historically connected the northern tier of North Dakota communities with eastern markets and the west coast. The community is closely entwined with the establishment of the railroad, originally chartered as the "St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad". In fact, even the community's name derives from railroad magnate James J. Hill, who sought to recognize one of his more steadfast investors, D. Willis James. Mr. James and his wife accompanied Hill on an early inspection trip in 1887, to the rough and tumble community of construction workers that had previously been known as "Little Muddy", near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Hill wrote;

The outlook for a town was excellent. The natural features were attractive; the stretch of territory of which it would be the natural center was large, and the land was good. To call it Jamestown would have been commonplace because there are dozens of places so named in the country, and the word itself has no fixed significance. Instead of that I named it "Williston".

[The community of Williston] has improved its advantages and grown with the growth of the country that the railroad opened to settlement. It has an excellent location, is the center of a good county, and is bound to keep on growing. In remembering its prosperity and its history, there is nothing that I may recall with greater satisfaction than that it will always commemorate one who had no small share in the founding of its fortunes – the good businessman and the honorable, true and loyal gentleman whose name it bears.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the railroad, Williston's economy has been closely tied to ranching and mineral extraction of coal and oil. Local businessman and civic booster John Bruegger platted the part of the city in which the school is situated. He also operated a local brickyard and kiln that was used to build many of Williston's early buildings. The first important business transacted by the town board was the organization of a school district in 1892, which was affirmed by a special election on May 28, 1894. A January 1898 school census showed that there were 168 eligible school-aged children in Williston. The 1931, Williston High School was part of the lineage of progressive North Dakotans' commitment to education and educational improvement.

***Criterion "A" Contexts reflecting patterns of historical events;  
Public School Education in North Dakota (1926-1936):***

Williams County School District #1 was established in Williston on January 28, 1892. Typical of many communities on the frontier Great Plains, the first school building was a log and frame structure. The second high school built in Williston, and predecessor to the 1931 Williston High School, was an impressive brick masonry Central School building (pictured in many Williston picture postcards as "Williston's second school") constructed in 1899 and expanded in several phases.<sup>2</sup> Though constructed

<sup>1</sup> Bill Shemorry, quoting from James J. Hill's personal correspondence in *Lost Tales of Old Williston*. Williston, ND: self-published; (1986):5.

<sup>2</sup> The "second" Williston High School building discussed in this section existed on a site only about a block to the south and east from the 1931 high school, toward the downtown, and was demolished within a year after the 1931 school building was dedicated. The second school with two wing additions is extensively documented in postcards and ephemera.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

mostly of brick and stone masonry, the school building that preceded the 1931 school exhibited many architectural features that reflected "old school" thinking about education, including an essentially ornamental belltower, continued from Victorian architectural traditions.

In 1903-1904, Williston was recognized as a state high school of the third class; the lowest classification for a state-accredited school, but still with higher merit than unaccredited rural schools. (In the succeeding three years, the Williston High School accreditation was successfully raised to second and first class in 1907.) An additional 3-story school, first dedicated as "Westlawn" and later renamed Webster School after elementary teacher Elizabeth Webster, was built in 1909, primarily serving the younger grades. In 1911, Williston High School was first accredited for college preparatory work by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This represented an additional step up from the state accreditation. "The graduates from Williston high school are found in many states and in many positions of importance and trust. Among all of our graduates it is natural that we first like to claim Governor Schafer [*sic*] of this state [actually George F. Shafer], a member of the class of 1908."<sup>3</sup> By 1912-1916, enrollment at the old Central school had grown by more than 200 students, to a total enrollment of more than 870, requiring additions of two (north and south) classroom wings. Enrollment in the Williston school district continued to increase, from 666 students in 1910, to 1496 students in 1936. By 1928, the 1906 Central School, with its 1912 and 1916 wing additions, was overcrowded and the old building's insufficiencies were criticized by the North Central Association accrediting agency, necessitating a public commitment to a new school facility.

In 1931, *The Williston Herald* special School Dedication issue proudly proclaimed, "the value of a high school education, so far as those are concerned who wish to continue on through college and university, is largely determined by the extent to which the work done in such high schools is accepted or accredited by other institutions. The Williston high school is now and has been for years accredited by the state department as a first class high school."<sup>4</sup> But, arguably the most significant advancement in public school education in Williston and the northwestern counties of North Dakota was the community's commitment to financing, planning, and construction of a new, fully-modern high school facility.

A new high school building was originally planned as far back as 1922. In that year an election was held to increase the debt limit of this school district, and another election was held on issuing bonds in the sum of \$115,000 for this purpose. It was planned from the beginning that a new building ought to contain an auditorium available for public functions. This demanded that the building be easily accessible from the down town district. Finally, that the new building ought to be reasonably close to the Public library, the largest use of which is by students in connection with their school work. After careful consideration by the

<sup>3</sup> *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):19. Correct spelling of the name "Shafer" is relevant, inasmuch as George F. Shafer was unrelated to later North Dakota Governor Ed Schafer. Williston's Governor Shafer was the first native-born North Dakotan to serve as the state's governor, and importantly, it was during his administration that the new Art Deco state capitol building was constructed to replace the earlier capitol building destroyed by fire.

<sup>4</sup> *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):18.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

board, it was finally decided to submit to election the question of voting \$210,000.00 in bonds for a new high school building. This election was held on December 6, 1929, at which a total of 414 votes were cast, 391 for the bond issue and 83 against. About six weeks later Mr. Joseph Bell DeRemer, architect, of Grand Forks, North Dakota, was employed to submit plans for a building in accordance with the educational needs of the high school, and on the basis of the finances available.<sup>5</sup>

In the decade following the design and construction of the "third" Williston High School (that is, DeRemer's design for the 1931 building) state and federal agencies actively promoted a new, more scientific approach to curriculum, planning, and design of school facilities. Foundations for the expansive and ambitious "New Deal" approach to education had been laid by a "better schools" campaign in the 1920s, led by the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and promoted in architectural publications of that time. During the period following the First World War (1918-1928) an effort was made to catch up on the construction of school buildings. Following World War I, increased emphasis was placed on auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, science laboratories, social science rooms, art rooms, music rooms, home-economics laboratories, industrial-art rooms, agricultural laboratories, and other special activities geared toward one of four "curricular tracks".<sup>6</sup> Much attention was directed toward daylighting, ventilation, sanitary finishes, and fireproof construction. Thus, the small number of larger school buildings constructed just prior to the depression in communities like Williston, embody an important, emergent way of thinking about school design and the impact of architecture on student learning.<sup>7</sup>

Elwyn Robinson's *History of North Dakota* summarizes with respect to statewide commitment to educational improvement, "by every measure – schools were the state's most important cultural activity."<sup>8</sup> North Dakota spent proportionally more on schools than most of the states in the nation. High schools located in towns were more easily improved than were the rural common schools. Town schools had longer school terms, more adequate programs, and better trained and paid teachers. A higher standard for teacher qualifications was possible in the state's accredited high schools by virtue of a substantial investment in education by local taxpayers.

As State School Superintendent from 1927-1932, Bertha Rachel Palmer promoted improved teacher qualifications. Working under a continuing appointment by Governor George F. Shafer, an earlier graduate of the Williston school system, State School Superintendent Palmer, organized a series of "Better School" rallies throughout the state. Important advancements were made in the public commitment to

<sup>5</sup> *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):13.

<sup>6</sup> Alice Barrow, in C.W. Short and Randolph Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-39*, (1939). Although the date of this retrospective publication is 10-years after the Williston school's planning was commenced, it reflects emergent thinking that influenced school design in 1930.

<sup>7</sup> Another good, comparative example of a similarly ambitious local commitment to improved school facilities with architectural sophistication, was undertaken at the very onset of the Great Depression in Lakota, North Dakota. The difficult timing of public investment in these progressive schools must be considered within the context of later federal investment in schools statewide as part of New Deal federal relief construction.

<sup>8</sup> Elwyn B. Robinson. *History of North Dakota*, (2009, reprint):476-9.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

improved educational infrastructure under her guidance and initiative. A graduate of the Mayville (North Dakota) State Normal School, Bertha Rachel Palmer was a liberal Progressive, a temperance leader, and a vigorous promoter of educational improvement. She was also an enthusiast for the quality of civic life in western North Dakota settings, and reflected on that quality of life in her book *Beauty Spots in North Dakota*. In 1931, State Superintendent Palmer attended the Williston school dedication at the behest of Williston newspaper owner and editor Thomas F. Moodie.<sup>9</sup> Her role in planning the modern Williston High School building reflects important advancements in curricular standardization and improvement of public school education in North Dakota, enabling the state to stay current with national trends.

By virtue of taxpayer investment, Williston High School had a very highly qualified faculty when the new school opened in January 1931. Of the 18 faculty members profiled in the newspaper summary, all but the vocational agriculture instructor had college degree credentials that reflected favorably on the high school's first class accreditation by the North Central Association. In 1931, five Williston teachers were graduates of Valley City State Normal School, and the others had degrees from equally well-respected regional four-year universities. The dedicatory newspaper "Special Edition" insert is replete with details of the school district's commitment to the cause of improved public school education, stating, "we believe that the Williston schools are fortunate in the high quality and excellent qualifications of its teaching personnel." Mr. J. N. Urness was superintendent of the Williston schools during the planning and construction of the new 1931 high school facility.

On a broadsheet page titled, "High School Curricula", the *Williston Herald* outlined the four tracks along which the curriculum at Williston High School was to be organized; the Commercial Course, an Academic Course, a Teachers' Training Course, and a general course. These four "tracks" were augmented by a substantial Department of Vocational Agriculture, a progressively forward-looking Division of Home Economics, programs focused on Physical Education and Athletics, and Music.<sup>10</sup> In a paid newspaper advertisement coinciding with the dedication of the Williston High School he designed, Joseph Bell DeRemer wrote:

The modern school concerns itself with more than the teaching of letters. It guards and promotes health and cleanliness; instills ideals and taste into unfolding minds; lays the foundations of good citizenship; teaches children how to play clean, fair, and invigorating games and how to use leisure time to advantage; it also teaches such practical things as manual training, sewing and cooking and develops such cultural interests as drawing, painting and music.

Only the competent Architect is fitted by training and experience to evolve school buildings that fulfill their intended purposes. Plenty of light, adequate heating, clean pure air, and absolute sanitation – these are fundamental health essentials for growing boys and girls. As the Architect provides for class rooms,

<sup>9</sup> Moodie was, himself, elected North Dakota governor in 1934, although his eligibility to serve was contested and annulled in a state Supreme Court decision.

<sup>10</sup> *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):14.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

study rooms, assembly rooms, laboratories and gymnasiums, each of these factors must be present . . . developing not only the practical [aspects] of room arrangement and construction, but evolving, at the same time, a cheerful attractiveness within and an appearance of quiet, simple dignity without. 11

These priorities matched up particularly well with the emphasis on modern school planning from DeRemer's architectural education at Columbia University. Increasingly, school design by North Dakota architects emphasized durable fireproof construction, daylight and ventilation, and specialized classroom facilities for programs like science, home economics, and the performing arts. Careful attention to the school's auditorium, stage, and performance components may be attributable to the educational background of Samuel Teel DeRemer, who contributed to the DeRemers' practice through the design of several later auditorium additions in various communities statewide. A chapter by Alice Barrow in C.W. Short and Randolph Stanley-Brown's 1936 retrospective assessment of trends in school design highlights the emergent thinking:

The planning of special classrooms [for choral, band, instrumental music, science, home economics] should be carried on in close cooperation with the teachers. One of the units in the school building that is essential for a modern education program is the gymnasium, the location of which is very important. In recent years it has come to be recognized that the school should be the community center of the neighborhood and that the auditorium should be constructed for use both by the school and by the community as a school theater in which plays, concerts, lectures, and motion pictures may be presented. Architects are only just beginning to realize that the modern school auditorium must be planned on altogether different lines from the old assembly hall. 12

The 1931, Williston High School building contributed greatly to the quality of education delivered by the Williston school system for the next 25 years. Historical accounts of public events and activities at the Williston High School from 1931 to 1956, are depicted in each annual edition of the *Williston Coyote* yearbook. Many photos of class activities and student organizations are shown on the front steps of the school building so proudly dedicated by the community in 1931. The *Williston Herald* special edition justifiably illustrated some of the more forward-thinking architectural features alongside the community's testimonial on behalf of the quality of its teachers, the civic and educational value of advanced curriculum, the architectural sophistication and high quality of school construction, and the appreciation of the community's financial investment in learning at an increasingly difficult economic time. Local pride and affirmation of these values reflect the important patterns of events associated with the property's significance under Criterion "A" for its embodiment of advancements in North Dakota Public School Education between 1926 and 1936. The dates of planning, design, and construction of the Williston High School fall neatly within this broader, contextual timeframe of educational improvement statewide.

<sup>11</sup> Joseph Bell DeRemer, in the *Williston Herald*, (March 5, 1931):17. This important excerpt, reflecting on the architect's motivations in meeting the needs of the school district client, is reproduced as an appendix Figure in the Additional Documentation section of this nomination.

<sup>12</sup> Alice Barrow, excerpts from Short, C.W. and R. Stanley-Brown. "Schools", (Chapter 8), *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-39*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; (1939). Also, see discussion of 1920s leading-edge "school architecture" in Paul Monroe's *A Cyclopedia of Education*. New York: The MacMillan Company; 1919. pp. 183-196.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

*Criterion "C" Context; architecture*

*work of a known master, Art Deco design style, and insights into construction methods:*

The Williston High School is an excellent example of the architectural work of the Grand Forks firm of Joseph Bell DeRemer; accepted (by prior scholarship) as masters of the design profession based on projects statewide and regionally. Careful examination of the Williston school building through the lens of historical analysis adds insight into the way the DeRemer firm worked, its relationship with public clients, trends in the architectural profession during the transitional period of 1924 to 1934, and the introduction of the Art Deco architectural style in the state of North Dakota.<sup>13</sup> The dates for the architectural design of the Williston High School (1929-1930) place it as one of the very first experimental instances of use of Art Deco ornament that grew in prominence on work of the DeRemer firm over the next decade. The DeRemers advocated the Art Deco as a preferred "internationally-influenced" style, "distinctly modern, and based upon simplicity and economy".<sup>14</sup> These were all traits well-suited to public investment in a 1929-1931 educational facility.

**Biographical summary of Architects Charles Bell DeRemer (1871-1944) and Samuel Teel DeRemer (1894-1967)**<sup>15</sup>

Joseph Bell DeRemer was born September 14, 1871, in the small town of Montana, Warren County, New Jersey, the son of James K. and Nancy (Bell) DeRemer. Joseph Bell DeRemer emerged from a tradition in carpentry and building which his family had practiced for six generations. J. B. DeRemer worked as a carpenter from 1886 to 1896, in Warren County and became a master of the trade, working with his father and brothers. His skills and talents in carpentry so impressed friends that they encouraged DeRemer to pursue architecture. Interested by the idea, DeRemer enrolled at Columbia University in a special one-year course in architecture taught by Columbia Professor William Robert Ware.<sup>16</sup> His creative talents and technical skills in the building trades eventually took him to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he created for himself an illustrious and prosperous architectural practice. Joseph Bell DeRemer married Miss Elizabeth Myers on November 11, 1891, in Stewartville, Warren County, New Jersey. The couple had two children, including a son (Samuel; born May 15, 1894) who eventually became qualified as an architect and joined his father's Grand Forks architectural practice.

In June 1897, DeRemer concluded his Columbia University training and returned to Warren County

<sup>13</sup> The 1928 Ward County Courthouse in Minot (Toltz, King and Day, Architects) is often cited as the earliest building in North Dakota to have been influenced by the Art Deco, following close on the heels of the 1925 Paris Expo. Los Angeles is cited as "rich in Art-Deco architecture", although the dates by which DeRemer and son left southern California indicate that they would likely not have experienced much of its decorative motifs before the 1925 Expo from which the style takes its name.

<sup>14</sup> Steven Hoffbeck, in Grand Forks "United Lutheran Church" NRHP nomination; (1991).

<sup>15</sup> Source: UND OGL Special collections and NDIRS finding aids (20101), and *Grand Forks Herald* obituaries. The Joseph Bell DeRemer Papers were deposited in the Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection by Stanley Johnson, UND Art Department, on March 11, 1982 (Acc.#82-964) and Joe B. DeRemer, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, on March 25, 1982 (Acc.#82-967).

<sup>16</sup> Together with programs at MIT, Cornell, Illinois State at Champaign, Tulane and others, the architectural program at Columbia (begun in 1881) was modeled closely after the classically based École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. see, Paul Monroe (ed.); 1919):182.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   8  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

to establish a fledgling architectural practice. It is believed that between the time of his return to Warren County in 1897 and his departure westward in 1902, DeRemer had already completed 78 commissions in New Jersey. The "professionalization" of architecture in terms of design and scientific thinking was growing in public acceptance in urban centers of the eastern United States, and soon after, in the 1910s there was a strong trend toward credentialing of architects in the Midwest and Great Plains regions. DeRemer's relocation to Grand Forks was largely accidental, prompted by an initial resolve to move to the West Coast in order to find better architectural opportunities. Upon arriving in Grand Forks on March 3, 1902, DeRemer was convinced by pharmacist-businessman D.H. Beecher (who had himself relocated from Crookston to Grand Forks) to stay and participate in the town's growth and booming economy. A few months later, DeRemer secured the commission to build the President's house (later renamed Oxford House) at the University of North Dakota. Joseph Bell DeRemer was the architect for several carefully coordinated and well-crafted buildings at the University of North Dakota including the Presidential Oxford House, Woodworth Hall, Commons Building, Liberal Arts Building, Merrifield Hall, Delta Gamma Sorority, and Sigma Nu Fraternity.<sup>17</sup>

*Joseph Bell DeRemer's early work in the Classical Revival style:*

By 1904, DeRemer had become such a prominent member of the Grand Forks community that he was featured in the Silver Anniversary Issue of the *Grand Forks Herald*. In 1906, he joined the town's influential people by moving to a new residence he designed for himself on Belmont Road. By 1912, his buildings were a crowning achievement throughout the state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. His Grand Forks buildings from 1902 to 1912, exhibit Classical and Renaissance Revival detail and proportions. Joseph Bell DeRemer was one of the first generation of registered architects in North Dakota. He was active in the professional association American Institute of Architects and effectively promoted the value of architectural services.

According to a biographical summary of DeRemer's architectural career accompanying many of the firm's drawings and papers at the Orin G. Libby Special Collections in the University of North Dakota library, notable DeRemer projects in Grand Forks included the Y.M.C.A., the Clifford Building, the Grand Forks Public Library (all of which have been razed), the Ontario Store (the R.B. Griffith building), the Corliss Block (Panovitz Store), the Widlund Block, the Masonic Temple, the New Hampshire Apartments, the Elks Lodge, the Central High School Gym, and the addition to the Presbyterian Church. Additionally, the senior DeRemer designed many other buildings, including a substantial number of schools in various cities in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

<sup>17</sup> These properties were National Register listed in 2010 as part of the University of North Dakota Campus Historic District nomination.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

In 1912, Joseph Bell DeRemer left Grand Forks for Los Angeles, California, to expand upon his architectural vision. He practiced architecture successfully in Los Angeles from 1912-1919. However, this relocation did not completely sever ties with North Dakota, as he designed the North Dakota State Building for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, held in San Francisco, California, in 1915. The family's son, Samuel Teel DeRemer (b. May 15, 1894 – d. September 18, 1967), graduated from a Los Angeles high school and entered service in World War I by volunteering for service in the French army. He served as an ambulance driver with the U.S. Army Ambulance Corps assigned to France. After the war, he toured Europe briefly with a performing group that staged the musical production called "Let's Go!" Perhaps his interest in theatrical performance, stage set design, and the decorative arts influenced his tastes for the Art Deco and the attention given by the DeRemer firm to "backstage" components of their several school auditoriums.

Samuel Teel DeRemer's family proudly celebrated his return from Europe, documented in a family photo, "The Day Sam Came Home from the War - 1918" (OGL#744-59). Samuel Teel DeRemer, graduated with a B.A. degree in architecture from the University of California Berkeley, where he was an active member of the campus Sigma Nu fraternity chapter. It can be fairly inferred that much of the Art Deco influence on the DeRemer firms work derives from the younger Samuel Teel DeRemer's experience, although his father would also have been acquainted with early renditions of that emergent style from his period in Los Angeles. It is not possible to absolutely differentiate projects that reflect the stylistic inclinations of the elder and younger DeRemer; their practice was truly collaborative and either architect was capable of designing in several identifiable styles. Among the projects known to have been influenced by Samuel Teel DeRemer are the highly-distinctive Art Deco First United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks (1932), and the Temple B'nai Israel Temple synagogue (1937).

***Introduction and adoption of the Art Deco architectural style in North Dakota***

*Samuel Teel DeRemer's involvement with his father's firm, and their emergent work in the Art Deco style:*

In November 1917, Joseph Bell DeRemer returned briefly from Los Angeles to New Jersey and worked with his brothers in a business they operated, the Washington Casket Company. Upon returning to Grand Forks in 1919, Joseph Bell DeRemer resumed his architectural practice, but now in partnership with his son. The DeRemer architectural firm designed many Art Deco and Art Moderne Buildings during the period 1929-1934, including Whitey's Bar in East Grand Forks, the New Ryan Hotel, the United Lutheran Church (NRHP, 1992), the administration building for the Grand Forks Municipal Airport, an addition to the Grand Forks County Courthouse, and the first California-style bungalow in Grand Forks at 706 Belmont Road. Samuel Teel DeRemer lived in an unusual Chateausque cottage he designed on Riverside Drive, which is no longer extant.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 10

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

Upon returning to North Dakota from his brief career in California, Joseph Bell DeRemer, along with Fargo architect William F. Kurke, served as supervising architects of record for the new North Dakota State Capitol in Bismarck, begun in 1932 and completed in 1934. The initial basis for the capitol's somewhat unexpected Art Deco character was the winning design submission by architecture firm Holabird and Root to a capitol design competition soon after the first capitol building was destroyed by fire. Many of the design judgments about detailing and architectural treatment of the capitol design were contributed by the North Dakota architects who fleshed out the Holabird and Root design concept. Based on the date of the DeRemer firm's involvement, Samuel Teel DeRemer has been shown to have had design input on detailing and ornamentation of the capitol work.

Within the DeRemer firm, Samuel Teel DeRemer also carried out work that was more purely Classical Revival in its styling, evident in St. Francis Hospital (Crookston, MN), St. John's Hospital (Red Lake Falls, MN), and Deaconess Hospitals (Grafton and Grand Forks). The DeRemer firm's impressive resume of North Dakota school design projects and precedents include (in addition to the 1931 Williston High School): Cando School (1934), Watford City (1938), Grand Forks (Winship elementary school, and Central High School auditorium and gym additions, 1936-37), Park River School (1939), and Enderlin School (ca. 1938).<sup>18</sup>

Joseph Bell DeRemer retired from active practice in 1937, as a result of failing health, and he died in Grand Forks on February 16, 1944. Samuel Teel DeRemer operated the firm in his father's name from 1934 to 1944, and under his own name from 1944 to 1955, when, upon his retirement from active architectural practice, he transferred his practice to the firm of (William E.) Harrie and (Robert L.) Kennedy. Samuel Teel DeRemer died in Bemidji, Minnesota, on September 18, 1967. Both Joseph and Samuel DeRemer are buried in Grand Forks' historic Memorial Park; a National Register-listed historic cemetery landscape (NRHP, 2010).

***Planning and architectural development of the Williston school's design***

Much insight into the nature of architectural practice in North Dakota in the late 1920s can be gained by examining the historical record, and especially in the original construction drawings for the 1931 Williston High School. The DeRemer firm's working methods and architectural design priorities are reflected in the meticulous, explicit, and thorough drawings that graphically describe all details of the work. At the same time, the information conveyed by the drawings is succinct in comparison to more contemporary construction documents. The architect's drawings give careful attention to ornamental details of Art Deco design style, especially in the brickwork and the applied metal ornament. In contrast with elaborate systems of ornament applied to Classical Revival style architecture, the Art Deco style was

<sup>18</sup> The later (1936) Art Deco Devils' Lake Central High School has occasionally been misattributed to the DeRemer firm (see Steven Hoffbeck, p.24 in *North Dakota History*, (v.62:4) but the Devils Lake School was, in fact, the architectural work of John Marshall and Nairne Fisher, as was the 1935 Central School in Grafton.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 11

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

identified as a suitably economical treatment for public buildings, employed by architects seeking to express modern ideas in building construction. In addition for its preferred motifs of geometric lines, zigzag patterns, bas-relief figures, and machine-like ornament, the Art Deco style advocated more restrained forms of ornamentation and suppressed non-functional features such as belltowers.

The construction drawings (and the material fabric of the completed school itself) also reflect much about the architects' experience, educational background, and planning principles relating to educational facilities. While the "program" of required spaces may have been directed by the client's assessment of curricular needs, the architects showed particular attention to durable fireproof construction methods, sanitary conditions, healthful ventilation and sufficient daylighting for study and handwriting. Special programs in science, vocational arts, and home economics were given particularly detailed development in terms of functionality and expressed efficiency. Shared resources (like study halls) and publicly-utilized amenities like the gymnasium, auditorium, and theater stage were developed with particular care and attention to details of size and configuration. The architects had clearly prepared themselves well for work of this kind, by virtue of their prior experience, educational backgrounds, and familiarity with emergent published literature about modern school design for the times.

***How the school was constructed; roles of local and statewide expert construction contractors***

Upon authorization to start, the architect's construction documents (drawings and specifications) were completed in a relatively short period of time (mid-October 1929 to April 1930). Ground was broken on April 29, 1930. The new school was completed on January 20, 1931 and opened for classes on January 26, 1931. The official public dedication event was delayed until March 6, 1931. Total cost to construct the school was \$270,000.

There was substantial public interest locally in the manner by which the construction work was accomplished, and a spirit of public loyalty to locally-represented business that played a part in building the school. Local companies like the *Williston Herald*, Rogers Lumber Company, and Northern School Supply Company, played an important part in supplying furnishings and equipment. In an interview with the general contractor, the *Herald* reported;

24 carloads of common brick, 14 carloads of face brick, 8 carloads of clay tile, 5 carloads of lime, 19 carloads of cement, one carload of marble chips, and three thousand cubic yards of sand and gravel were delivered by Great Northern railway for use in constructing the new school. Further bills of lading showed that, 109 tons of structural steel and 99 tons of reinforcing steel, three carloads of plaster and lime, three carloads of millwork, three carloads of roofing material, eight carloads of forming lumber, one carload of slate, one carload of lockers, and 33,500 square feet of maple flooring brought the total material supplied to 175 rail car loads, all shipped by the Great Northern Railroad, which was cited as the largest single taxpayer in this district.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> "175 carloads of material in building", in *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):13.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETSection 8 Page 12**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

A sidebar article contributed to the *Williston Herald* by the School Board expressed the public's appreciation to, "Mr. Joseph Bell DeRemer as architect of the building for his careful and efficient plans and detailed specifications," to Mr. Olson, who represented the DeRemer office as jobsite supervisor who "knows his business and sees everything," to the general contractor, Carl G. Steen Construction company from Grand Forks, praised for "faithful performance of the construction contract and for the expeditious manner in which the work was conducted, completing the building ahead of his contract date", and to the local (Williston) mechanical, plumbing and heating contractor J.C. Canning, "who has reason to be as proud of his work as we are." Published tributes to the builders and suppliers of materials suggest that all those who worked on the school were appreciated by the community for having gone "above and beyond" to do a first class job of constructing a thoroughly modern facility that would serve successive generations of Williston students, and the community. Student organizations conducted local fundraising events to pay for some supplemental amenities including \$1,750 raised by the classes of 1930 and 1931, for stage equipment, velour stage curtains, and a "cyclorama so constructed as to make the stage large or small".<sup>20</sup> High school students also planted trees on the school grounds during the 1930s, as part of a National Youth Administration work relief initiative.

The historic 1931 Williston High School, which currently sits unused, exhibits a remarkably high degree of material integrity, and it retains excellent integrity of design setting, location, workmanship, and association. The building is stoutly constructed of durable materials and its confined site is essentially unaltered from the day the school opened for operations in January 1931. The school's primary significance under Criterion "C" is reflected in its early application of the Art Deco architectural style of ornamental embellishment; somewhat surprising given Williston's location outside the architectural mainstream. Also under Criterion "C", the work is associated with a known master of architectural design (the regional firm of Joseph Bell DeRemer), as a structure with high artistic value and advanced methods of planning and construction relative to the building's dates of design and construction (1929-1931). Significance under this criterion is augmented by the excellent record of construction and architectural documentation.

The Williston High School property is further significant statewide under Criterion A for the broad pattern of historical events it reflects, relating to advancements in education (1926-1936) and local investment in educational improvement. The record of continued educational achievement and civic contributions of Williston School graduates validates the community's investment at the onset of the Great Depression, and the building embodies the sound planning of a school well suited to emerging trends in education theory that prevailed between World War I and World War II. The building is a fitting tribute to the values of education, community, and investment in future generations.

<sup>20</sup> *The Williston Herald*, v.33:n.38, (March 5, 1931):13. The term "cyclorama" is not currently in common usage, but refers to a backdrop for the stage.

(Property Name)  
Williston High School(County and State)  
Williams County, North Dakota

(Page 4)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

See 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: ND Institute for Regional Studies; UND Orin G. Libby Special Collections; James Memorial Library, Williston**10. Geographical Data****Acreege of Property** 0.96-acres (0.39-ha)**UTM References; NAD 27** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

13	602 470	5 333 650
Zone	Easting	Northing

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

See continuation sheets.

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheets.

**11. Form Prepared By**

**name/title:** Michael J. Burns, Architect for Lutheran Social Services [mike@mjbaltld.com](mailto:mike@mjbaltld.com)  
 in collaboration with Steve C. Martens; Architectural Historian [steve.martens@ndsu.edu](mailto:steve.martens@ndsu.edu)  
**organization:** Michael J. Burns, Architects, Ltd. **date:** May 13, 2011  
**street & number:** 824 Center Avenue **telephone:** 218.233.6620  
**city or town:** Moorhead **state:** MN **zip code:** 56560

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

See Continuation Sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs 1-15: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Property Owner**

(Previous owner contact effective prior to February 21, 2011.)

**name:** Basin E T Properties  
 Earl Westereng, Managing Partner [ewestereng@wil.midco.net](mailto:ewestereng@wil.midco.net)  
**street & number:** PO Box 264 **telephone:** 701/570-1187  
**city or town:** Williston **state:** ND **zip code:** 58802

(Subsequent contact owner effective on or after February 28, 2011.)

**name:** Lutheran Social Services Housing, Inc.  
 ATTN: Jessica Thomasson [jthomasson@lssnd.org](mailto:jthomasson@lssnd.org)  
**street & number:** 1325 11<sup>th</sup> Street South **telephone:** 701/271-3201  
**city or town:** Fargo **state:** ND **zip code:** 58103

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   1  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

Williston High School  
Bibliographic sources:

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   2  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page   3  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

USGS Topographic map, "Williston East quadrangle".

"Williston High School," Folder #20, Olin Postcard Collection 2000, North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, Fargo.

Williston, ND, 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   10   Page   1  

**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

Williston High School

10. Geographic data:

***Acreage of Property***

0.96-acres (0.39-ha)

***UTM References***

Z 13 E 602 470 N 5 333 650

***Verbal Boundary Description***

The parcel described as the west half of Block 8 in Bruegger's First Addition to the City of Williston, Williams County, North Dakota; bounded by First Avenue West (on the west), West Sixth Street (on the south) a dedicated service alley (to the east, at the rear of the property), and West Seventh Street (on the north). The property is platted as 140-feet (east-west) by 300-feet (north-south).

***Boundary Justification***

The boundary description includes all property within the boundary of land associated with the Williston High School throughout the historic period of significance, including the school building and all related site features.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Additional documentation Page 1  
**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

Photo caption/identifier continuation sheet:

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_01 WillistonHS\_259.tif
- Subject description; West (principal front) exterior elevation  
Photographer facing southeast  
**Photo number 1**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_02 WillistonHS\_260.tif
- Subject description; Detail at principal (west) entrance  
Photographer facing east from First Avenue West  
**Photo number 2**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_03 WillistonHS\_244.tif
- Subject description; South (end) exterior elevation  
Photographer facing north  
**Photo number 3**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_04 WillistonHS\_272.tif
- Subject description; East (rear) partial elevation of south end and auditorium wing  
Photographer facing west from rear alley  
**Photo number 4**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_05 WillistonHS\_279.tif
- Subject description; Rear (east) exterior elevation of auditorium stage  
Photographer facing southwest from rear alley  
**Photo number 5**

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Additional documentation Page 2  
**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_06 WillistonHS\_280.tif
- Subject description; view into rear lightwell with auditorium stage element at left  
Photographer facing west-southwest from rear alley  
**Photo number 6**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_07 WillistonHS\_246.tif
- Subject description; North (end) exterior elevation  
Photographer facing southwest  
**Photo number 7**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_08 WillistonHS\_263.tif
- Subject description; Detail of ornamented lintel above principal (west) entrance  
Photographer facing east and upward  
**Photo number 8**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_09 WillistonHS\_C244.tif
- Subject description; South (end) exterior elevation  
Photographer facing north  
**Photo number 9**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_09 WillistonHS\_C245.tif
- Subject description; brickwork details at south entrance "portal"  
Photographer facing north toward south elevation  
**Photo number 10**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Additional documentation Page 3  
**Williston High School; Williams County, North Dakota**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_10 WillistonHS\_C285.tif
- Subject description; close-up detail of brickwork trim over south entrance  
Photographer facing upward toward parapet at south elevation  
**Photo number 11**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_11 WillistonHS\_C264.tif
- Subject description; close-up detail of brickwork trim band at top of typical pilaster  
Photographer facing upward toward parapet at west elevation  
**Photo number 12**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_12 WillistonHS\_061.tif
- Subject description; Interior view of principal entrance staircase  
Photographer facing west from second floor landing  
**Photo number 13**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_13 WillistonHS\_046.tif
- Subject description; Interior view of auditorium/gymnasium  
Photographer facing northeast  
**Photo number 14**

- 1. Williston High School**
- Williams County, North Dakota
- Photographer: Michael J. Burns, Architect
- Photo date: January 13, 2011
- Digital image; State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Photo log; ND\_WI\_14 WillistonHS\_222.tif
- Subject description; Interior view of teachers' entrance into lunchroom  
Photographer facing west into teachers' room access corridor  
**Photo number 15**

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National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 4

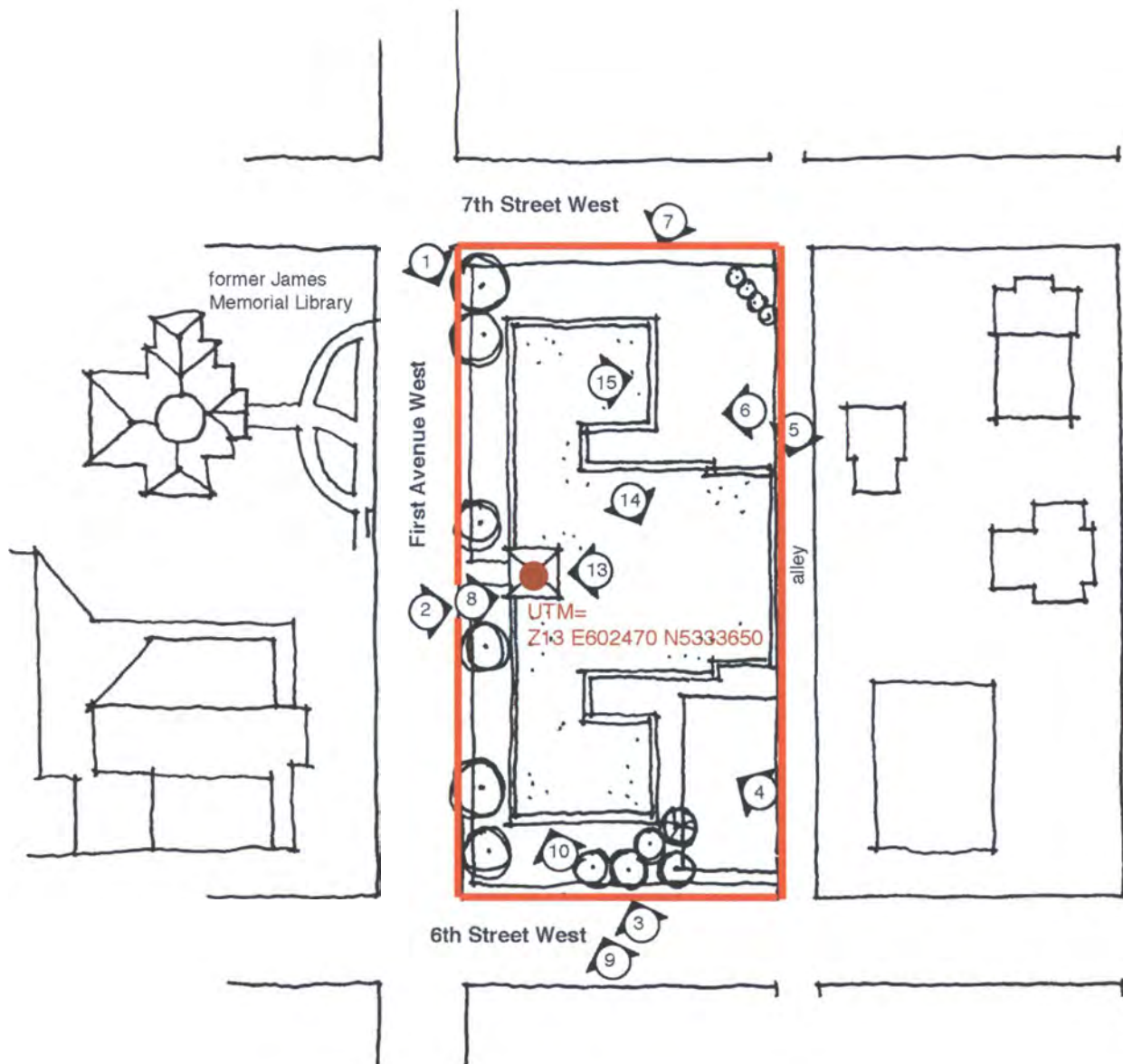


Fig. 1: Sketch map of school parcel location  
Photo station points are indicated with numbers and arrows.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 5

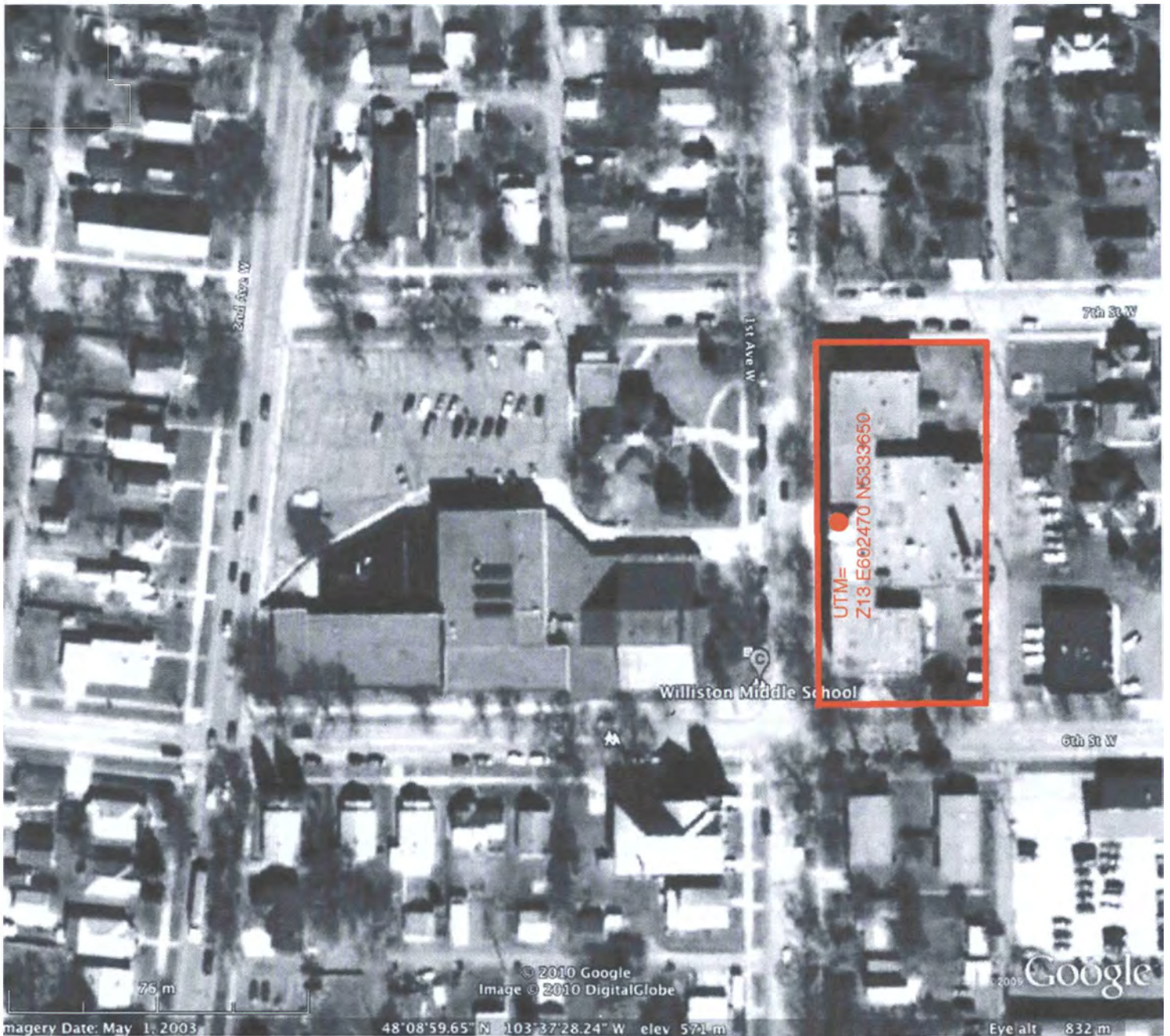


Fig. 2: Aerial Photograph of Williston High School, school property boundary in red  
Adapted from *GoogleEarth* image, January 2011



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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 6



Fig. 3: 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, "Williston, ND"

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 7



**JOSEPH BELL DEREMER**  
1871 — 1944



**SAMUEL DeREMER**  
1894-1967

Figs. 4-5: Photos of architect father and son, reproduced from *Grand Forks Herald* obituaries

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 8



Figs. 6-7: Historic photos of student activities at front entrance to High School; note metal grillwork screen above entry doors

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National Park Service

Williston High School

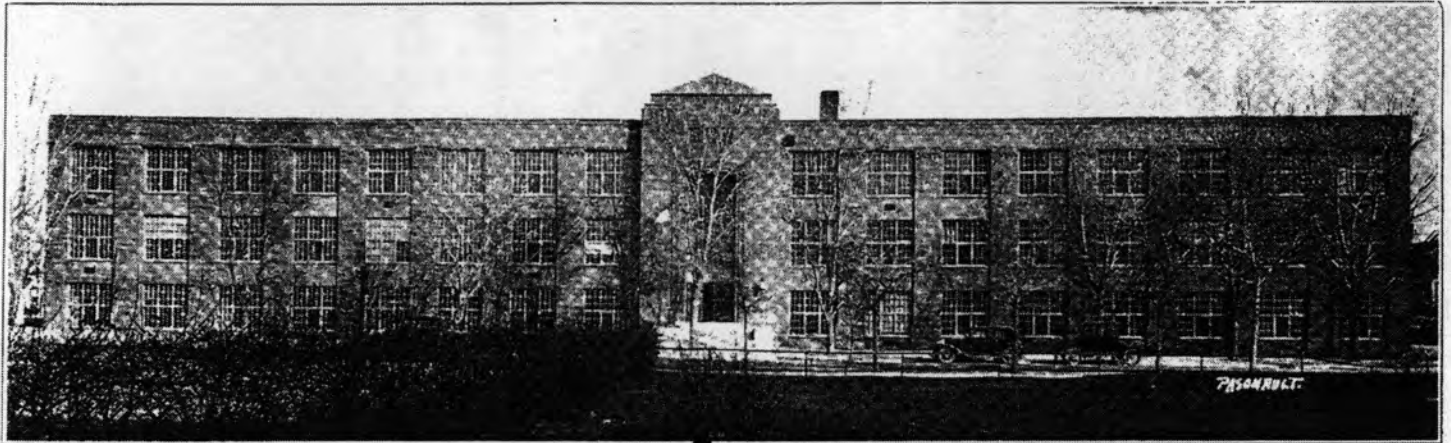
Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 9



## Our New High School

### THE SCHOOL BOARD

PRESIDENT; Mrs. W. H. Westergaard

CLERK: A. L. Butler

TREASURER: Oscar Bell

BOARD MEMBERS: F. P. Bergman  
P. H. Morrow  
Mrs. F. M. Acker  
Joseph Crow

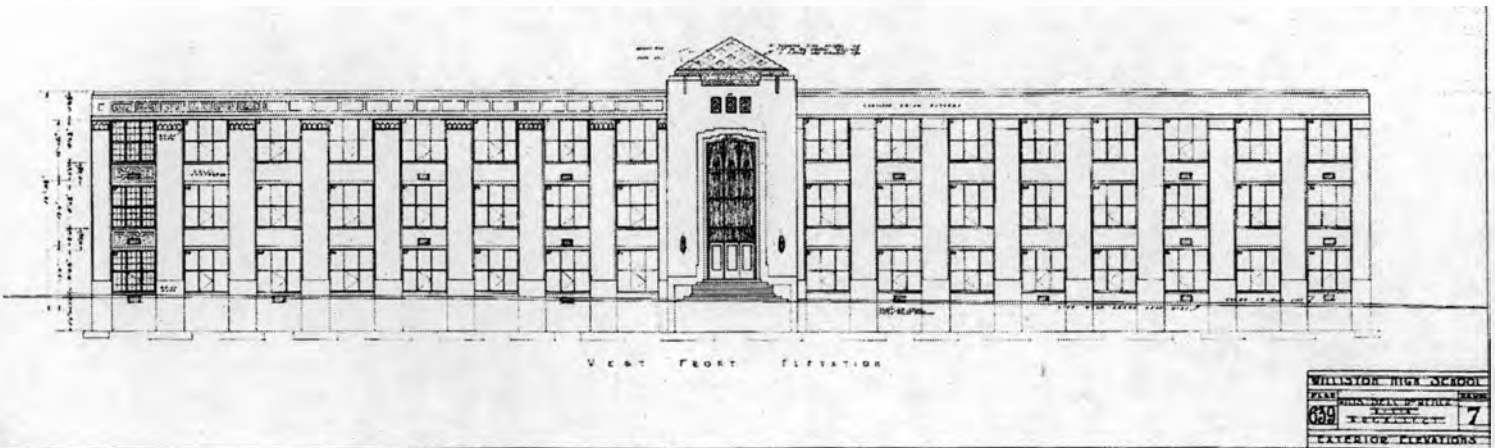


Fig. 8-9: Two renditions of west (front) elevation of Williston High School. Lower view is from DeRemer construction drawings

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 10

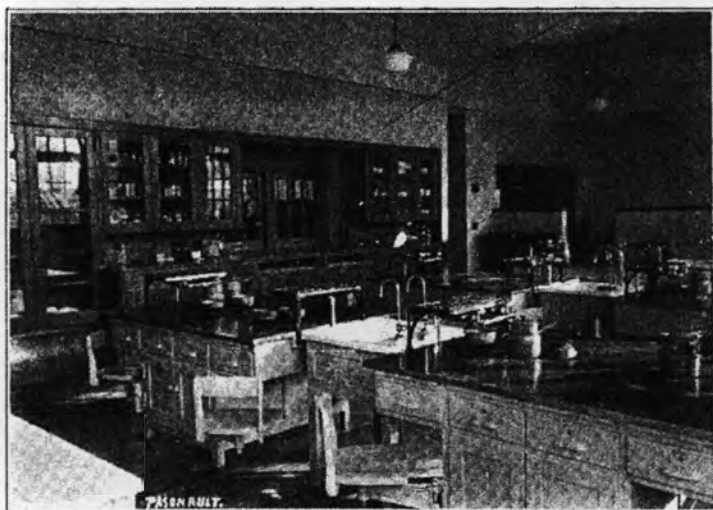
<b>Williston High School</b>
Name of Property
<b>Williams County, North Dakota</b>
County and State



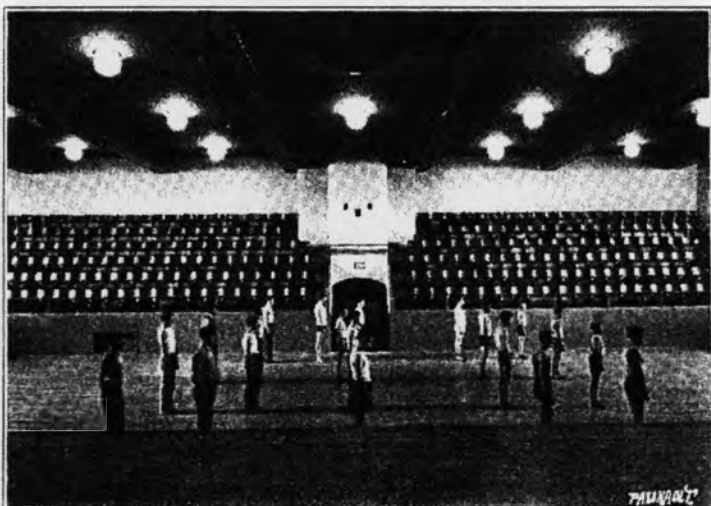
THE BOARD MEMBERS BREAK GROUND FOR THE NEW BUILDING



WE HAVE A SUNNY STUDY HALL



THE COOKING LAB IS WELL EQUIPPED



WE HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR BASKETBALL

Fig. 10-13: excerpts from 1931 high school yearbook *The Coyote*, dedicated to the new school facility

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 11

## The New High School Building

Long after other events of 1931 shall be forgotten, there will remain fixed indelibly in our memory the fact that on January 26, 1931, we took possession of our beautiful new high school building. Semester examinations had made the preceding week hectic. On Friday evening a large crowd thronged the new gymnasium for the Poplar basketball game. All day Saturday teachers and pupils were busy transferring equipment and books to the new location. Over three thousand people were guests at the open house Sunday afternoon. The second semester was formally opened Monday morning by a long assembly period, after which regular classes were conducted with surprisingly little confusion.

That same Monday evening "Skidding," the all high school play, was presented on the new stage, the purpose being to add money to the stage fund. The student body had previously assumed responsibility for paying for the entire stage equipment at a cost of \$1,750. The Class of 1929 contributed \$140, the Class of 1930 gave \$267, and the Class of 1931 pledged \$250. The beautiful maroon curtains, costing \$500, were thus made possible. About \$255 was realized from "Skidding," and it is estimated that at least \$1000 will be paid on the debt before June of this first year.

The stage equipment includes a secondary curtain, a cyclorama set, backing for interior scenes, and landscapes and exterior wings. The colored footlights in five separate sections with rheostat control are part of the building equipment. We do not have as yet adequate top lights.

Another room of interest is 108, the Public Speaking and Music Room. It is beautifully panelled and practically sound proof. Equipped with a small stage and tablet arm chairs, it makes a convenient place for rehearsals of all kinds.

As a matter of fact, each department has quarters so beautifully and skillfully arranged that it is to be regretted that special pictures and descriptions of each cannot be given space in our annual. We refer to our sunny study hall, the attractive cooking rooms, the convenient laboratories, even the individual lockers with the tricky padlocks, and the class rooms with the cute house phones, the initial operation of which caused such breathless suspense on the part of certain home rooms.

We had hoped to build our yearbook around the theme of the new building but it was impossible to secure pictures early enough for our publishing contract. The few photographs which are reproduced in the following pages were taken at the latest possible moment, only one week before the last material was sent in. So it was that we chose instead Time and its progress as our motif, realizing all the while that for us Time and Progress have reached a climax, even if only a temporary one, in this glorious building achievement of the year 1931.

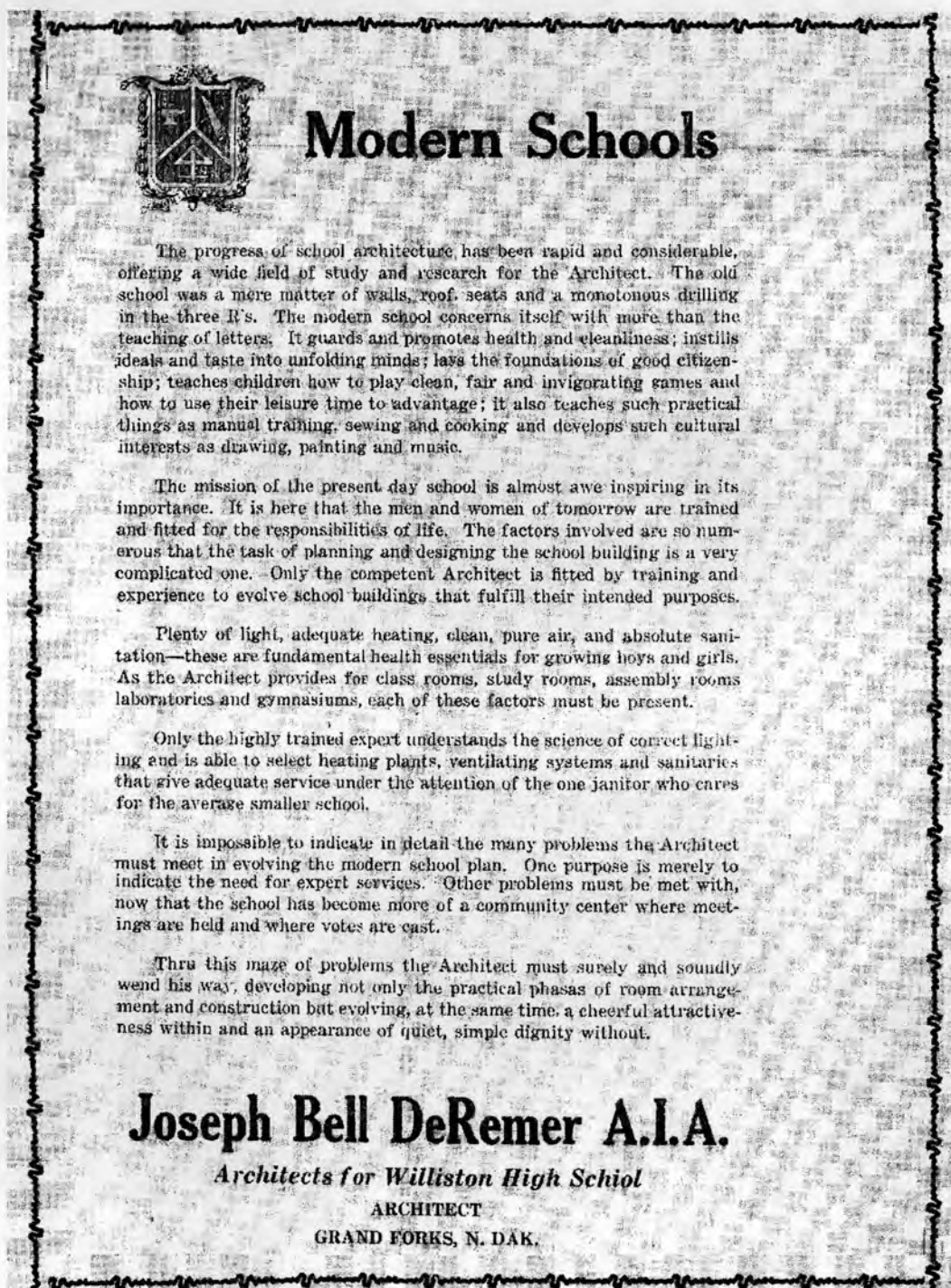
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number Additional Documentation Page 12


Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State





## Modern Schools

The progress of school architecture has been rapid and considerable, offering a wide field of study and research for the Architect. The old school was a mere matter of walls, roof, seats and a monotonous drilling in the three R's. The modern school concerns itself with more than the teaching of letters. It guards and promotes health and cleanliness; instills ideals and taste into unfolding minds; lays the foundations of good citizenship; teaches children how to play clean, fair and invigorating games and how to use their leisure time to advantage; it also teaches such practical things as manual training, sewing and cooking and develops such cultural interests as drawing, painting and music.

The mission of the present day school is almost awe inspiring in its importance. It is here that the men and women of tomorrow are trained and fitted for the responsibilities of life. The factors involved are so numerous that the task of planning and designing the school building is a very complicated one. Only the competent Architect is fitted by training and experience to evolve school buildings that fulfill their intended purposes.

Plenty of light, adequate heating, clean, pure air, and absolute sanitation—these are fundamental health essentials for growing boys and girls. As the Architect provides for class rooms, study rooms, assembly rooms laboratories and gymnasiums, each of these factors must be present.

Only the highly trained expert understands the science of correct lighting and is able to select heating plants, ventilating systems and sanitarics that give adequate service under the attention of the one janitor who cares for the average smaller school.

It is impossible to indicate in detail the many problems the Architect must meet in evolving the modern school plan. One purpose is merely to indicate the need for expert services. Other problems must be met with, now that the school has become more of a community center where meetings are held and where votes are cast.

Thru this maze of problems the Architect must surely and soundly wend his way, developing not only the practical phases of room arrangement and construction but evolving, at the same time, a cheerful attractiveness within and an appearance of quiet, simple dignity without.

# Joseph Bell DeRemer A.I.A.

*Architects for Williston High School*

ARCHITECT

GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.

Fig. 14: Advert placed by Joseph Bell DeRemer in school dedication issue of *Williston Herald* newspaper, March 5, 1931

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 13

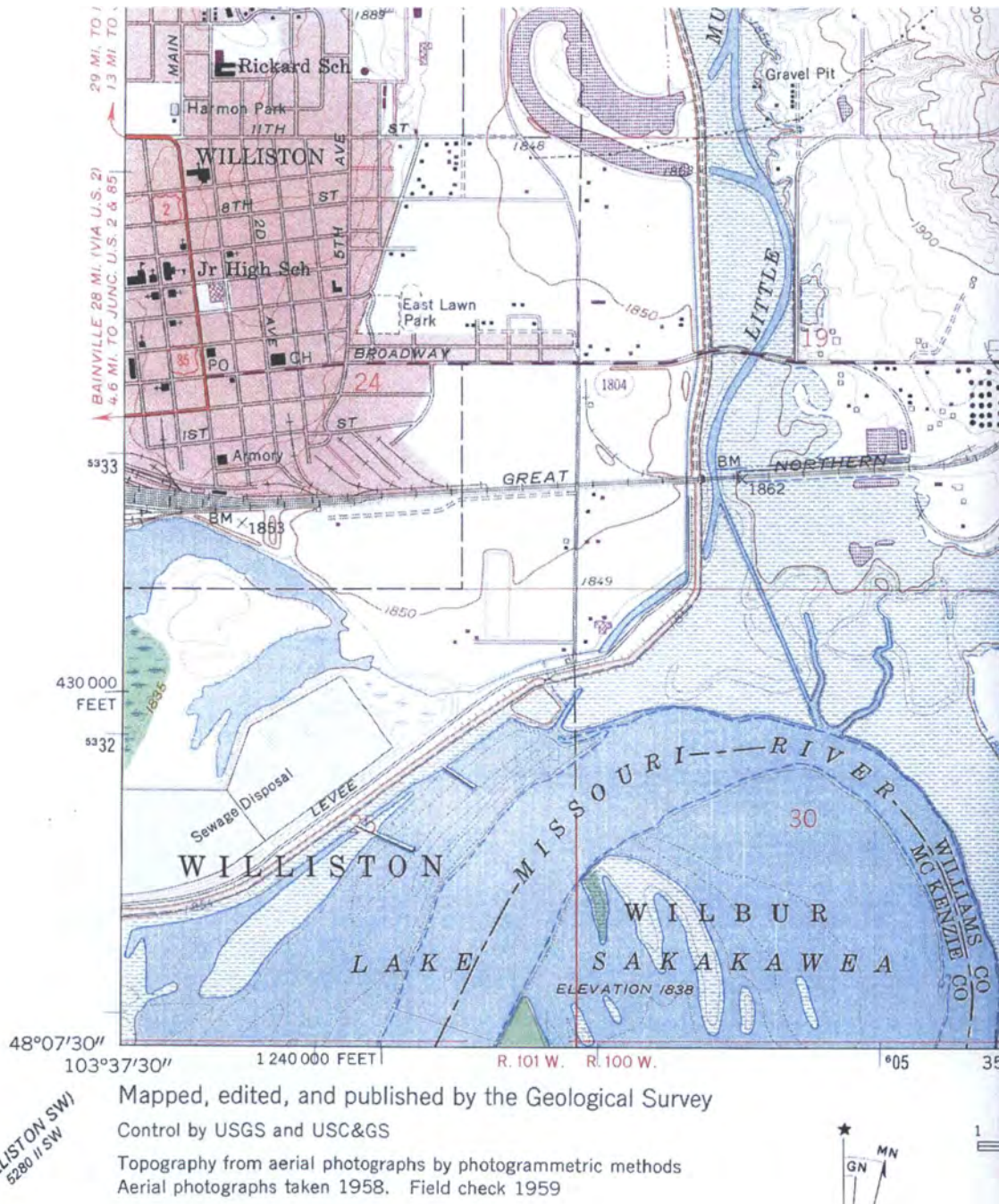


Fig. 15: USGS Topographic reference map, Williston East, N.Dak quadrangle



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 14

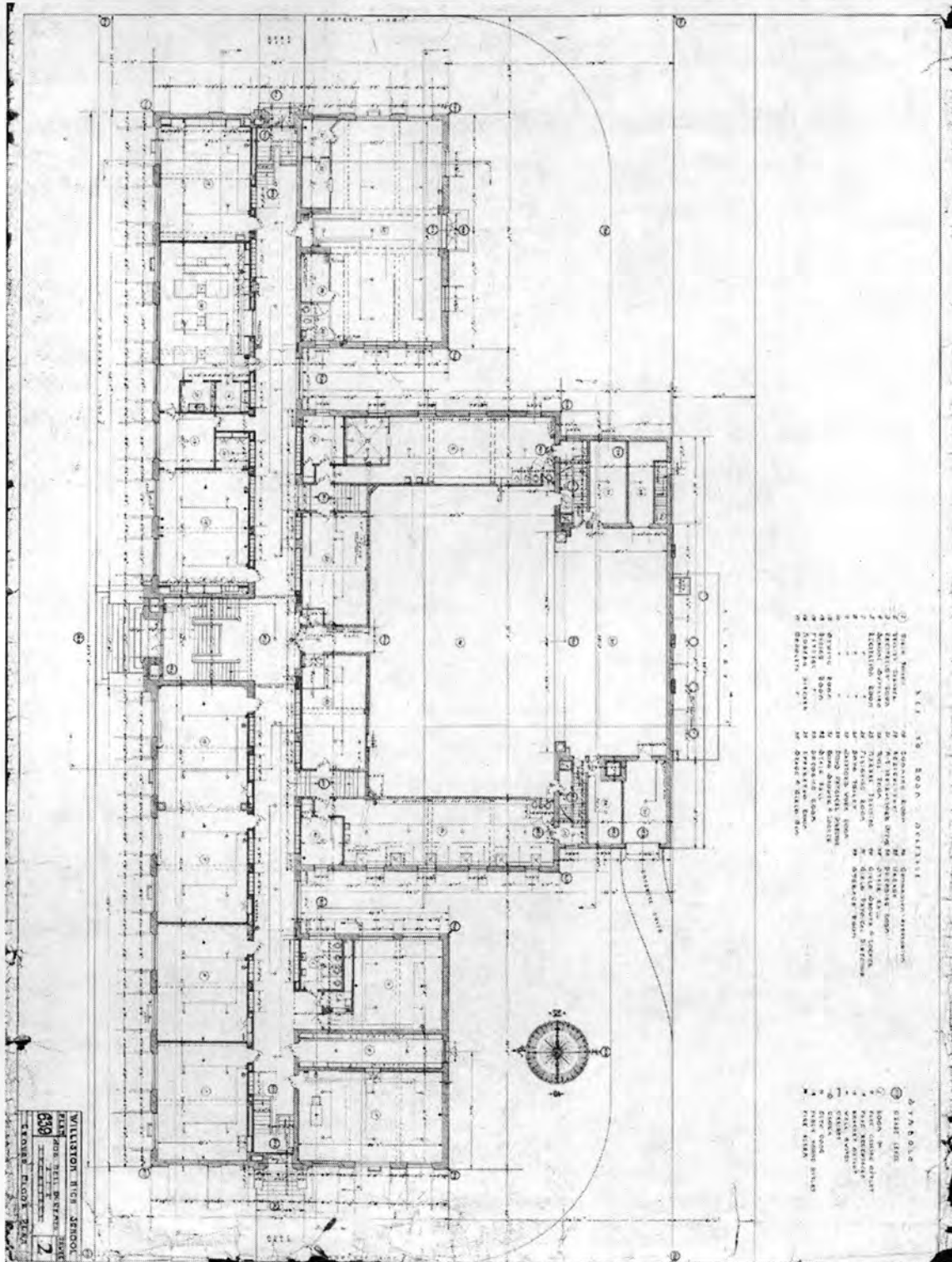


Fig. 16: excerpt from DeRemer 1931 architectural drawings; Ground Floor Plan; sheet 2 of 16

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 15

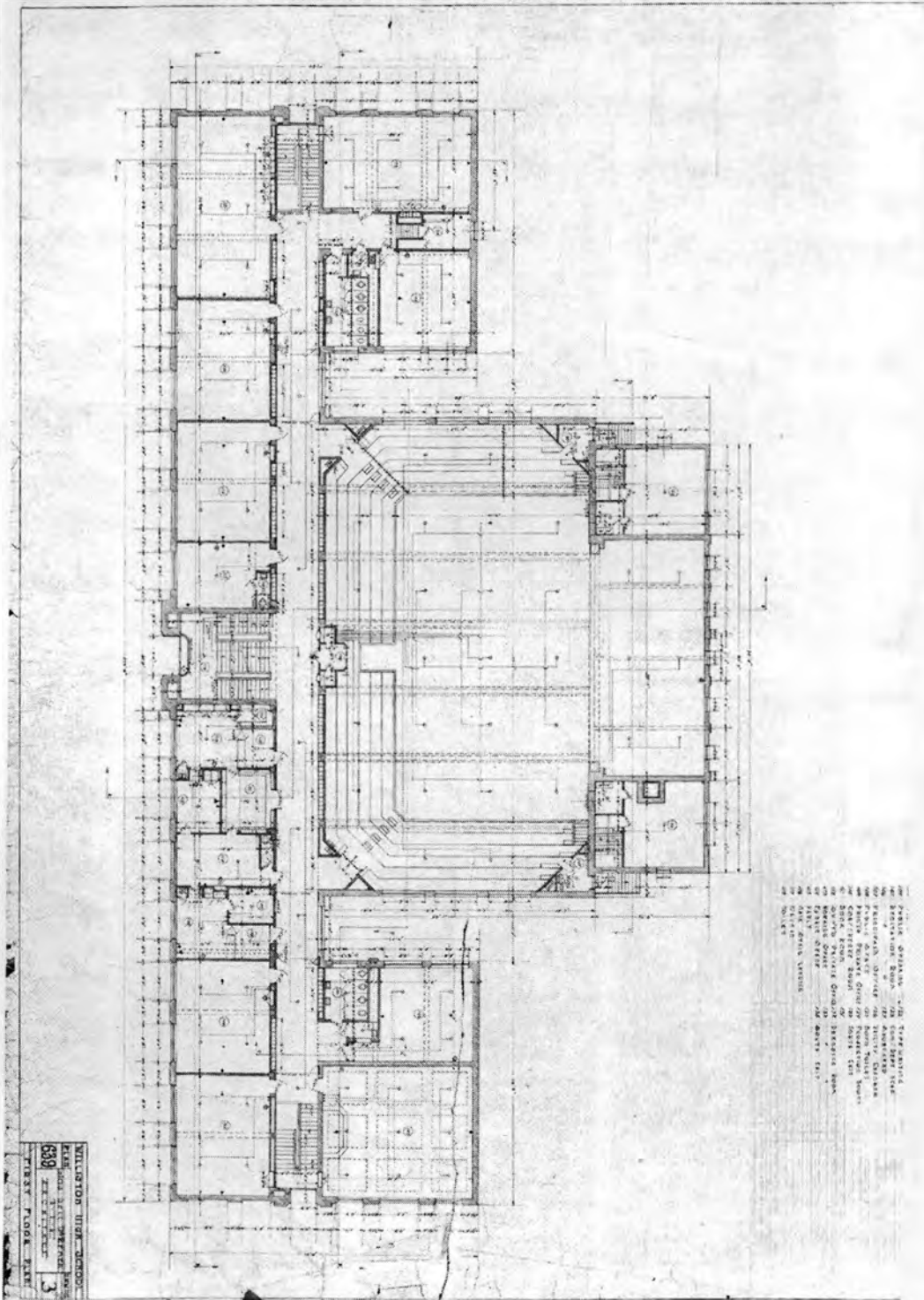


Fig. 17: excerpt from DeRemer 1931 architectural drawings: First Floor Plan above grade (second floor): sheet 3 of 16

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 16

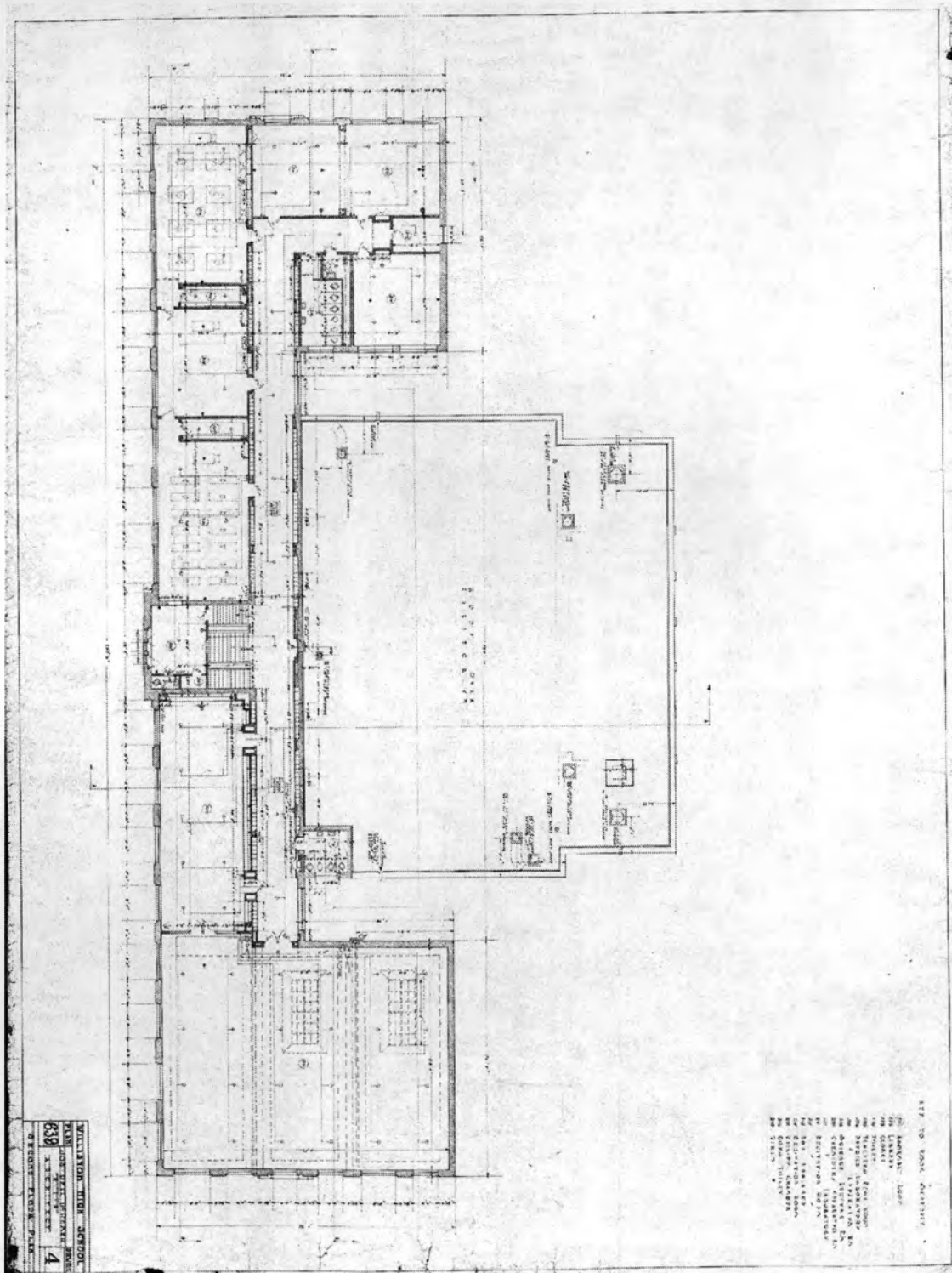


Fig. 18: excerpt from DeRemer 1931 architectural drawings: Second Floor Plan above grade (third floor); sheet 4 of 16

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

Section number Additional Documentation Page 17

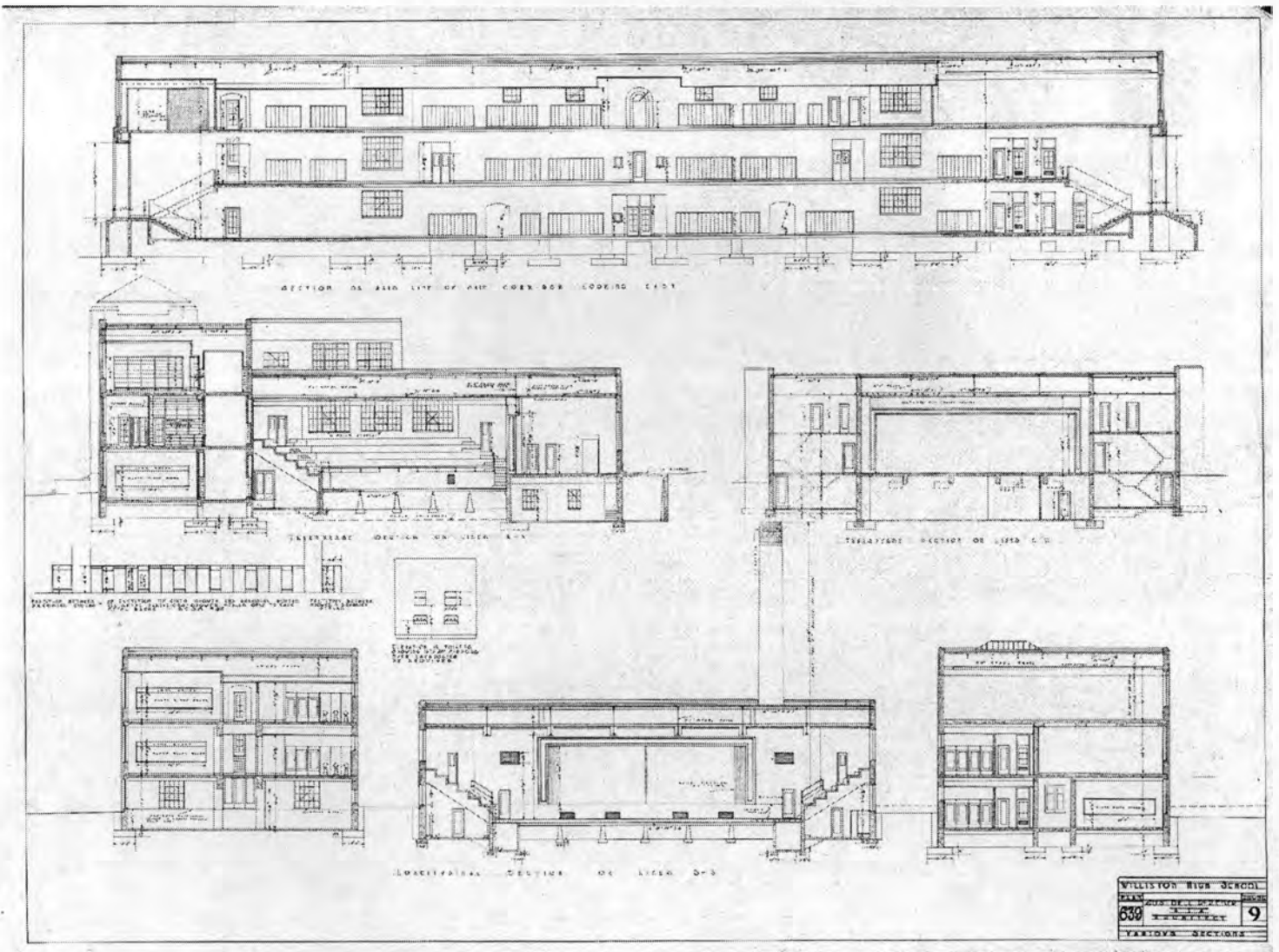


Fig. 19: excerpt from DeRemer 1931 architectural drawings; Building sections; sheet 9 of 16

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Williston High School

Name of Property

Williams County, North Dakota

County and State

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 18

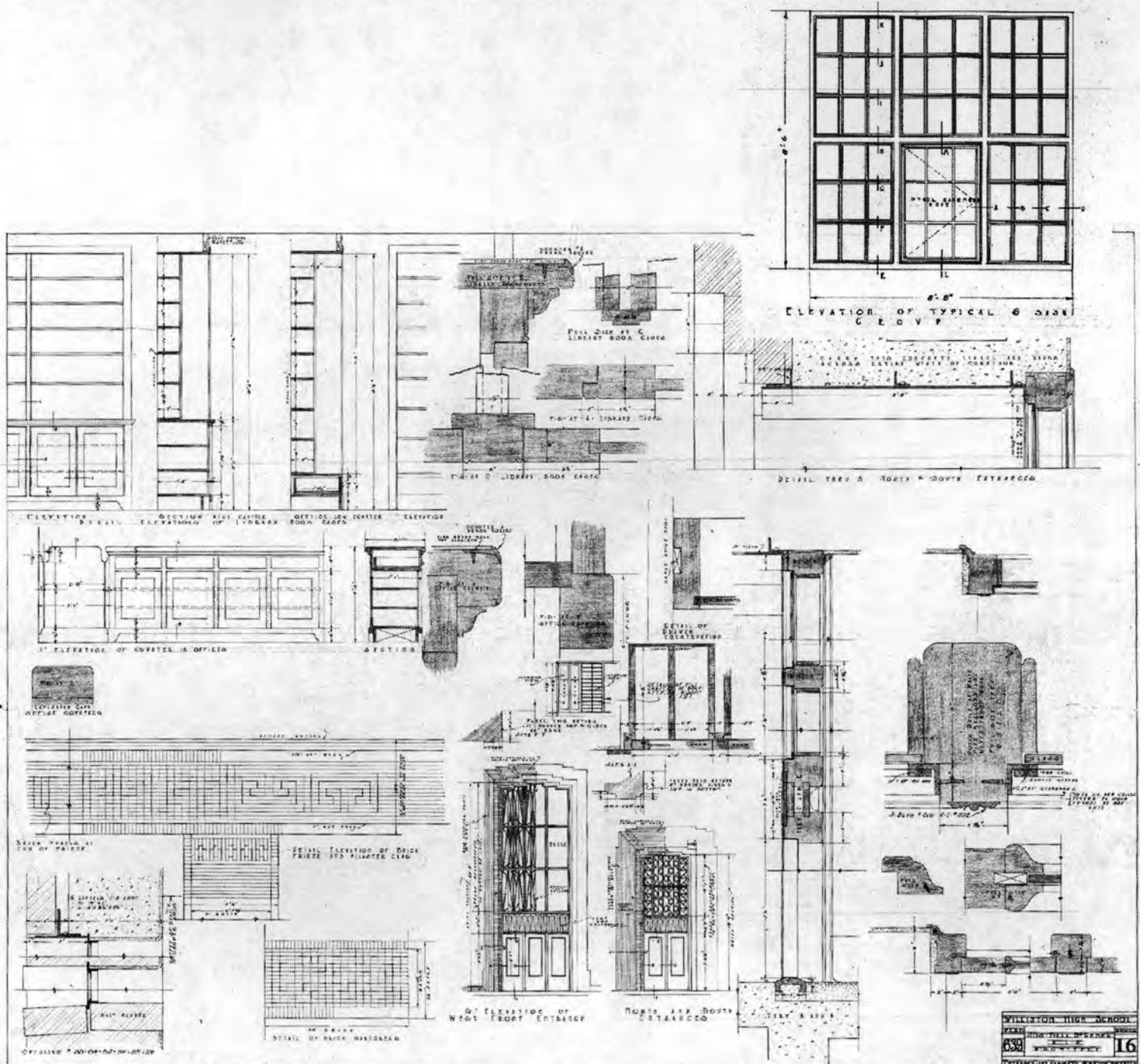
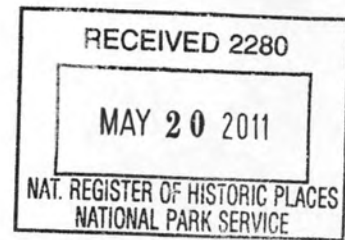


Fig. 20: excerpts from DeRemer 1931 architectural drawings; showing ornamental embellishments and typical window configuration; sheet 16 of 16

To: Keeper, National Register of Historic Places  
From: Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Amy Bellefeuille  
Date: 16 May 2011  
Subject: National Register Nomination



The following materials are submitted on this 16th day of May 2011, for the nomination of the Williston High School to the National Register of Historic Places.

1 National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper  
         Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper  
15 Photographs  
1 Original USGS map(s)  
         Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)  
         Pieces of correspondence  
1 Other: Photo CD

---

COMMENTS:

         Please insure that this nomination is reviewed  
         This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67  
         The enclosed owner objections      do      do not constitute a majority of property owners.  
         Other:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Williston High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Williams

DATE RECEIVED: 5/20/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/10/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/27/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/05/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000413

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6-27-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND


PHOTO # 1



JUNIOR  
HIGH

WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO #2





WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO #3



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO # 4





WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO #5



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO # 6



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO # 7



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO # 8





WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO #9



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND  
PHOTO # 10



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO #11



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO #12





WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO #13



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND

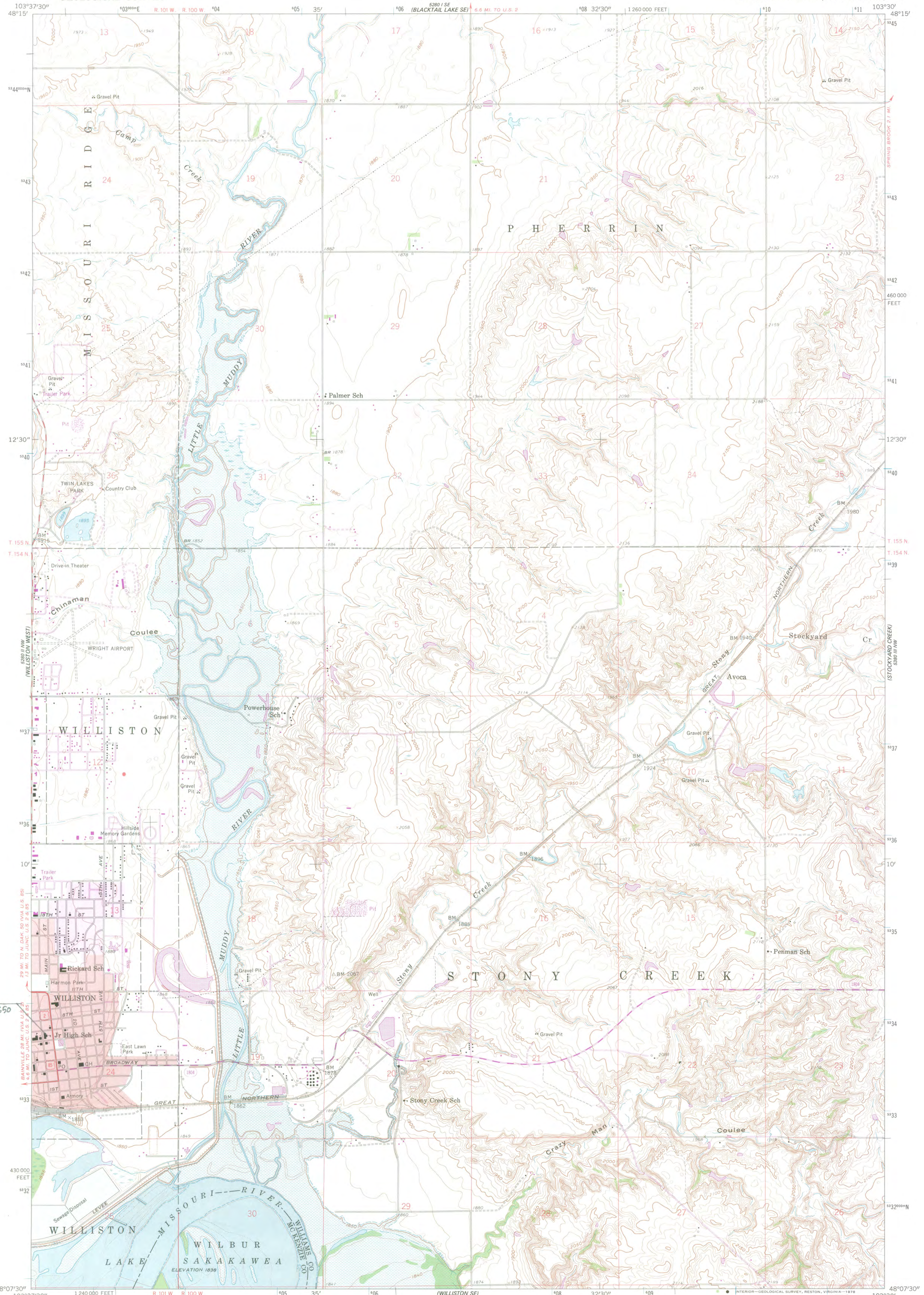
PHOTO #14



EXIT

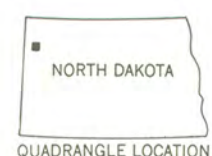
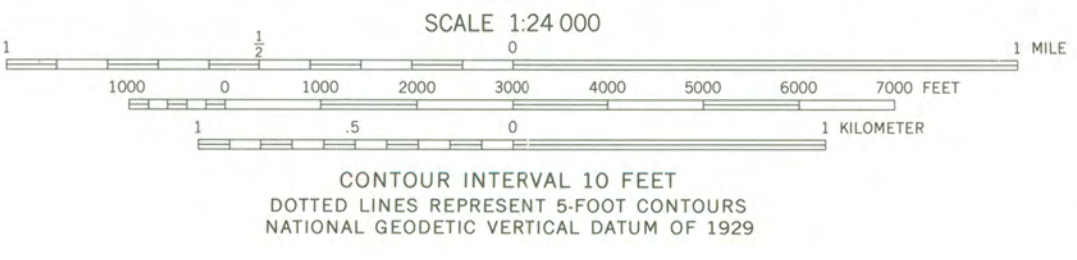
WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
WILLIAMS COUNTY, ND

PHOTO # 15



WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL  
UTM = 213 E602470 N9333650

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1958. Field check 1959  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on North Dakota coordinate system,  
north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 13, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are  
subject to controlled inundation



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND STATE WATER COMMISSION, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WILLISTON EAST, N. DAK.  
N 4807.5-W 10330/7.5  
1959  
PHOTOREVISED 1976  
AMS 5280 II NE-SERIES V871

Revision shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1976. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas