

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED FEB 22 1981

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

Keystone School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

3rd St.

STREET & NUMBER

Third Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Keystone

VICINITY OF Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Dakota

46

Pennington

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

X EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Hill City School District #51 - 2

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 659

CITY, TOWN

Hill City

VICINITY OF South Dakota

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pennington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

604 Kansas City Street

CITY, TOWN

Rapid City,

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 ,interior

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Keystone School is a two-story frame structure, which has served as a grade school since it was constructed in 1900. The classrooms are grouped in a rectangular central block under a hipped roof, and in a wing which joins the center of the rear of the building that is covered by a hip roof with a small gable at the ridge. A smaller wing in the center of the south facade contains the main entrance and has a staircase on each side of the hall. Foliated carving decorates the caps of the stair newell posts in the style common to the turn of the century. The entrance/stair wing has a gable roof with a bell cupola. The central block has two bays with three light windows. The front of this wing and the rear wing have sash windows with transoms. Narrow clapboards were used for siding with a band of vertical beaded siding below the first floor windows and a band of rounded wood shingles between the first and second floor windows. These shingles were also used in the gables and the small triangular dormers. Supporting the terrace on which the school is sited, is a stone retaining wall. The wall which runs flush with the central section of the building and the east wall of the basement is fully exposed with several large windows and doors.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES 1897 - 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Eli Shomaker, contractor

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant in the areas of education and architecture, the Keystone School is a well-preserved and less common example of a frame rural school at the turn of the century. Built over a three year period, the school cost \$10,000 by the time it was completed in 1900. In that year, the community of Keystone had a population of 1500, as well as two churches, three hotels, and numerous saloons. The school, which dominates the town from its hillside position, is unusually large for schools of its day. Unlike its more urban counterparts, it was built of frame milled locally. The large blocky mass of the building is broken with projecting bays, a rather complex roof plan and an interesting use of contrasting treatments of the wooden trim. The scale shingles and exterior wainscoting or watertable compliment the horizontal board siding, while the tower completes the composition of the roof plan.

