

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



**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Soldiers & Sailors World War Memorial

and/or common Robinson Museum

**2. Location**

street & number Capitol Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Pierre N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state South Dakota code 46 county Hughes code 065

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Office of Cultural Preservation

street & number Department of Education and Cultural Affairs

city, town Pierre N/A vicinity of state South Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Hughes County Courthouse, Capitol Avenue

city, town Pierre state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Soldiers and Sailors World War Memorial building is a two-story, sandstone-faced, steel frame structure designed in the Neo-Classical and Renaissance Revival Styles. Composed in the classic three bay formula, the memorial and the state capitol, which faces it across the street, are the only two formal monuments in the capital city.

Built between 1930 and 1932, the structure was designed by George C. Hugill & Wilford F. Blatherwick of Sioux Falls. The structure is faced in soft sandstone, of a pinkish-orange color, cut from the Evans Quarry in Hot Springs. The raised entrance steps are Milbank quarried granite. The memorial measures approximately 100 by 40 feet and has the shape of a rectangle with a central projecting bay on the front, northeast, and rear, southwest facades. Each of the three bays is composed in three openings, with windows on the side bays and three doors in the center. While the structure is a full two stories, only the first floor is demarcated on the facade. Built into a banked lot, the rear basement floor opens onto a parking lot in the rear.

The overall design is simple and beautifully scaled to the size of the building. While the projecting portico is tied most closely to the monumental Neo-Classical style, the Renaissance Revival details such as the rusticated water table, quoins, amphora and pedimented doors create a more intimate scale, appropriate to the rather small size of the building. The surprise of three dimensional modeling in the relief panels over the windows and large doorways combined with the blank upper story in the fenestration create an unusual elegance and discipline of design. The memorial is one of the most accomplished 20th century architectural designs in the state.

The interior plan consists of a foyer, a central hallway which is open to the second floor and flanking galleries. The stair has a first flight rising to a landing along the rear wall. At the landing the stair divides and rises along either interior wall to terminate in a balcony along the front wall. Galleries flank the stairhall on both the first and second floor.

Prior to the establishment of a state preservation program, the building was regrettably sandblasted in 1970 during a general rehabilitation which included tuckpointing, cleaning interior walls and replacing broken floor tiles.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1930-1932 **Builder/Architect** Hugill & Blatherwick, architects, Sioux Falls

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Soldiers & Sailors World War Memorial is a rare and an extremely elegant example of the Neo-Classical/Renaissance Revival style. In addition, the building is the only memorial of its kind in South Dakota and is therefore significant in the areas of architecture and governmental monuments.

First conceived after World War I, the memorial had its first fund drive in May 1919 directed by A. N. Walters. When this drive failed, the plan lay dormant for ten years until the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company made a gift of land to the state. Senate Bill 6, Chapter 235, Section 3, February 9, 1931 accepted the land with the sole purpose of erecting a Soldier's Memorial Building.

The building presently houses the State Historical Society, Historical Resource Center, and Robinson Museum. All are devoted to the preservation and interpretation of South Dakota history. The museum emphasizes archaeology, Plains Indian culture and early exploration and settlement.

In 1930 the firm of Wilford F. Blatherwick and John C. Hugill was hired to design the memorial building. The firm was established in Sioux Falls in 1921 by two architects who began their careers in Illinois. Soon, they were among the most active and skillful firms in the state. Other major architectural projects undertaken by the firm were the Grand Lodge and Library, AF & AM in Sioux Falls, 1923, (listed on the National Register), and the Hughes County Courthouse, 1933. Most commissions were educational and commercial structures, residences, and occasionally churches and hospitals. While the firm showed great versatility and the ability to create a coherent and well-balanced design in the most simple commission, perhaps its two outstanding works are this memorial and the Sioux Falls Masonic Lodge, both designed in the classical traditions of Beaux-Arts and Renaissance Revival. The historic firm continues today under the name of Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffen & Berg.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.14

Quadrangle name Pierre, South Dakota

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	4	3	9	2	6	8	0	4	9	1	3	2	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Toma

organization Historical Preservation Center date 18 Aug 82

street & number University of South Dakota telephone 605-677-5314

city or town Vermillion state South Dakota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jamies R. Johnson

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date 12/13/82

For HCRS use only

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

Shelous Byers date 1/27/83

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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received  
date entered

Soldiers & Sailors World War Memorial  
Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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Log Book and files of Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffen & Berg

The Wi-iyohi, November 1, 1970

State Statutes, SB6, Chapter 235, Section 3, February 9, 1931

Pamphlets, "The South Dakota State Historical Society."

Oldham Register, May 15, 1919

Cornerstone Laying Program, October 28, 1930

Deed Abstract No. 60742, February 24, 1930

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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Verbal Boundary:

The NW Quarter of the NW Quarter of Section 4, T110N, R79W. Beginning at a point on the Southwesterly line of Capitol Avenue in said City of Pierre which point is distant five hundred eighty-three (583) feet Southeasterly, measured along said Southwesterly line of Capitol Avenue, from its intersection with the Southwesterly line of Highland Avenue in said City; thence Southeasterly along said Southwesterly line of Capitol Avenue three hundred (300) feet; thence Southwesterly at right angles one hundred sixty-five (165) feet; thence Northwesterly parallel with said Southwesterly line of Capitol Avenue three hundred (300) feet; thence Northeasterly at right angles one hundred sixty-five (165) feet to the point of beginning.

historic photograph 7-21-32

