



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

518

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Yankton High School Historic District
other names/site number Yankton Junior High, Yankton Middle School, Walnut Village

2. Location

street & number 613 Walnut Street not for publication N/A
city or town Yankton Vicinity N/A
state South Dakota Code SD county Yankton code 135 zip code 57078

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

04-16-2002
Date

SDSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other,
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall Date of Action: 5/30/02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0
 Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Schools in South Dakota MPL

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)

Education _____
Entertainment/recreation _____
Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1915-1952 _____

Yankton High School Historic District
Name of Property

Yankton County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

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

name Gary & Casey Blom
street & number 115 Pike Street telephone 605-665-3113
city or town Yankton state SD zip code 57078

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 1

Narrative Description

The Yankton High School Historic District is located in the center of Yankton. The complex is located in a residential neighborhood, one block west of a main commercial district and three blocks north of a different commercial area. Within its immediate surroundings are the public library, city hall and police station. The property has Cedar Street to the west, Walnut Street to the east, residential properties to the north and a newly revitalized Marne Creek to the south.

Main School Building

The Main school building was constructed between 1915 and 1916. It is located in the center of the campus. To the north of the main building is the Power Building constructed in 1910. To the northwest is the Vocational/Band Building constructed in 1930. To the south is the Auditorium Building constructed in 1927. There is 100 feet of landscaped lawn with shrubs, trees, sidewalk and a flagpole between the buildings and Walnut Street.

The Main School was designed by Architect, G.C. Miller of Chicago in 1915. Miller designed several buildings in South Dakota during the early 1900's. He was greatly inspired by the symmetrical Prairie Style and the Neoclassical Revival Style which he chose to blend for this building.

The Main School building consists of 47,000 square feet of floor space. It is a two to three story building with large library, auditorium and gymnasium/lunchroom areas. The twenty-seven classrooms are arranged in a "U" pattern building around the central core of public area with connecting hallways. This school arrangement was practical and typical for schools constructed during this period.

The building has a poured concrete foundation which rises above ground level except on the west elevation. The walls are a multi-colored brick with a feathered texture. Other bricks within the walls are labeled "Tuillery Tile." The brickwork has vertical and horizontal elements throughout created by the staggering of header and stretcher bond style of bricklaying. Abstract geometric designs are located along the roofline above the third floor windows. There are brackets located at the cornice. All windows on this building were replaced or enclosed in the 1970's during the energy crisis. They have a fixed top panel and a sliding window as the bottom sash. All windows are the same unless otherwise noted.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 2

The façade of the building has a central, three story projecting gable bay. There are eight window openings on each floor, on either side of the projecting bay. The central projecting bay has a projecting entry on the first floor. On either side of the projecting entry is a narrow fixed pane window which has been filled in with paneling. There are two sets of entry doors in the center of the projection. Above the doors is decorative terra cotta. The roof of the projecting first floor has a decorative metal railing. The second floor has three windows openings in the center which are flanked by narrow windows which have been filled in with panels. The third floor of the projection has three window openings. The fourth floor has a large six-part arched window.

The north and south elevations are identical. The first and third floors have nine window openings. The first floor of the south elevation has a door at the southeast corner instead of a window. The second floor on both elevations have eight window openings. There are brackets located at the cornice.

The west elevation has two separate additions. The first addition is two three story stairwells at the northwest and southwest corners. The first floors of the stairwells have an entry door. The second and third floors have a window opening. The second addition, constructed in 1963-64, is a one story kitchen located between the two stairwells. There are four, four pane fixed windows at the southwest and northwest corners of the addition. Between the windows is an entry door and two four pane fixed windows. The second floor of the historic building are five window openings.

The Main School was re-roofed in 1966-67. The front doors were replaced in 1976. Other changes in the 1966-1977 period included new plumbing and locker room remodeling.

Power Plant Building

The Power Plant was constructed in 1910 in the Commercial style. The building measures 53 feet by 53 feet with approximately 5,600 square feet which includes a basement. There is a skylight in this flat roof building. The building is constructed with multi-colored bricks.

The façade (south elevation) has four arched openings. Each opening has a brick lintel. Above the openings are two bands of decorative bricks. From east to west, the window openings are as follows: the first opening has been enclosed with wood paneling and has an entry door with transom window, the second opening has opening has been reduced in size and currently has a twelve-over-twelve double hung window, the third opening has the two original entry doors and transom window, the final opening has two original four-over-four double hung windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 3

The east elevation has two arched window openings with brick sills and lintels. Each opening has two four-over-four double hung windows.

The north elevation has three evenly spaced small arched windows. Each has a three row brick lintel and a one row brick sill.

The west elevation has a garage door at the northwest corner. Next to the garage door is an entry door with a transom window. At the southwest corner are two window openings. One opening has been filled with concrete blocks. The other opening has two four-over-four double hung windows.

Trades Building

The Trades Building was constructed in 1930. It was originally 60 feet by 67 feet with approximately 6,700 square feet. An addition to the north elevation was made at an unknown date. The architectural style of the Trades Building is identical to the Main School. It is also constructed with similar materials including the multi-colored brick with a feathered texture, brackets at the cornice and a metal roof to mimic the original clay tile roof which at one time was on the Main School. All windows in the Trades Building are identical to the Main School unless otherwise noted.

The façade (south elevation) has a projecting central entry. There are brick pillars on either side of the double entry doors. The transom window over the entryway has been enclosed with wood paneling. A band of rowlock bricks divides the entry from the decorative gable above the door. The gable is capped with limestone and has a decorative oval panel in the peak. There are three window openings on either side of the projecting entry. The second floor has three groups of three window openings.

The east and west elevations are identical. The first and second floors have four window openings with windows identical to the Main Schools. The second floor of the west elevation has a door used for the fire escape in the third opening.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 4

The north elevation has a one story arched roof addition. It is hidden behind a stepped brick false front. The north elevation of the addition has a large garage door opening which has been reduced in size at the northeast corner. Directly in the center of the building are two pilasters, which are capped with limestone. Between the pilasters is a window opening. There are three more window openings on this elevation of the addition. The east and west elevations of the addition have six evenly spaced window openings.

Auditorium

The Auditorium was constructed in 1927 in an Art Deco style. It has 16,000 square feet with an overall dimension of 110 feet by 117 feet. There are three sections to this building: the flat roof façade, the arched roof auditorium section and the three story, flat roof, stage area. The windows on the auditorium are identical to the Main School unless otherwise noted.

The façade (east elevation) faces Walnut Street. The two-story flat roof section is seven bays wide. The first floor has a central entry. There are three entry doors flanked by one-story brick columns. The columns are topped with a limestone panel with "Auditorium" carved into it. Above the panel are two short brick engaged columns with limestone capitals. On either side of the entry are two two-story engaged columns capped with limestone capitals. There are window openings between each of the columns on the first and second floors. The top of the wall is capped with limestone. The south and north elevations of this section have one window opening in the center of the wall.

The arched roof section of the auditorium has eight window openings; four on either side of the first section of the building. The north and south elevations are identical. The first floor has a door at the northeast and southeast corner. The remainder of the first floor has three window openings. The second floors have four window openings. The west elevation of the arched portion has two doors on the first floor and a fire escape door on the second floor at the northwest corner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 5

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Yankton High School Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in education and recreation/culture in the community of Yankton. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural styles of Art Deco, Classical Revival and Prairie School.

On February 2, 1875, the Yankton School System was formally organized at the old Dakota Territorial Capital building in Yankton, South Dakota. Yankton was the first community in South Dakota to organize a high school with an enrollment of nineteen pupils. The high schools were housed successively in two buildings, both demolished, before the present high school building was constructed in 1915. The property has the oldest school building left in the city of Yankton.

In 1885, a portion of the land was purchased from Daniel Frost, a Yankton pioneer. In 1897, the original building at the site was constructed as an elementary school called Garfield School at the northeast corner of the property. The power house building was constructed in 1910 to supply power for Garfield school and later all of the high school buildings. The Garfield building was demolished in 1975.

Education reform in South Dakota as it affected the design of new school construction had its origin in the Progressive era policies of the late nineteenth century. During this time, reformers believed that improved school facilities directly affected the quality of education in rural communities and advocated the implementation of standardized school designs. They cited overcrowding, inadequate lighting, and poor heating/ventilation as just a few of the conditions that hindered learning, and believed that modern, properly constructed facilities would bring concepts of progress to rural communities.

To combat these perceived shortcomings, policy makers implemented progressive curriculum reforms at all levels of government. In 1880, the United States Bureau of Education published an influential plan book of standardized school designs and specifications for school improvement. Many state governments followed suit by formulating their own plans for educational reform, using the federal plan as a model. State policy, however, languished until 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt formed the National Commission on Country Life. This Commission focused national attention on the inadequacies of rural schools and encouraged state governments to implement standardized formulas and recommendations for school design in the 1900s and 1910s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page # 6

In South Dakota, the first statewide effort towards school standardization occurred in 1907 when the State Superintendent of Instruction adopted specific guidelines for school construction. The state legislature formalized these guidelines and granted the State Superintendent the power of approval over all new school construction plans at this time. These new standards for school construction called for at least fifteen square feet of floor space in each classroom, two hundred cubic feet of air space per pupil, an approved heating and ventilation system among other regulations. The placement of classroom windows was of particular concern as contemporaries believed that improper illumination caused headaches, backaches and various nervous disorders. Consequently, the state guidelines prescribed specific window arrangements and formulas, dictating the size of windows and limiting their placement on only one wall of a classroom. By 1915, these regulations also extended to such features as classroom doors, egresses, window-to-floor area formulae, artificial lighting, windows, chimneys, fire drills and escapes, ventilation and water fountains.

The construction of the Main School building was a result of the passing of a bond issue which raised \$100,000. With that came the hiring of the architect G. C. Miller of Chicago, Illinois. Prior to South Dakota's standardization efforts, larger schools were characterized by irregular floor plans arranged asymmetrically around a central hall and symmetrical facades. Many also laced the gymnasiums, auditoriums and other amenities that characterized the later structures. The Yankton High School complex reflects the change to the standardized plans.

The Main School building incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended for larger schools in the early 1910s. The school has a symmetrical U-shaped plan with single-load corridors arranged around a central staircase. The school also contained a basement level cafeteria, a third floor library, modern heating and ventilation systems, classrooms illuminated by one wall of windows, blackboards and featured standardized wood doors. All of these details, among others, were in keeping with contemporary notions of standardized school construction.

Also on the complex at the Yankton High School was the Trades Building. The Trades Building, constructed in 1930, reflected the nationwide trend of vocational programs offered through the High Schools. The early industrial arts and specialized vocational training programs dovetailed conveniently with business interests and were instrumental in furnishing industries with workers. The mission for the public high school was to prepare workers for participation in an industrialized society. The high school would insure for all citizens a place in the economy. The high school band also utilized the building for practices.

The Auditorium, constructed in 1927, separate from the Main School, served a wide range of functions. Its primary function was to serve the students of the school. It was utilized as a theatre

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page # 7

and gymnasium for students. The Yankton Area Community Association utilized the space as well. They brought such performers to the area including the Vienna Boys Choir, the Chicago Opera Ballet Company and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

The buildings on the campus reflect multiple architectural styles. The Main Building reflects the Prairie style of architecture. The features of the building which identify it as Prairie include the low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves and decorative medallions around the central entry. While the windows have been removed, the context for schools in South Dakota clearly states that while historic windows are best, replacement windows are such a common occurrence that it does not diminish the buildings significance. The Trades Building is also in the Prairie style of architecture. It features a low pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, horizontal emphasis and a central entry with a decorative medallion. Finally, the Auditorium is designed in the Art Deco style. It is identified on the Auditorium by a smooth wall surface, geometric motifs on the façade and vertical projections. Overall, the buildings on the Yankton High School campus reflect architectural trends that had their origins in Chicago.

The Yankton High School Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its role in education in Yankton. The standardized plans and designs promulgated by the State of South Dakota were similar to those prescribed by the United States Department of Education and other state and local agencies in the early twentieth century. These standards provided schools across the nation with uniformity in layout, appearance and function best suited for the educational environment. The Yankton High School campus is a local building example of this prominent type. It is also eligible under Criterion C as excellent examples of significant architectural styles.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page # 8

Bibliography

Architectural History in South Dakota. South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2000.

Auditorium events records. Yankton Area Concert Association.

Elliot, Mark & Melissa Dirr. *Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Development.* South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2000.

Karolevitz, Robert F.. Yankton: A Pioneer Past. 1997

Karolevitz, Robert F.. Yankton: The Way it Was. 1998 #98-61520

Land ownership records Yankton County Auditor's Office.

School specifications, maps, architecture plans. Yankton County School District #63-3

Geographic Information-UTM References

A) Easting-631208
Northing-4747929

C) Easting-631103
Northing-47478071

B) Easting-631208
Northing-4748071

D) Easting-631103
Northing-4747929

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots Two (2) through Seventeen (17), Block Seventy-three (73), AND Lots One (1) through Five (5), and Thirteen (13) through Eighteen (18), Block Fifty-eight (58), EXEPT that part platted and known as Marne Creek Tracts One (1) and Two (2), Block Fifty-eight (58), as platted in Book S 18, page 89. AND Including vacated 7th street running East and West between Blocks Fifty-eight (58) and Seventy-three (73), AND further including alley running North and South between lots One (1) through Five (5), and Lots Fourteen (14) through Eighteen (18), Block Fifty-eight (58), all located in Todd's Addition, City and County of Yankton, South Dakota as per plat recorded in Book G, page 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page # 9

Boundary Justification

The nominated property district includes the main school, auditorium, trades building, power plant and the grounds immediately surrounding these buildings to the north, from Cedar street on the west to Walnut Street on the east to the Marne Creek property line to the south.

**Yankton High School Historic District
613 Walnut Street
Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota**

