

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 South Dakota School for the Deaf

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1800 East 10th Street

not for publication

city, town Sioux Falls

vicinity of

congressional district First

state South Dakota

code 46

county Minnehaha

code 099

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
  - private
  - both
- Public Acquisition
- in process
  - being considered

Status

- occupied
  - unoccupied
  - work in progress
- Accessible
- yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - no

Present Use

- agriculture
  - commercial
  - educational
  - entertainment
  - government
  - industrial
  - military
- museum
  - park
  - private residence
  - religious
  - scientific
  - transportation
  - other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of South Dakota

street & number State Office Office Building

city, town Pierre

vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Minnehaha County Courthouse

street & number 415 North Dakota Avenue

city, town Sioux Falls

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The South Dakota School for the Deaf, a 23.8 acre site of which 4.5 acres are nominated, is located within a large city block. Rectangular in shape, the site has a long bell-shaped drive along the west side. The earliest buildings are grouped around the drive, while more recent structures have been added to the rear and east of the original structures. Comprised of thirteen buildings, the school is sited on a hill, overlooking the city of Sioux Falls. While originally located outside the city, the school is now surrounded by suburbs. Of the thirteen structures, seven are eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Five structures are landmarks and two are contributing. The remaining six, outside the nominated area, are fabric. Three landmark structures were demolished in the early part of this century

## LANDMARK

1, 5. Old Main and Girls Dormitory. These two structures are joined with a stone annex built in 1908. Old Main is an H-shaped structure, two stories in height, with projecting semi-circular bays on the first floor on the north and south facades. The Girls Dorm is a later addition, rectangular in shape and two-and-one-half stories in height. Both buildings are constructed of Sioux quartzite. Old Main is trimmed in smooth-faced pipestone.

1. Designed by Wallace LeRoy Dow, Old Main was built in 1883 and is an extremely fine composition in the Romanesque style. A basic three part composition on the main facade, the projecting side bays have one large window each, surrounded with an elliptical stone arch of a darker color. Darker stone was also used in the quoins. Unfortunately, modifications to the building included painting this pipestone trimwork a pink color to match the quartzite. The stone trim is also used in the corbelled decoration in the gables. Additional decorative features in the gables include the small, semi-elliptical windows. Double chimneys are placed on the ridgeline of the flanking bays. The central bay, placed on axis to the side bays is itself composed of three bays. The centermost contains the entrance on the first floor and three, tall, round arched windows on the second. The side bays consist of a single, smaller, arched window. Once again, these windows are delineated with darker stone and punctuated with lighter rectangular blocks. Originally, the central bay was topped with a cupola and the entrance was recessed. A wooden porch was built flush with the projecting side bays. The present entrance is a 1937 addition constructed of stone. This projects beyond the side bays and is composed in three bays. The porch is in the Collegiate Tudor style used elsewhere on the campus. Windows have been altered somewhat over the years, and second floor frame additions have been built over the semi-circular, side bays.

5. The Girls Dormitory erected in 1913 is a far less exuberant building. Composed in eight bays on the axial facades and three on the gable, side facades, the building is marked with a stringcourse between the first and second floors. The hipped roof has three dormers on the axial facades and one on the gable. The annex is two stories and built of stone.

2, 3. Old Boys Dormitory and Classroom Building. A basic rectangle with slightly projecting bays on either end, the building has an H shape. The earlier portion of the structure dates from 1884-1885 and was designed by Dow. Constructed of Sioux quartzite and trimmed in pipestone, this two-and-one-half story building has its original entrance placed in the projecting end unit. The entrance is surrounded by a semi-circular arch and is encased within a square of stone trimwork. Windows on the first floor are all arched, while those on the second and half story alternate between rectangular and arched. Quoins, beltcourses and checkered patterns in the gable serve as decorative finishes. In 1912 the addition was built. Designed by John Chapmen, it repeated the Dow design throughout. There is a slightly later

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South Dakota School for the Deaf

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cast to the style, however, they are among the best additions made to Dow's buildings.

7. Primary Hall. This structure dates from 1929 and is designed in the Collegiate Tudor style. The two-and-one-half storied building is constructed of red brick and trimmed in stone. A five-part composition, the hall has a projecting central bay housing the entrance. Each of the flanking bays is separated by slight, stepped buttresses. The center bay features a Tudor-arched door, and windows on the second and third floors encased in a stone band, topped with a parapet gable. Each of the side bays has three windows and a dormer in the roof plane. This structure was once used as living quarters.

CONTRIBUTING

4. Power Plant. Occasionally referred to as the hospital or old infirmary, this small, pyramidal roofed, one-story building was converted to use in later years as part of the power plant. It has been connected to the gymnasium building by a one-story annex. Probably dating from the 19th century, ~~the building may have been built for~~ other reasons than a hospital. The five-bay stone structure has the entrance door places off center, a treatment common to buildings which use domestic forms for non-domestic purposes. The entire building is raised above ground level by a half-story basement.

6. Gymnasium. This building has been added onto over the years and is now part of the industrial building and power plant complex. The only portion of the original two-story rectangular stone structure is the three bays visible on the south side of the gym. The gymnasium was added in 1929. Also constructed of rusticated stone, the gym is a four-bay composition with three large, glass windows. On the southwest corner is a two-and-one-half-story tower housing the entrance. This structure is also trimmed in smooth-faced beige stone. A laundry unit was added in 1937, a garage in 1938.

FABRIC

8. Garage. This frame was built in 1929.

9. New Boys Dormitory. Dating from 1946, this two-story building has a yellow brick veneer.

10. Garage. Dating from 1949, this garage is a frame structure.

11. Infirmary. Frame with a brick veneer, this one-story building was built in 1964.

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12. Plant. A veneer of brick covers this 1971 frame structure, which has a two-story main body and one-story additions.

13. New Classroom Building. Although larger in scale than the other buildings, this structure gracefully adopts to the site of gentle, rolling hills. The brick veneer is especially handsome. This is the most successful of the post-1929 structures.

DEMOLISHED

Building. This large, one-and-one-half story, stone structure appears from the photographs to have been a Dow building.

Dormitory. This is another building which exhibits the grace and style associated with Dow's work. The only evidence of the building is a c.1900 photograph.

Carriage House. Once again, the graceful design of this structure suggests it may have been an original Dow-designed building.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1883-1929 **Builder/Architect** W.L. Dow, J. Chapman, and others

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The South Dakota School for the Deaf is significant in the areas of architecture, education and social/humanitarian endeavors. One of the major state institutions in South Dakota, the school retains several important buildings designed by the state's leading architect of the Territorial period. Both Wallace L. Dow and John Chapman are famous names in the history of South Dakota architecture.

The South Dakota School for the Deaf grew out of the Dakota School for Deaf-Mutes founded by Miss Jennie Wright and Reverend Thomas B. Perry in 1880. The school relied at first on private donations and a \$1000 grant from the city of Sioux Falls. Soon thereafter the territorial government assumed responsibility for the school and appropriated \$12,000 for the construction of Old Main. Completed in 1884, the structure served as an administrative center, classroom building, dormitory, and residence for the superintendent. In 1885 the Boys Dormitory was erected at the cost of \$16,000, and later a hospital was constructed to the east of Old Main. This eventually was converted to use as the Girls Dormitory. During the early 1900s, rapidly increasing enrollments forced the school to build new facilities. This led to the construction of additions to the Boys and Girls dormitories. John Chapman, the architect of these additions, was sympathetic to the original design of the buildings and blended his work into the whole. The additions were completed by 1913. The final phase of important building was completed in 1929 when Primary Hall and the Gymnasium were erected. The following decades have brought new buildings to the campus, however, with the exception of the New Classroom Building, little attention was paid to the original architectural features. The plan on the other hand, has been maintained.

The school remains as a visual reminder of the earliest attempts by government to provide special services to the citizens of the state. Not only is the work of the institution noteworthy, but structures which housed this work are architectural landmarks. They represent the period in which public benefit meant not only services, but architectural quality as well.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Eitrem, George W. B. "A History of the South Dakota School for the Deaf." M.A. thesis, University of South Dakota, 1940.  
 Robinson, Doane. History of South Dakota. Vol. II. Bowen and Co., 1904.  
 Bailey, Dana R. History of Minnehaha County, South Dakota. Sioux Falls: Brown and Saenger, 1899.

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 4.5

Quadrangle name Sioux Falls East

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

### UMT References

A 

1	4	6	8	5	5	4	0	4	8	2	4	0	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	4	6	8	5	6	5	0	4	8	2	4	0	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	4	6	8	5	6	1	0	4	8	2	3	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	4	6	8	5	5	4	0	4	8	2	3	8	9	0
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	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Mashek and Tom Lubeck technical editing: Carolyn Torma  
Historical Preservation Center, USD, Vermillion, SD  
 organization Minnehaha County Historical Society date 28 Dec 80 , 15 Apr 81  
 street & number Old County Courthouse, 6th & Main telephone (605) 677 5313  
 city or town Sioux Falls 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

*Junius R. Fieldman*

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

date 1.16.81 (see letter)

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6.14.81

*MS*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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JUN 14 1981

DATE ENTERED

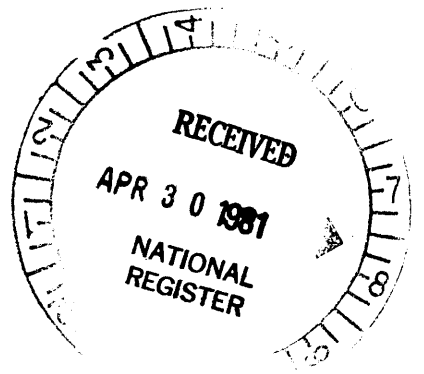
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Verbal boundary description and justification.

The west boundary is an imaginary line which is parallel to the west walls of the Old Boys Dorm, Old Main, and the Primary Building and lies 30 feet west of the Old Boys Dorm. This line extends from 30 feet north of the Old Boys Dorm to 30 feet south of Primary Hall. The north boundary is an imaginary line which is parallel to the north walls of the Old Boys Dorm and the Gymnasium, and lies 30 feet from the north wall of the Dorm. The line extends from 30 feet west of the Dorm to 10 feet north of the Gymnasium. The east boundary is three imaginary lines, which are parallel to the east walls of the Gymnasium, Girls Dorm/Old Main, and Primary Hall, and lie 10 feet from the east wall of those three structures respectively. The south boundary is three imaginary lines which are parallel to the south walls of the Gymnasium, Girls Dorm/Old Main, and Primary Hall. The lines lie 10 feet from the south walls of the three structures respectively. The boundaries form a contiguous polygon as indicated on the enclosed map.



JUN 14 1981

E. 10th Street

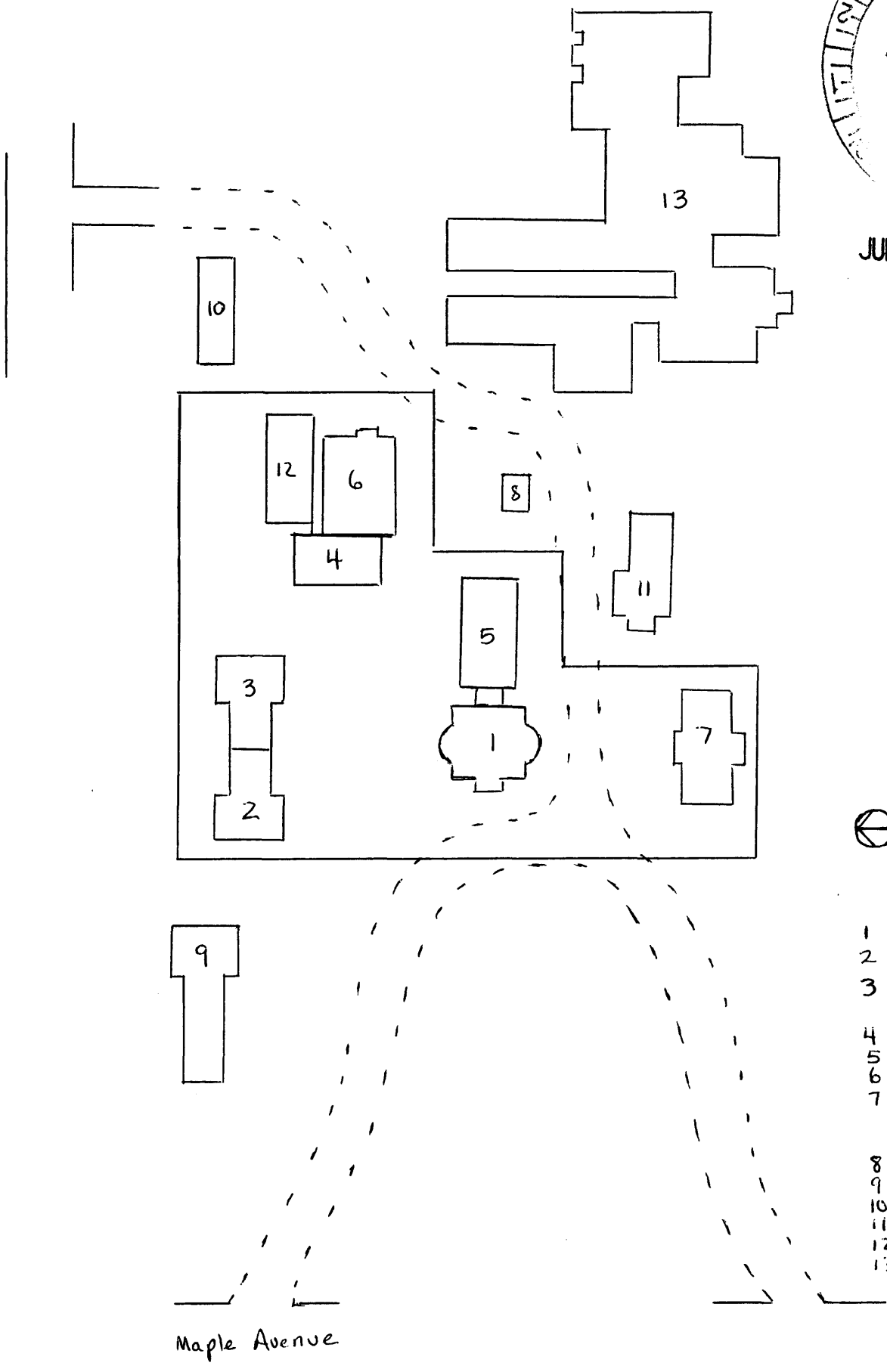
South Dakota  
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KEY

- 1 Old Main 1883
- 2 Old Boys Dorm 1885
- 3 Old Boys Dorm Addi- 1912  
tion
- 4 Power Plant 1912
- 5 Girls Dorm 1913
- 6 Gymnasium 1929
- 7 Primary Hall 1929
  
- 8 Garage 1929
- 9 New Boys Dorm 1946
- 10 Garage 1949
- 11 Infirmary 1964
- 12 Plant 1971
- 13 New Classroom 1979  
Building

— Boundary (NR)



Maple Avenue