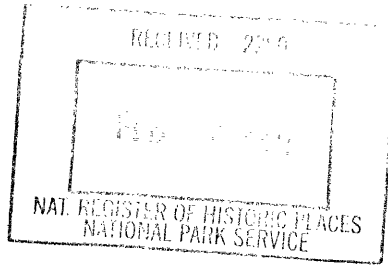


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 Dickinson State Normal School Campus District
other names/site number 32SK838; Dickinson State Teachers College, Dickinson State College, Dickinson State University

2. Location

street & number 219 Campus Drive [n/a] not for publication
city or town Dickinson [n/a] vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Stark code 089 zip code 58601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National 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.)

James E. Sperry February 21, 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title James E. Sperry Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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): _____

Edson M. Baall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 3/28/97

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District
Name of Property

Stark, ND
County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
_____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
4	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/College

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/College

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/Tudor

Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof asphalt

other stone

Narrative Description

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

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.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education _____

Architecture _____

Landscape Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1922-47 _____

Significant Date

1922, 1924, 1932 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Keith and Kurke _____

Rush, Ira L. _____

Morell and Nichols, landscape architects _____

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District
Name of Property

Stark County, ND
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>667600</u>	<u>5194325</u>	2	<u>13</u>	<u>667900</u>	<u>5194325</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>13</u>	<u>667900</u>	<u>5194080</u>	4	<u>13</u>	<u>667600</u>	<u>5194080</u>
							<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Beving Long

organization Rivercrest Associates, Inc. date January 3, 1997

street & number 203 N. 13th Street telephone 217/632-2614

city or town Petersburg state IL zip code 62675

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Dickinson State University, Philip W. Conn, President

street & number 219 Campus Drive telephone 701/227-2326

city or town Dickinson state ND zip code 58601-4896

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

Early campus buildings are arrayed along Campus Drive on the crest of Sentinel Butte in Dickinson, North Dakota. Designed by a prominent landscape architectural firm, the Dickinson State Normal School Campus District contains landscape features which provide a distinctive setting for the three contributing and two noncontributing buildings in the district. Still the key buildings on an active campus, May Hall, Stickney Hall, and Klinefelter Hall are harmonious, displaying Tudor Revival elements in brick with stone trim. Their appearance and excellent condition dominate and set the collegiate tone for the campus. Alterations do not detract from the character-defining qualities of the buildings. More recent buildings are tucked behind or below the butte and thus do not visually intrude upon the original campus core. The two noncontributing buildings in the district, Selke Hall and the Student Center, front on Campus Drive but are placed on the descending northerly side of the drive. An unusual stone fence outlines and defines the open space of the campus. Other important elements of the campus site are the pedestrian mall which culminates at May Hall, mature trees, stone gate posts, and monoliths of petrified wood.

Campus Characteristics. The 16-acre district which includes buildings along Campus Drive constitutes the core of the 62-acre campus. Ten mostly modern buildings, including three dormitories, a building housing the science department, the president's house, and recreational and ancillary facilities are clustered on the north and west slopes of the butte. All, except the powerhouse and a garage are less than fifty years of age. Although the powerhouse was the first building constructed on the campus (in 1921), its non-collegiate function and setting amidst numerous modern buildings resulted in exclusion from the district. Beyond the Signal Butte area, the campus contains considerable open space, including recreational facilities, parking for Whitney Stadium, and practice fields. A small grouping of housing for married students is located at the corner of Fairway Street and 11th Avenue West, by Jefferson Elementary School. Residences on tree-lined streets are the neighbors of the campus district.

Unifying Features. Similar materials, scale, function and architectural style unite the three halls which are contributing buildings in the district. Their placement, side-by-side on Sentinel Butte, is particularly effective in providing a unified vision of the campus. Located at the apex of the butte, May Hall appropriately dominates, for it is and was the primary collegiate building on the campus. Stickney and Klinefelter Halls were designed to be dormitories. All are brick with stone detail, display Tudor Revival stylistic references, and have stone quoins, courses, and

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

elaborate entrances. Additional Tudor Revival detail is varied, including parapets with battlements, crenelation, dripmolds, and rosettes and acanthus leaves. A stone fence marks the south edge of the campus and highlights the grassy open space of the pedestrian mall.

The campus and major buildings were constructed over a ten year period between 1922 and 1932. Construction of Stickney Hall (occupied in 1922), May Hall (occupied in 1924), and Klinefelter Hall (occupied in 1932) each had an impact on the character of the district. While the campus design is dated 1920, its overall character was developed in concert with campus building construction and use. The period of significance for the district begins in 1922 when the first building was completed and put to use and extends to 1947, the traditional fifty year closing date. Educational activities in the district continued to have importance beyond the years of construction but no more specific date can be defined to end the historic period for the district.

District Integrity. The buildings and landscape features in the campus district are in good condition and retain significant character-defining qualities. Built to be dormitories, Klinefelter and Stickney Halls have been converted to other collegiate uses. May Hall continues to function as the primary collegiate building on the campus. Alterations to May and Stickney Halls have been relatively minor and are typical of educational facilities. Rather than demolish Klinefelter Hall, which had stood vacant for a number of years, the university chose in 1996-97 to construct an addition which respects the proportions, materials, and design of the original building.

Resource List.

1. *May Hall* **KEY CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**
Named for the first president of the school, Samuel T. May, May Hall is a complex shape consisting of a massive (70' x 200') rectangular central portion, with an auditorium and classroom space placed perpendicularly to it, to form a T-shape. Squared wings are located at either end of the central rectangle. Overall dimensions are approximately 250' x 175'. A steeply pitched gabled roof is a prominent feature of the three-story center portion and contrasts with the flat roofs of the squared wings. The building, which has brick veneer over tile, faces southeast and overlooks the campus mall.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

Stone detail is used effectively and provides the principal stylistic references to the Tudor Revival Style. Stone elements include quoins surrounds for groups of windows, the beveled water table, a course that also acts as a continuous sill for second story windows, a course above the top story windows, and coping. In addition to the quoins and courses, projecting parapets at gable ends, the steep roof pitch, brick buttresses for the auditorium, crenelated stone coping, and, above all, the centered brick and stone entrance are characteristic of this style.

The many windows, an appropriate and functional asset for a building containing classrooms, are a notable feature. The double-hung windows are grouped in units of three, four, five, or one, and were intended to provide ample light. In 1975, opaque insulated upper panels replaced original panes. Such replacements are common on school buildings. During a c. 1963 renovation, new metal and glass entry doors were installed. The doors are recessed from the original stone molding and thus less conspicuous. Behind them are original wood and multiple pane doors to the main hall. Interior remodeling also occurred during the 1960s, but the original lay-out and functions remain essentially intact.

In 1930 two small classroom spaces were added to the square wings on the north and south ends of the building. Materials, massing, and stylistic influence were continued on the additions, and it is possible that they were part of the original plan and that construction was delayed until sufficient funds were available. The entrance for the south wing remains unchanged, while the north wing entrance has been altered to act as a link between May Hall and a 1961 addition, the Mathilda Stoxen Library. The library is a flat-roofed rectangle with groups of windows having strips of vertical brick, glass, and panels. The library is set back from May Hall, which, with landscaping, effectively obscures the junction between them.

Administrative offices continue to occupy the front of the first floor. At the building's opening in 1923, classrooms filled the second floor, with more classrooms, a library, and study hall on the top floor. The basement then housed space for a cafeteria, dining room, and kitchen as well as the science department and related classrooms and laboratories. The nearly 1,200 seat auditorium had a 48' x 80' stage that doubled as the gymnasium, with locker rooms and showers below. The facility was considered very up-to-date, for each room contained an electric clock, signal system, thermostat, and telephone. As additional buildings were constructed on the

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

campus, many of the functions were moved from May Hall, which continues to house classrooms, the auditorium, and administrative offices in their original locations.

2. *Stickney Hall*

KEY CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The first dormitory on the campus, Stickney Hall is a rectangular, flat-roofed, three-story building with a raised basement. Named for a strong supporter of the school, Dr. Victor H. Stickney, the building was constructed in 1921-22. Approximately 100' x 40', the three-bay by six-bay dormitory is situated on a sloping site along the southern edge of the butte facing east. Walls are faced with tan brick veneer, and, as with May and Klinefelter Halls, stone detail is used effectively for window surrounds, courses, and at the entrance to provide Tudor Revival stylistic elements. The structural material is steel. Stone is used for the following: window quoins on the main facade, watertable, parapet with battlements, and the pointed arched, recessed entrance. The fine stone entry has acorns and acanthus leaves carved in spandrels as well as a small stone owl perched to one side. Above these carvings is a stone plaque bearing "Stickney Hall" in Gothic script.

Two uneven bays flank the entrance and pierce the roofline. The taller bay features a small attic window with stone drip mold, while the shorter bay has extensive stone quoining and a stone plaque with the date "1921" on it. Between the bays are slender windows grouped in threes and outlined in stone. Above them and extending beyond the parapet is a small stone tablet depicting a lighted torch. With their deeply crenelated tops and stone detail, the polygonal bays provide a strong Tudor Revival flavor to the otherwise rather simple, rectangular building.

Alterations are relatively minor and expected in the face of changing collegiate uses. A small fire escape on the side (north) facade does not appear original. Windows have aluminum double-hung storm windows, and there is a newer metal entry door. The former dormitory is now used for faculty offices and there have been related interior changes. Murphy folding beds and some plumbing facilities have been removed. However, the principal interior feature and public space, a central lounge, remains and retains such features as heavy wood moldings, groups of eight-light casement windows, built-in wood benches, and an attractive brick fireplace.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

3. *Klinefelter Hall*

CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Located just south of Stickney Hall facing east and marking the south end of Campus Drive, Klinefelter Hall was built in 1931-32 as a U-shaped, approximately 65' x 140', flat-roofed dormitory having three stories and a raised basement. Faced with brick veneer (over structural steel), the former dormitory has contrasting stone trim which provides Tudor Revival elements. These include quoins for window surrounds and other trim, watertable and course, and a fine molded double door entrance having six small rosettes and a drip mold. This projecting centered entrance bay, with its extensive quoinwork, entry detail, and plaque depicting an open book and lamp is notable. First occupied the spring quarter of 1932, the building was originally known as South Hall, reflecting its location on the south end of the campus. In 1953 it was renamed Klinefelter Hall in recognition of the more than 40 years of administrative service to the school by Maude Klinefelter.

Because it was difficult to alter small dormitory rooms to meet modern classroom requirements, the hall stood vacant for several years. However, in 1996-97 Klinefelter Hall was renovated to meet current educational needs, including handicapped-accessible large classrooms, an art gallery, faculty offices, and an auditorium. At the back of the hall the U-shape was filled in with the addition. The addition is stepped back twice which lessens its visual impact on the original building considerably. Windows on the brick-faced addition are of appropriate scale and shape to respect those of the original hall. The one story side entry area which allows access by the handicapped projects from the addition and recalls the squared May Hall wings in shape and size. As part of the project, inappropriate modern landscaping at the entrance was removed.

4. *Selke Hall*

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Built in 1960, Selke Hall is a three-story rectangular flat-roofed dormitory having a smaller one-story lounge and entrance portion located at a right angle on the west face of the building. Architecturally undistinguished, the approximately 150' x 40' hall has a concrete foundation, walls faced with tan brick veneer over structural steel, and simple concrete coping, sills, and panels between windows. The building, which faces south and is located east of May Hall as the butte slopes eastward, is less than 50 years of age and lacks architectural or historical significance.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

5. *Student Center*

NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Located at the east end of Campus Drive and facing south, the approximately 200' x 200' Student Center is situated in a relatively unobtrusive spot. Its low lines and landscaping further contribute to its unassuming appearance. Constructed in 1963, the building is essentially rectangular with a series of irregular interconnecting shapes within the rectangular shape. Due to the uneven site, it appears to be a one-story building, but there are portions of exposed lower level rooms with full windows. Wall coverings include reddish-brown face brick veneer over steel, small blue ceramic squares, stone, and precast concrete. The Student Center is less than 50 years of age and lacks architectural or historical significance.

6. *Campus*

CONTRIBUTING SITE

The design for the campus reflects a combination of informal natural design features, practical considerations such as transportation flow and building location, but also a certain Beaux-Arts formality. The campus plan combines features traditionally associated with the American college campus, including informal open space and a formal mall leading to a focal point, May Hall. The plan is dated September 1920 but improvements were made when the main campus buildings were constructed beginning in 1921.

The campus district is composed of landscape elements and buildings. Major landscape elements include two straight, generally parallel concrete paths within the essentially rectangular mall space and extend from Campus Drive to 2nd Street West, the edge of the campus. Three shorter concrete paths provide access between the north and south sides of the campus; these paths are embellished with simple benches and clumps of evergreen trees and low deciduous shrubs. An important feature of the mall, which has numerous mature trees and modern street lights along either side of it, are two large petrified wood monoliths, striking sculptural pieces derived from the local landscape. Trees dot the campus in an informal manner, and there is now a parking lot along 8th Avenue West at the east campus edge which replaced a deteriorated tennis court in 1996. Suitable landscape screening for the parking lot is planned as is the removal of a recent sand volleyball pit opposite the Student Center. Campus Drive, which was part of the Morell & Nichols plan, provides vehicular transportation access to the buildings and also outlines the mall, defining the relationship between buildings and open space.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

A noteworthy landscape element is the stone fence with gate posts which runs along 2nd Street West from 10th Avenue West to 8th Avenue West, the length of the principal open space of the campus and the district. Constructed in 1941 as a federal public works project, the fence frames and outlines an important boundary between the campus and private residential land use across the street. While not specified in the campus plan, the fence does highlight the demarcation between campus and noncampus which was part of the original plan.

The approximately 2.5' high fence and the single set of simple square gate posts along 2nd Street West were constructed of highly textured scoria, which is a metamorphosed clay and shale found in the Missouri Slope Badlands. Gate posts at the juncture of 2nd Street West and 8th Avenue West are also constructed of local materials, gray sandstone from Sentinel Butte itself. The stone is rusticated and randomly laid, then topped with three graduated rows of stone capped off with a concrete orb. Dedicated in 1941, the pedestrian entrance to the campus has a metal plaque on each post: "S.T. May, 1918-1929" and "Alumni Memorial."

Located across from the entrance to May Hall, a recent flag pole and elaborate base continue the use of local materials. Scoria and what appears to be the same gray Sentinel Butte sandstone form a platform for a centered flag pole. Orbs similar to those of the Alumni Memorial gate post are placed on graduated pedestals. The arrangement is located in an island which separates vehicular traffic and which appeared on the 1920 campus plan. Turf and colored concrete block paving surround the piece, which has a small metal plaque stating "in honor of all United States veterans."

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

The first state higher educational institution west of the Missouri River in North Dakota, Dickinson State Normal School Campus District is significant under Criteria A and C. The school's development relates to two North Dakota contexts: State Government, 1889-1940 and Higher Education, 1884-1940. Regarding Criterion C, the campus district is an excellent, relatively unaltered example of early twentieth century collegiate building and campus design in North Dakota. Regarding Criterion A, Dickinson State Normal School was the product of a concerted and energetic local effort to establish and develop the first state school in North Dakota west of the Missouri River. The circumstances behind its establishment and subsequent campus development reflect the quest to obtain and then sustain a state-owned institution in the West River region. In addition, the establishment of the school reflected increased settlement in the region and related demand for state services. The evolution of the institution from normal school to university illustrates broad trends in educational practice, another aspect of Criterion A eligibility. Developed between 1922 and 1932, the three major buildings and the campus call attention to these themes and exemplify skillful collegiate architectural and campus design from the early twentieth century in North Dakota. As a state institution with a demonstrated impact on regional educational opportunities, the district is of statewide significance.

Located in the "Slope"¹ area west and south of the Missouri River, the community of Dickinson developed as a major hub on the Northern Pacific rail line that penetrated the area in 1880. As settlement increased, local residents sought a state institution for their region, a normal school for training teachers for rural schools. After six years of agitation and passage of an enabling state constitutional amendment, Dickinson State Normal School opened in rented quarters in June 1918. Summer refresher course sessions for teachers were initially held, and in the fall normal school training for prospective teachers as well as a high school opened. In 1919 the State of North Dakota acquired a 60-acre campus site on Signal Butte eight blocks west of the main commercial area of Dickinson. The City of Dickinson and Stark County jointly bought the site and donated it to the state. That same year, a campus plan for the school was prepared.

¹The Missouri Slope is the area in North Dakota which is west of the Missouri River. It contains many high, flat-topped buttes in a rugged landscape and is part of the Missouri Plateau, a geological region distinct from the Drift Prairie located in the eastern portion of the state.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

Dated September 1920, major elements of the plan were followed. Various using legislative appropriations, local funds, and faculty investments, buildings were constructed and landscaping undertaken at the school. The first building was the heating and power plant (1921) followed by a dormitory, Stickney Hall (1922); multi-purpose classroom and administration building, May Hall (1923); and another dormitory, South or Klinefelter Hall (1932). These buildings formed the core of the campus. Except for a modest service building dating from 1937, there was no new construction on the campus between 1932 and 1953 when a gymnasium was built. Substantial construction occurred in the 1960s (eight buildings) and 1970s (three buildings). Reflecting changing educational practices, the school's name has changed over time: Dickinson State Teachers College (1931), Dickinson State College (1963), Dickinson State University (1987).

Educational Practices

Based on European models, the concept of the normal school was advanced by American educational reformers such as Horace Mann and James G. Carter in the nineteenth century. Carter, in particular, has been credited with setting the standard around 1825 for the establishment of educational institutions specifically tailored to train teachers. By 1900 all 45 states had normal schools. These schools were intended to train teachers for elementary schools, including the thousands of one-room rural schools found in the developing West.²

Efforts to improve the quality of teaching in rural schools in North Dakota prompted the establishment of two-year normal schools. In 1911 a certification law passed mandating certification of normal school graduates and examinations for non-graduates. During this period rural North Dakota suffered from inadequate teaching capabilities. In 1912, only 155 of the 1,131 teachers in the Missouri Slope area had received any training beyond high school. And more than 25 percent of them did not meet even the minimal requirements for the lowest form of a teaching certificate established under the 1911 legislation.³

²Margaret C. Walker, "The History of Secondary-Level Teacher Preparation in North Dakota: 1883-1921," M.A. thesis, University of North Dakota, 1968, pp. 11, 16.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

School year enrollments for Dickinson State Normal School hovered at around 225 in the early 1920s. Enrollment at all the nine state institutions and the private college at Jamestown doubled in the decade of the 1920s, from 3,000 to around 6,000 students. Half of these students attended the University of North Dakota or the Agricultural College. The other eight schools competed for the remainder. One method of competition was to expand and upgrade courses, degrees, accreditations, and titles. Beginning in 1921, the various two-year normal schools were transformed into four-year teachers colleges. Dickinson was the last to achieve that standing and was renamed Dickinson State Teachers College in 1931. Graduates now received a bachelor's degree in education and could qualify as high school teachers. By then, the school's enrollment had increased by nearly 500 percent in a dozen years.⁴

The escalation of titles and coursework continued. Following World War II, returning veterans did not all want degrees in education from state teachers colleges nor could they all be accommodated at the University of North Dakota and the Agricultural College at Fargo. After an extended wait, Dickinson State Teachers College became Dickinson State College in 1963, with a suitably broadened curriculum. Teachers colleges at Minot, Valley City, and Mayville were also re-organized in 1963.⁵

Increasingly, the approach was away from the nineteenth century concept of a normal school and toward providing a liberal arts education for teachers. Courses in pedagogy--the means for transmitting information and concepts--assumed a secondary role. It was felt that a teacher needed a sound liberal arts foundation of knowledge in order to be able to teach others. This

³ Osbourne T. Belsheim, *The Story of Dickinson State* (n.p.: Dickinson State College, 1968), p. 15.

⁴ Barbara Beving Long, *Survey of Selected State Properties. The Evolution of Dickinson State Normal School, 1912-1940*. Report prepared for State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1990, pp. 26-27.

⁵Long, p. 33.

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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stark County, ND

trend continued and culminated with another name change, to Dickinson State University, in 1987.⁶

Local Participation

Strong local interest in Dickinson State Normal School was responsible for its inception and its development. When Slope residents began lobbying for the school, 13 state institutions were in place--all of them except one located east of the Missouri River. The Reform School in Mandan was just across the river at Bismarck. In their enthusiasm to establish a local school of higher learning, Dickinson residents mirrored similar efforts across the country.

In 1912 the need for a Slope normal school became a campaign issue. More and more politicians rushed to ally themselves with the idea, and the momentum swelled. In 1913 State Senator Morton McBride introduced a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to establish a normal school at Dickinson. Following a series of required steps, the measure was placed on the ballot for the November 7, 1916 election.⁷

Now began the concerted campaign to convince voters in the entire state of the need for a normal school in the southwest section of the state. The campaign was a major grassroots undertaking. For example, the Dickinson Commercial Club held a fundraising drive, taking in \$3500 from local sources to cover expenses. Donations ranged from \$2 from the IOOF lodge to \$203.10 from James C. Young.⁸

During the fall of 1916, the crusade intensified. A public relations specialist was hired, the local newspaper ran article after article, sample ballots were distributed, and preprinted articles, cartoons and maps were sent to newspapers across the state. One article asserted that "a vote for

⁶Long, pp. 33-34.

⁷Long, p. 13.

⁸ "Back Normal School Project with Money," *Dickinson Press*, September 30, 1916; Belsheim, p. 15.

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the establishment of this school is your patriotic duty." Politicians saw to it that the planks of both political parties called for a Slope normal school.⁹

As part of the campaign, the Dickinson Commercial Club mailed over two million pieces of advertising materials, sent over 200,000 letters to voters, and produced an elaborate booster booklet extolling the virtues of Dickinson, the "Queen City of the Prairies." They took decorated automobile caravans, bands and speakers to various communities across the state. Boosters met with influential state legislators to seek their endorsements. The efforts bore fruit: nearly every newspaper in the state endorsed the idea and scores of prominent educators, residents and politicians publically came out in favor of a normal school at Dickinson. The normal school constitutional amendment passed in November 1916. Every western county but one voted in favor of the measure.¹⁰

Intense local involvement with the normal school did not end with the election of 1916. Before the campus was developed, the city high school was provided for normal school use at no charge. The Commercial Club sent letters to area school superintendents asking for names of possible summer school students, then contacted them. The city and county donated the campus site. Local businessmen furnished free transportation to and from the campus in the 1920s, meeting trains and taking students to the school.¹¹

When the campus was developed, two community groups raised money for 400 trees that were planted the spring of 1923. After construction bids were let for May Hall, the amount was \$15,000 over the legislative appropriation of \$300,000. Twenty Dickinson residents and the school president, Samuel T. May, guaranteed loans to make up the shortfall. With this assistance, May Hall was able to open in 1924, but it lacked complete furnishings. In response, a "chair drive" was held, and concerned residents paid \$5 to buy a seat for the new auditorium in May Hall. Slope residents and students donated funds for 790 seats, enough to fill the main floor

⁹ Long, p. 14; Maude Klinefelter Scrapbook contains undated prepared articles.

¹⁰Belsheim, pp. 18-20.

¹¹ Long, pp. 17-18.

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of the auditorium. The cooperative campaign included a student parade through town, student candy sales, and efforts by the Rotary, Business and Professional Women's Club, the Maccabees, and other local groups.¹²

While the pace and degree of involvement by area residents and organizations lessened as the years passed, local participation of a sort remained a feature of campus development. To build a women's dormitory, Klinefelter Hall, the college took advantage of the state's "dormitory law." Under this legislation, faculty members could form a holding company and arrange for bonds to underwrite construction costs. Eleven Dickinson teachers formed the State Normal School Holding Company that sponsored construction of the new \$150,000 135-woman dormitory completed and occupied in 1932.¹³

Collegiate Design

The buildings in the campus district reflected current trends in collegiate design, especially in the application of Tudor Revival stylistic influences. According to a 1903 article on collegiate design, the Tudor Revival (also termed Elizabethan and English Collegiate style) was particularly suited to small campuses with no need of immense buildings. The style lent itself readily to buildings of varying heights and sizes than more classically-derived styles.¹⁴

Despite the use of two different architectural firms, the principal buildings of the original campus offer a visual cohesiveness by means of the style and materials employed. The architects responsible for Stickney Hall and May Hall, Keith and Kurke of Bismarck and Fargo, applied Tudor Revival design motifs to the buildings at Dickinson State Normal School. One of

¹²"Corner Stone Laying," April 16, 1923, flyer in Klinefelter Scrapbook; Belsheim, p. 39; "Debt Owed Dickinson by Normal," *Dickinson Teacher*, undated clipping, Klinefelter Scrapbook.

¹³Long, p. 29.

¹⁴A.D.F. Hamlin, "Recent American College Architecture," *The Outlook* (August 1903): 794-797.

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the best known firms in the state during the 1920s, they were responsible for a number of state institutional buildings, including the power plant at Dickinson, Liberty Memorial Building on the State Capitol grounds, a dining hall for the Institute for the Feeble-Minded at Grafton, the Medical Building at the State Hospital in Jamestown, and the Men's Residence Hall at North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo. Another North Dakota architect, Ira L. Rush, designed Klinefelter Hall, but carried on the Tudor Revival tradition established by Keith and Kurke. Rush maintained offices in Minot and Bismarck and designed the city hall in Dickinson in addition to the dormitory.¹⁵

The Minneapolis landscape architectural firm of Morell & Nichols was hired to provide the campus plan. The firm opened offices in Minneapolis in 1910 after Arthur Nichols and Anthony Morell had spent several years working for New York landscape engineer Charles W. Leavitt. Nichols was reportedly the first graduate of the landscape architecture program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 1902. Little is known about Morell, who was born in France and came to America in 1904. Morell & Nichols prepared numerous landscape plans for colleges and universities in the Midwest. In North Dakota, the firm received commissions for plans for the Reform School at Mandan and also the University of North Dakota.¹⁶

The design for the Dickinson campus reflected certain informal and naturalistic features typical of American planned landscape designs: curving lanes, copious amounts of trees and shrubs, and an interest in enhancing and taking advantage of natural topographic features. The work of Frederick Law Olmsted, notably New York's Central Park and a series of land-grant colleges, first defined this approach for college campuses in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Olmsted believed that the college site should form a community within a naturalistic park. Olmsted-influenced plans contained large amounts of open green space and frequently took advantage of

¹⁵Long, pp. 22, 29.

¹⁶"Morell & Nichols Papers, ca. 1913-1960. 40 feet." Northwest Architectural Archives, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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a natural vista or other focal point.¹⁷

A competing approach to campus design popularized at the turn of the century applied Beaux-Arts design principles. Hallmarks of this approach are monumental conception, division of large spaces into "parti" or discrete units, a series of axes, a certain symmetry, and a formal, grand tone. Yet another mode combined elements of the Beaux-Arts with Thomas Jefferson's plan for the University of Virginia. A key element was the presence of a dominant central mall terminating on a significant structure. Lesser buildings were typically arrayed along the sides of the central mall, which at the University of Virginia terminated with the Rotunda.¹⁸

Elements of these concepts were reflected in the Morell & Nichols plan for the Dickinson campus. The influence of the informal Olmsted approach included curving lanes, recreational or open space outline by the curving lanes, reference to notable topographic features, and generous amounts of vegetation. The principal Beaux-Arts influences at Dickinson are manifested in the siting of principal buildings and also the broad, straight mall that terminates at May Hall. The mall also appears to be a reflection of the renewed interest in the 1910s and 1920s of Jefferson's collegiate design.¹⁹

Summary

The development of Dickinson State Normal School embraced a variety of themes ranging from the repeated cooperative efforts on the part of Dickinson area residents to enhance their school to the development of a typical college campus. In sum, the school was a state institution with strong local backing whose evolution was from normal school to university status. The school's

¹⁷Long, p. 19; Paul V. Turner, *Campus: An American Planning Tradition* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984), p. 145.

¹⁸Turner, pp. 167-172, 182, 191; William Beiswanger, "Thomas Jefferson," and Richard Dober, "Campuses," in *American Landscape Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1989), pp. 20, 116-117.

¹⁹Long, p. 20.

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history mirrors national changes, in education, teacher training, the emergence of teaching as a profession, as well as trends in collegiate and campus design. Like many other campuses, Dickinson State Normal School enjoyed the services of professional architects and landscape architects, resulting in distinctive buildings displaying Tudor Revival stylistic influences and a spacious campus combining formal and informal elements.

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Long, Barbara Beving. *Survey of Selected State Properties. The Evolution of Dickinson State Normal School, 1912-1940.* Context report prepared for State Historical Society of North Dakota. 1990.

Maude Klinefelter Scrapbook. Dickinson State University, Dickinson, North Dakota.

Belsheim, Osbourne T. *The Story of Dickinson State.* N.p.: Dickinson State College, 1968.

Morell & Nichols Papers, ca. 1913-1960. Northwest Architectural Archives, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Hamlin, A.D.F., "Recent American College Architecture." *The Outlook* (August 1903): 791-799.

Turner, Paul V. *Campus: An American Planning Tradition.* Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The compact rectangular campus district has as its north and west boundaries the change in grade of Sentinel Butte, which occurs at the backs of the five buildings in the district. The east boundary is 8th Avenue West, and the south boundary is 2nd Street West. Buildings face Campus Drive, which curves north from 2nd Street West, turns east at the apex of Sentinel Butte, and continues east to 8th Avenue West. The pedestrian mall is located in the open space surrounded by Campus Drive, 8th Avenue West, and 2nd Street West.

Boundary Justification

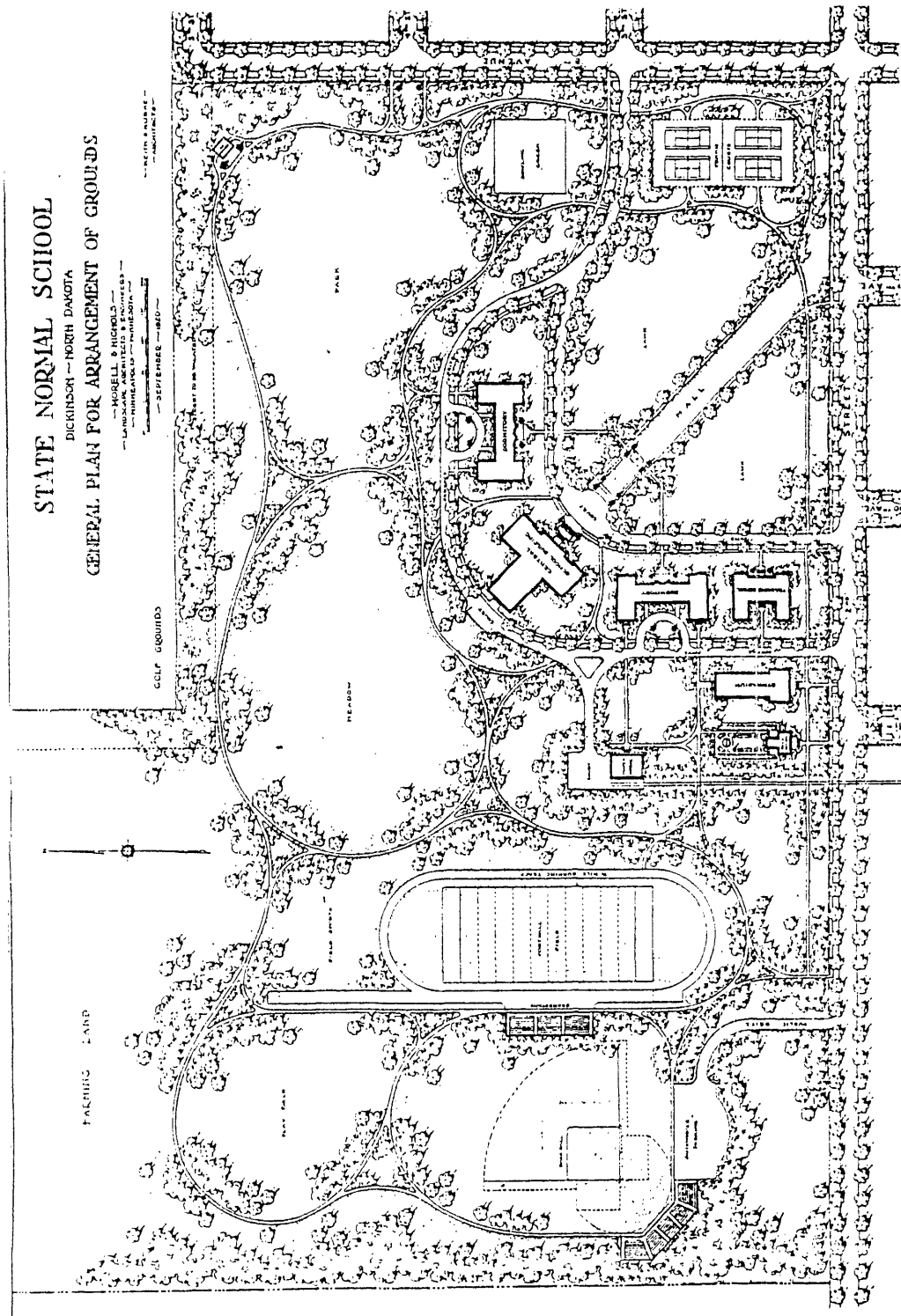
The boundary includes the three main collegiate buildings and campus plan that have historically been part of Dickinson State Normal School and that maintain historic integrity. The power house, which dates from 1921, has been excluded because it has a non-educational function and has lost its integrity of setting, for it is surrounded by new construction. Changes in land use (from collegiate to residential), topography (the buildings occupy Sentinel Butte), and the presence of city streets provide clear demarcation of the campus district.

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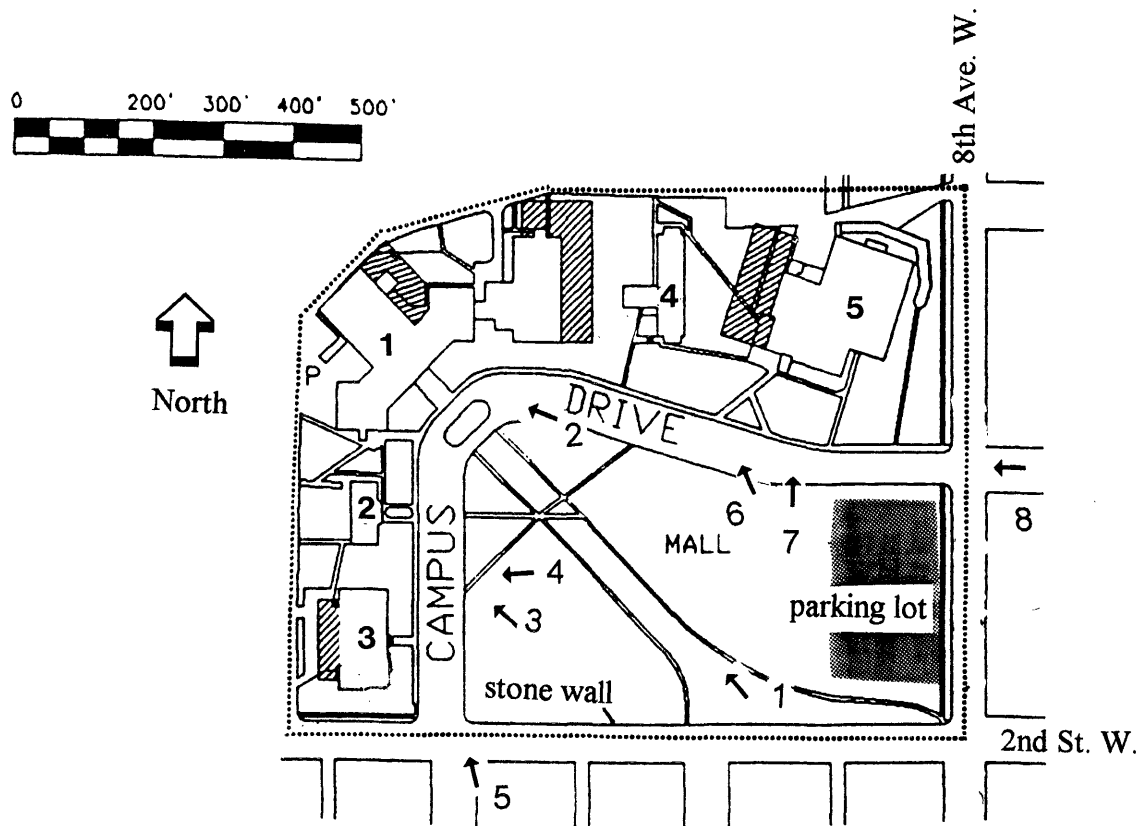


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BUILDING LIST

* = *Noncontributing*

- 1. May Hall
- 2. Stickney Hall
- 3. Klinefelter Hall
- 4. Selke Hall*
- 5. Student Center*

..... district boundary

Shaded areas = parking

→ = Direction of Photograph

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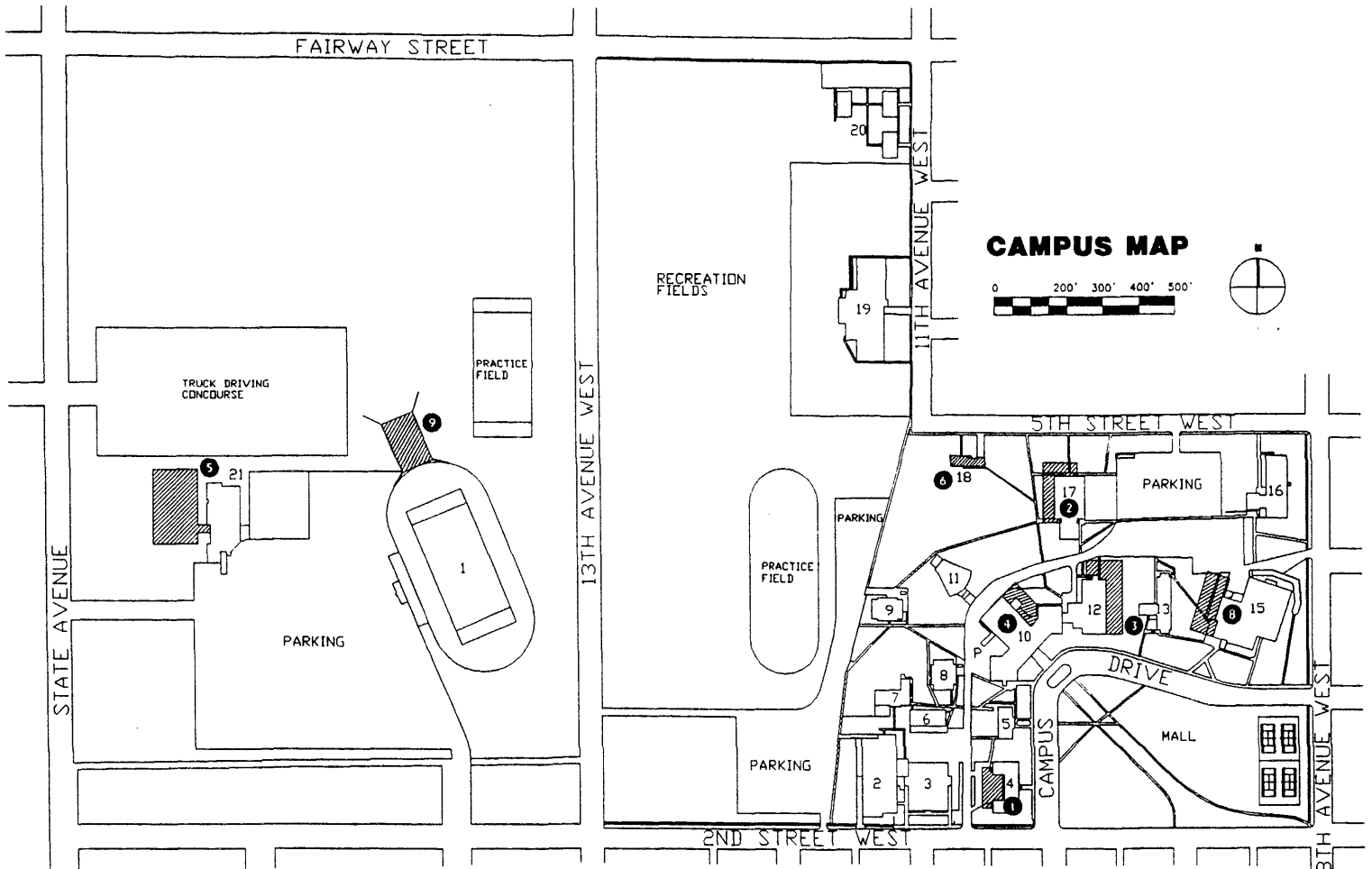
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INDEX OF BUILDINGS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Whitney Stadium | 14. Tennis Courts |
| 2. Wienbergen Hall | 15. Student Center |
| 3. Scott Gymnasium | 16. Woods Hall |
| 4. Klinefelter Hall | 17. Murphy Hall |
| 5. Stickney Hall | 18. President's Residence |
| 6. Garage and Service Building | 19. Jefferson Elementary School |
| 7. Power Plant | 20. University Apartments |
| 8. DeLong Hall | 21. West River
Classroom Complex |
| 9. Pulver Hall | 22. South Campus |
| 10. May Hall | |
| 11. Outdoor Amphitheatre | |
| 12. Stoxen Library | |
| 13. Selke Hall | |



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Dickinson State Normal School Campus District
Stark County, North Dakota
Photographer: BJB Long
August 1996
Negative Location: ND SHPO
View to NW showing campus mall, May Hall in background
No. 1

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, May Hall
Stark County, North Dakota
Photographer: BJB Long
August 1996
Negative Location: ND SHPO
View to W
No. 2

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stickney Hall
Stark County, North Dakota
Photographer: BJB Long
August 1996
Negative Location: ND SHPO
View to NW
No. 3

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Klinefelter Hall
Stark County, North Dakota
Photographer: BJB Long
August 1996
Negative Location: ND SHPO
View to SW
No. 4

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Stickney and May Halls
Stark County, North Dakota
Photographer: BJB Long

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August 1996

Negative Location: ND SHPO

View to NW

No. 5

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Selke Hall

Stark County, North Dakota

Photographer: BJB Long

August 1996

Negative Location: ND SHPO

View to NW

No. 6

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Student Center

Stark County, North Dakota

Photographer: BJB Long

August 1996

Negative Location: ND SHPO

View to N

No. 7

Dickinson State Normal School Campus District, Campus Site Showing Selke and May Halls

Stark County, North Dakota

Photographer: BJB Long

August 1996

Negative Location: ND SHPO

View to W

No. 8