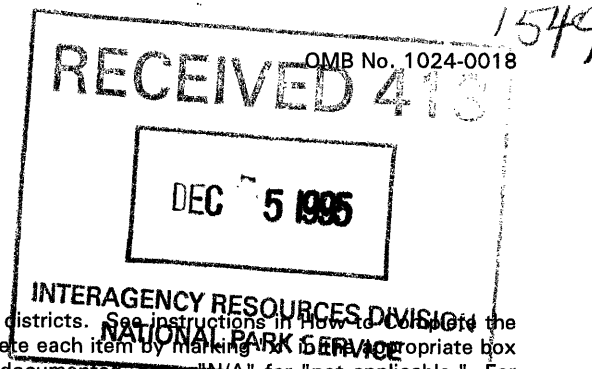


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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 State Training School Historic District
other names/site number North Dakota State Reform School, North Dakota State Industrial School, 32MO146

2. Location

street & number West bank of Heart River, 0.5 miles south of West Main Street, on west edge of Mandan
city or town Mandan not for publication N/A vicinity X
state North Dakota code ND county Morton code 059 zip code 58554

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James E. Sperry Signature of certifying official/Title
James E. Sperry Date 11/29/95
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
X 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 B. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1.19.96
Entered in the National Register

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	
<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>2</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.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Correctional Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Correctional Facility
VACANT/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Late Gothic Revival
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Mission/Spanish Colonial
Other: Ice House, Root Cellar

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
STUCCO
CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT
other _____

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 associated with lives of persons significant in past.
- C Property embodies distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction; represents work of master; possesses high artistic values; represents 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 religious institution/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 old/achieved significance in past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1924-1945

Significant Dates

1924 Gymnasium completed

1925 Dakota Hall, Ice House completed

1927 Root Cellar completed

1929 Devine Hall completed

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Van Horn, Arthur

Ritterbush, Robert A.

Ritterbush, Clarence

Turner, Claude A.P.

McElroy, Clifford T.

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 # _____

Primary Location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

North Dakota State Archives, Bismarck

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 6.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 <u>14</u>	<u>354000</u>	<u>5186480</u>	3 _____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____	4 _____	_____	_____

_____ 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 John F. Lauber, Senior Research Historian
organization Hess, Roise and Company date August 1995
street & number 405 Cedar Avenue South, Suite 200 telephone (612) 338-1987
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55454

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Elaine Little, Director, Dept. Of Corrections & Rehabilitation, State of North Dakota.
street & number P. O. Box 1898 telephone (701)328-6390
city or town Bismarck state ND zip code 58505-1898

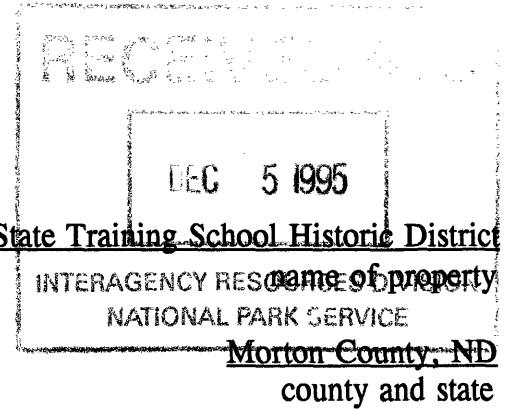
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

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 20013-7128; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION

Site

The State Training School Historic District is located on the main campus of the North Dakota State Industrial School, on the west side of Mandan.¹ The eastern half of the campus lies within the city's corporate boundaries. The school property is bounded on the north by West Main Street and the Northern Pacific Railroad right-of-way, on the east by the Heart River and on the south by a high bluff. The farmland lying directly to the west of the campus is also owned by the school.

Access to the school is provided by a long, tree-lined, asphalt-paved road that turns south off West Main Street just after it crosses the Heart River. The road crosses the railroad tracks, then passes through an expanse of level, well-tended lawn that comprises the institution's central campus. Near the south end of the lawn, the road divides into two branches, flanking a small triangular island and a large, grassy square before passing into a paved parking area. The west branch of the road continues south from the parking area, crossing a grassy, east-west drainage ditch before climbing to the top of the bluff.

The campus was originally laid out to focus on the school's Main Building, which stood on the grassy square from 1902 until about 1989. The Main Building provided an important visual terminus for the access road, and most of the buildings erected on campus during the institution's first two decades were clustered around its west, south and east sides. The only resource remaining from this period is the 1908 Manual Training Building, which stands adjacent to the square on the southwest. The land flanking the access road to the north was originally reserved for truck gardens and row crops.

The visual focus of the campus began to shift after a gymnasium and two dormitories were erected north of the Main Building during the mid-1920s. Two side roads were constructed during this period to provide access to the new buildings. One road heads east from the access drive just south of the square, then doubles back toward the north, passing on the west side of Dakota Hall, a vacant boys' dormitory. The other road heads west from the access drive, then doubles back to form a long, flattened loop extending from north to south. The school's Gymnasium Building and Devine Hall, a vacant girls' dormitory, are located inside this loop. The quadrangle defined by the side roads became firmly established as the center

¹The Industrial School has been operated under three names. From 1903, when the first students arrived on campus, until 1920, the institution was known as the State Reform School. From 1920 to 1961, it was called the State Training School. In 1961, it was renamed the North Dakota State Industrial School. The institution is called the State Training School throughout this nomination.

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of campus life during the early 1960s, when a school building, a chapel, and a new boys' dormitory were erected in this area, and the truck gardens were converted into lawns.

The resources included within the Training School Historic District are located on the west, south and east sides of the quadrangle, and on the bluff to the south of the central campus. The district contains a total of eight buildings. Six of them contribute directly to the historic character of the district. The other two buildings are non-contributing.

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INDIVIDUAL BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

Devine Hall

Architects: Van Horn and Ritterbush, Bismarck

Builder: E.E. Salzman?

Date of construction: 1928-1929

Devine Hall is a two-story, Tudor Revival style dormitory building with a steep, double-pitched, intersecting roof. The building is essentially H-shaped in plan, consisting of two long wings connected by a transverse center section. Measuring approximately 82 by 118 feet overall, the structure is oriented along a north-south axis, with its principal facade facing east. There is a shallow, two-story pavilion with a shaped parapet at the midpoint of the building's center section. Projecting from the pavilion is a one-story entrance bay with crenellated parapets and a flat roof. On each side of the entrance bay is a raised, open terrace with a low, stepped parapet wall. An L-shaped, one-half story storage wing with a flat roof engages the building at the northwest corner.²

Built of structural tile and brick, the dormitory stands on a concrete foundation. It has no basement. Exterior walls are faced with striated brown brick. There is a wide, buff brick belt course at the base of the walls. The entrance bay has buff brick quoins, and a wide, buff brick frieze. The long wings terminate in gabled parapet walls. A small lancet window is set into the peak of each gable. There are two false wall dormers on the outer face of each wing. Each dormer has a gabled parapet containing a buff brick medallion. Parapets throughout the building are capped with concrete copings. The roof is supported by a system of wood trusses, and is covered with brown, asphalt, T-lock shingles. Two metal-framed skylights straddle the ridge of the roof above the north wing. Two square, brick, interior chimneys rise from the roof above that wing.

A wide flight of concrete steps leads to the dormitory's main entrance. The stairway is splayed outward and flanked by massive, concrete parapet walls. The main entry doors are set into a heavily molded,

²The descriptions of individual buildings at the Training School are based on primarily on field inspections by John Lauber conducted on 4 May 1995. The buildings are also described in a survey of the campus completed in 1990. See Barbara Beving Long, "The Evolution of the North Dakota State Reform School, 1890-1940," TMs, 1990, on file at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Bismarck. The original architectural drawings for Devine Hall are on file at the North Dakota State Industrial School, Mandan; see Van Horn and Ritterbush, "Girls' Dormitory, for State Training School, Mandan," n.d. Subsequent references to materials archived at the Industrial School will be identified with the abbreviation SIS.

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Tudor-arched surround made of concrete, painted white. A concrete escutcheon centered above the surround bears the legend "Devine Hall." On each side of the surround is a narrow, rectangular, window opening capped by a hooded, concrete, drip molding. The glazed, wood, double-leaf entry doors are set into the surround beneath a transom with simple tracery. Similar doors on each side of the entrance bay open directly onto the terraces. The side doors are set into rectangular openings with buff brick surrounds. A flight of concrete steps provides direct access to the south terrace from the outside. Centered in the pavilion above the entrance bay are three narrow windows with a buff brick surround, and a Tudor-arched drip molding made of concrete. A concrete medallion is set into the wall between the windows and the drip molding. There is an additional entrance in the outer wall of each of the long wings. Each of these side entrances contains a glazed, single-leaf wood door set into a buff brick surround, capped by a brick hood molding.

Most of the windows in Devine Hall have 6/6 wood, double-hung sash, fitted with heavy wire-mesh security screens. Windows facing the terraces contain wood, double casements with Tudor-arched infill panels. Window openings have painted concrete sills and quoined, buff brick surrounds.

The building's first level contained kitchen and dining areas for both students and staff. The second floor had two large dormitory rooms, two somewhat smaller ward rooms, a locker room, dispensary, sewing room and bathrooms, and accommodations for live-in staff.

Named in honor of former Training School Superintendent Joseph M. Devine, Devine Hall was erected in 1928-1929. Designed by the prominent Bismarck architectural firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush, the building is essentially a duplicate of Dakota Hall (1925), a boys' dormitory that stands across the quadrangle. Although Devine Hall was initially designated as a girls' dormitory, school officials hoped that they would eventually be able to build separate facilities for female students west of the main campus, and convert Devine Hall into a dormitory for male inmates. Consequently, the building was designed as a boys' residence, with large, open dormitories rather than individual rooms.³

³*13th Biennial Report of the State Training School, Mandan, North Dakota, July 1, 1926 to June 30, 1928* (n.p.): 5-6. Subsequent references to the biennial reports will be identified with the abbreviation BR, followed by publication date, and page numbers. Devine Hall received very little attention in the Board of Administration's minutes. On 26 March 1927, the Board voted to build a new girls' dormitory at the Training School, and a new officers' quarters at the State Penitentiary, citing "Section 282 of the 1913 Code," which apparently allowed state institutions to finance projects with loans from the State Industrial Commission. On the same day, the Board agreed to hire E.E. Salzman (no other information is given) to supervise construction of both projects. On 5 April 1927, the Board hired A. Van Horn as architect for the girls' building, agreeing to pay him \$1800 for the work. There is no mention of the overall project budget in the board minutes, nor is there any record of a

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The girls' campus was never developed, and Devine Hall continued to serve as the primary residence hall for the institution's female students until 1955, when an additional girls' dormitory was completed just to the north. Devine Hall remained in use as a residence hall until about 1984. It was later used sporadically to house the institution's chemical dependency programs and to provide accommodations for campus visitors. The building was vacated altogether in the early 1990s. According to the school's 1995 Master Plan, Devine Hall is slated for adaptive reuse as the institution's administrative office building.⁴

With the exception of some minor interior remodeling (suspended ceiling, door replacements), the building remains essentially unaltered. Although the building has been vacant and shows signs of deferred maintenance (deteriorating mortar joints at base of walls, peeling interior plaster), it is generally in good condition.

Devine Hall is a contributing feature of the State Training School Historic District.

competitive bidding process for contractors. The dormitory was apparently nearing completion by 14 March 1929, when Superintendent McClelland was authorized to spend \$10,611.43 on equipment for the girls' building. See Series 749, Box 1, Director of Institutions, Minutes of Board of Administration, North Dakota State Archives, Bismarck. Subsequent references to materials from the State Archives will be identified with the abbreviation NDSA, with appropriate locators.

⁴Al Fitterer Architects, "North Dakota Industrial School: Master Plan for Facilities, Update 1-95," SIS.

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Gymnasium

Structural Engineer: C.A.P. Turner, Minneapolis

Architects: Clifford T. McElroy, Minneapolis

Plans modified by Van Horn and Ritterbush, Bismarck

Builder: Institutional Labor

Date of Construction: 1924

The Gymnasium Building is a large, two-story, Spanish Mission Revival style structure with a rectangular plan. Measuring approximately 110 by 130 feet overall, the Gymnasium building is oriented along a north-south axis, with its principal facade facing east. The building consists of two main sections. The gymnasium proper is a tall rectangular volume covered by a double-pitched roof. The roof meets an eared parapet wall at each (north, south) end of the building. These walls have stepped, curvilinear parapets with heavy concrete copings. Stretched across the full width of the gymnasium on the east side is a rectangular, two-story, locker room and office block with parapet walls and a flat roof. Rising above the center of the locker room/office block is an entrance pavilion with a double-pitched roof and a front-facing, round-arched parapet.⁵

The Gymnasium Building rests on a concrete foundation. Walls are of reinforced concrete construction with a rough-cast stucco finish. Decorative details are made of salt-glazed, dark brown brick, and include a wide base course and a simple, denticulated cornice. The roof above the gym floor is supported on a system of steel trusses. The deck is covered with black, built-up roofing. Three double-pitched, metal-framed skylights are spaced equally along the ridge line. The flat roof over the locker room/office block is of reinforced concrete construction. The wood-framed roof above the main entrance is covered with green asphalt shingles.

A flight of wide concrete steps leads to the Gymnasium Building's main entrance. The entrance has a high, round-arched opening flanked by double pilasters made of dark brown, salt-glazed brick. The pilasters have bases, belt courses, and molded caps made of cast concrete. Centered between the pilasters are two wood, frame-and panel entry doors surmounted by a glazed transom. There is a wide, brick-faced lintel over the transom. Above the lintel is a brick spandrel panel containing a concrete plaque. Letters mounted on the plaque spell out the word "Gymnasium." There are three narrow, rectangular windows above the spandrel

⁵Architectural drawings for the Gymnasium Building are included in the Van Horn and Ritterbush Collection at the North Dakota State Archives, Bismarck; see file number 46913. Subsequent references to the Van Horn and Ritterbush collection will be identified with the abbreviation NDSA/VR, with appropriate locators.

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spandrel panel. Directly above the windows is a semi-circular fanlight with a brick archivolt.

There are 40 individual, rectangular windows in the principal (east) facade of the locker room/office block. The windows are spaced evenly, with twenty openings on each level -- ten on each side of the main entrance. The windows nearest the entrance and the endwalls are flanked by buttresses with concrete weatherings. There are five vertical window strips in each end of the gymnasium section. Each strip has a small, nearly square opening at the bottom, with a tall vertical opening further up the wall. The upper and lower openings are separated by recessed brick spandrel panels. The outer window strips on each end are flanked by buttresses with cast concrete weatherings. There are thirteen window openings in the back (west) wall of the gymnasium: six on the first level, and seven on the second level. The openings on the lower level are nearly square. Those on the upper level are rectangular. Windows in the locker room/office block have 6/6, double-hung, wood sash, with brick sills and lintels. All other window openings in the Gymnasium Building have been filled in with panels painted ochre to match the exterior stucco. An exit centered in the back wall of the gymnasium has also been filled in.

The gymnasium contains a regulation-size basketball court with a maple floor. A balcony-type running track is suspended above the gym floor at the second level. Shower and dressing rooms for students are located in the south half of the locker room/office block. Facilities for boys are on ground level, and facilities for the girls are located directly above on the second level. Offices for staff members are located in the north end of the block on ground level. The upper floor contains a series of small classrooms.

An enclosed swimming pool addition was attached to the south side of the Gymnasium Building in 1975.⁶ The pool enclosure is a flat-roofed, one-story, concrete-block structure with a rectangular plan. Portions of the sidewalls have a rough-cast stucco finish. The roof system consists of T-section, precast concrete beams. The pool enclosure is connected to the Gymnasium Building by a long, narrow, flat-roofed hyphen that is set well back from the face of the original building. The hyphen is constructed of concrete block with a rough-cast stucco finish.

During the Training School's early years, opportunities for indoor recreation were extremely limited due to

⁶Officials apparently intended to include a swimming pool as part of the institution's athletic facilities from the very beginning. A scope of work included in the original specifications indicates that the building was eventually to consist of three parts: the gymnasium, the two-story wing on the east, and "the bathing department on the south." The gymnasium and wing were to be erected immediately, and the bathing department was to be added later. See Clifford T. McElroy and C.A.P. Turner, "Specifications for a Gymnasium Building to be built at Mandan, North Dakota," 12 June 1922, SIS.

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a lack of adequate facilities. "During the three years that I have been here," wrote Superintendent J.M. Devine in 1918, "there never has been a day that I did not see and feel the great necessity of a gymnasium building." When William McClelland took over as superintendent in 1921, he emphatically reiterated the need for a gymnasium, and mounted an ambitious campaign to have one built, stating his belief that "supervised athletics constitute one of the biggest factors in the turning out of . . . good citizens." With permission from the Board of Administration, McClelland embarked upon a fact-finding tour, visiting several institutions that were "known to have . . . up-to-date gymnasium[s]." Upon his return, the superintendent described his concept for an ideal facility, then convinced the board to have Minneapolis engineer Claude A. P. Turner design the building. Turner, a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete, was already well known in the Bismarck-Mandan area for his work on the recently completed Liberty Memorial Bridge across the Missouri River. Turner collaborated on the project with Minneapolis architect Clifford T. McElroy. They submitted their final plans in December 1922.⁷

During the spring of the following year, the board asked the prominent Bismarck architectural firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush to revise the McElroy/Turner plan. The revised plans were approved on 7 June 1923, and construction of the new Gymnasium Building began immediately. Like other early buildings at institution, the Gymnasium was built largely with student labor. As the building neared completion in 1924, McClelland described it as "unquestionably one of the best -- if not the finest [gymnasiums] -- in the state," and predicted that the building would soon be "seething with activity practically every night."⁸ This was no exaggeration. Heavily used by both male and female students at the Training School, the building was also selected as the venue for a host of high-profile public events, including the North Dakota State Basketball Tournament, a series of band concerts, an automobile show, and the State Shriners Convention.

The Gymnasium Building continues to serve as the Training School's primary indoor athletic facility. As part of the school's 1995 Master Plan, the building is scheduled for renovation, and a new fitness center addition is planned for the west side. The existing swimming pool addition is essentially freestanding and does not compromise the building's integrity. Other alterations (window infill, a handicap ramp at the

⁷Devine's quote appeared in the 8th BR (1918) on page 6. McClelland's quote appeared in the 10th BR (1922) on page 13. For a full discussion of Turner's role in the bridge project, see Nancy Ross, "Liberty Memorial Bridge," HAER No. ND-7, May 1991.

⁸11th BR (1924), 5-6.

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main entrance) have been relatively minor. Although the roof is in need of repair and some interior plaster has been damaged by leaking water, the building is generally in good condition.

The Gymnasium Building is a contributing feature of the State Training School Historic District.

Manual Arts Building/Power House

Architect: Institutional Staff

Builder: Institutional Labor

Date of Construction: 1907-1908

The Manual Arts Building was erected in 1908 to serve as the institution's central power house, shop, and auditorium. Located near the southwest corner of the main quadrangle, the building is oriented along an east-west axis, with its principal facade facing north.

The Manual Arts Building originally consisted of two sections. The main section was a rectangular, 40- by 82-foot, two-story block with a raised basement and a hipped roof. Extending westward from the main section was a rectangular, 40- by 56-foot, one-story wing, with a hipped roof. A tall, square, concrete-block smokestack stood on the south side of the building, where the wing joined the main block.

The original part of the building stands on a concrete foundation. Walls are constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks, with wide concrete belt courses above the windows on each level. The roof has broad overhanging eaves supported by simple, horizontal, wood brackets. The roof over the main block is covered with blue asphalt shingles. The north slope of the wing has wood shingles, and the south slope has brown, asphalt, T-lock shingles. Two small, square, concrete-block chimneys rise from the north slope of the roof above the main section of the building, and a galvanized iron ventilator straddles the ridge.

Large, rectangular windows are spaced at regular intervals around the north, east and south sides of the building's main block. Windows in the upper stories contain 6/6, wood, double-hung sash. Windows in the basement and wing contain smaller, divided-light wood sash. Glass in most of the top-story windows has been painted over, and several window openings near the building's southeast corner have been filled in with concrete blocks. The building's main entrance is located near the center of the north side. The entryway contains a single, wood, frame-and-panel door with heavy rails and stiles, and beadboard panelling. The door is set beneath a glazed transom. There is a wide opening above the basement on the north side of the main block, and there are two additional openings at ground level on the north side of the wing. These openings contain heavy, wood, frame-and-panel sliding doors.

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The Manual Arts Building has been altered several times since 1908. The original smokestack was removed during the 1922-1924 biennium, after a new central power house was completed nearby.⁹ The west wing was remodelled into a garage in 1925, and an extension was added to the west end in 1930. Although virtually identical in construction to the original wing, the roof of the addition is gabled at the west end. In 1936, a long, L-shaped, one-story garage was attached to the south and west sides of the west wing. Built atop a concrete slab, the garage addition is of wood-frame construction, with drop siding, and a low-slope roof. This addition has ten individual garage stalls, equipped with wood, frame-and-panel overhead doors. The garage was expanded twice more between 1938 and 1958. One addition extends across the entire south wall of the original main block. The west half of this addition consists of a nearly cubic, two-story volume with a front gabled roof. The east half consists of a one-story shed with a low-slope roof. Of wood-frame construction, this addition contains six individual garage stalls equipped with overhead doors. Another one-story addition stretches across the west end of the building. Of wood-frame construction, this addition has stucco walls and a low-pitched shed roof. There are garage doors on the south and west sides.

Training School officials intended from the very beginning to make vocational education a vital part of the institution's curriculum, but they often had to struggle to obtain adequate facilities for such programs. In 1907, the legislature provided \$11,000 to erect and equip a shop/power house, but the power plant equipment alone used up nearly \$7,000 of the appropriation. To stretch the remaining money far enough to pay for a building, school staff drew up the plans, and the construction work was completed by students, who manufactured the concrete block and millwork for the structure on campus. Although the Manual Arts Building itself was completed by 1908, the shop rooms were not fully equipped for several more years, due to a chronic lack of funding. Superintendent Brown described the extent of the facilities in 1914:

The basement contains room for a blacksmith shop, a steam laundry, an engine room, boiler room and coal shed. On the first floor is our wood working machinery, with benches for hand work. On the second floor is an assembly room large enough for seating two hundred and fifty to three hundred persons; also a tailor shop and paint shop. The boiler room furnishes steam for heating all of the buildings as well as running a steam engine with

⁹The smokestack is still shown in a photo that appeared in the Training School's 1920-1922 Biennial Report. It does not appear in a photo from the 1922-1924 Biennial Report. Dates of other major alterations to the Manual Arts Building are listed in an undated property valuation included in the collection of the North Dakota State Archives. See State Fire and Tornado Fund, "Valuation of Property, State Training School, Mandan, North Dakota." n.d., page 6, SIS Property Inventories, Series 834, Box 3, NDSA.

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dynamo attached, which furnishes power and light for all purposes.¹⁰

The boiler room equipment was moved into a new power house in 1922, after being damaged by a series of floods on the nearby Heart River. The boiler room in the west wing was converted into a garage in 1925, and was extended five years later. The building was expanded several more times beginning in the mid-1930s, when the institution established a formal Trade School curriculum.

Although the Manual Arts Building has changed considerably since 1908, most of the alterations were completed within the period of significance, and reflect the school's efforts to prepare students for life outside the institution by providing them with marketable job skills. The Manual Arts Building was the main focus of the Training School's vocational programs until 1981, when a new shop wing was added to the school/administration building. Since then, the Manual Arts Building has been used as a parking garage, a storage area, and an electrical shop. It is earmarked for demolition under provisions of the school's 1995 Master Plan. Despite years of deferred maintenance, the building remains in fair condition.

The Manual Arts Building is a contributing feature of the Training School Historic District.

Fire House/Bus Garage

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Date of Construction: ca. 1945

The Fire House is essentially a one-story, single-stall, wood-frame garage. The structure is rectangular in plan, and has a moderately-pitched, front-gabled roof with slight overhangs. The building stands on a foundation of board-formed concrete. Exterior walls have horizontal wood drop siding with cornerboards. The building is painted light gray with white trim. The roof is covered with brown, asphalt, T-lock shingles. Two sliding, wood doors with cross bucking are centered in the north face of the building.

A building survey of the campus from the late 1950s describes this building as a Fire House and indicates that it was erected between 1940 and 1945. A 1981 plot plan of the campus identifies the building as a Bus Garage and lists its date of construction as 1946. The structure is currently used as an automobile garage

¹⁰6th BR (1914), 6.

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for the Assistant Superintendent's Residence ("A" Cottage).¹¹

The Fire House was erected after the district's period of significance, and is non-contributing.

Ice House

Architects: Van Horn and Ritterbush, Bismarck

Builders: Hedlinger and Hansen, Wahpeton

Date of Construction: 1925

The Ice House is a tall, one-story building with a moderately-pitched, front-gabled roof. The structure is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 24 by 50 feet. Built of structural tile with a brick veneer, the Ice House rests on a concrete foundation. Exterior walls are faced with striated, light-brown brick. Four stepped, brick buttresses with corbelled weatherings are spaced equally along each of the sidewalls. A small, rectangular, louvered vent is centered high in each of the gables. The building has overhanging eaves with beadboard soffits and large, wire-mesh soffit vents. The roof is covered with brown, asphalt, T-lock shingles.¹²

Centered in the north end of the building is a tall, vertical opening containing four icing doors, stacked one above the other. The lower part of the opening contains two batten-type wood doors with diagonal bracing. The upper part of the opening contains two insulated, wood, frame-and-panel cooler doors. Two insulated, wood, frame-and-panel doors on the south end of the building open onto a concrete loading dock with steps at each end.

The interior walls were originally lined with a thick layer of cork insulation covered with plaster. A large ice room at the north end of the building could hold up to 500 tons of block ice cut from the nearby Heart River during the winter months. A smaller room on the south end of the building was used as a cold

¹¹See "Building Survey -- State Training School," ca. 1958. Director of Institutions Property Inventories, Series 269, Box 1, NDSA. Also see Arnold Edinger, "North Dakota Industrial School Campus, Drawn by Arnold Edinger," 1981. On file at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Bismarck.

¹²Architectural drawings for the Ice House are included in the collection of the North Dakota State Archives. See file number 46847, NDSA/VR.

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storage area for meat and other perishable food items. Blocks of ice were stacked on a well-drained, wood-framed loft above the cold storage room, and the cool air was drawn downward by gravity.

As the Training School's population increased during the early 1920s, officials found it difficult to stockpile enough perishable food to meet the institution's needs. In 1924, Superintendent William McClelland reported that the school's existing ice house, "built at the beginning of the institution," was only about one-third the size required. "For the past two years," he wrote, "we have had to pile ice outside of the ice-house, with consequent loss. . . . At the present time we can buy our meat only 'from hand to mouth,' so to speak, and even in winter can keep but a few days' supply on hand." The Board of Administration responded to McClelland's complaint by hiring the prominent Bismarck architectural firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush to design a new ice house/cold storage building for the school. The new structure was built by the Hedlinger and Hansen contracting company of Wahpeton in 1925 at a cost of more than \$8,000. A few years later, Superintendent McClelland reported that the Ice House at the Training School "[was] admired by many as the best in the state." With the advent of improved mechanical refrigeration equipment during the 1930s and 1940s, the Ice House became obsolete. By the late 1950s, the building was being used for storage, a function it continues to serve today.¹³

Despite a few small alterations, the Ice House retains very good integrity. A ventilating monitor that originally straddled the roof ridge was removed sometime after 1946, and the original wood-frame loading dock has been replaced with concrete.¹⁴ Two of the original insulated icing doors on the north side have been replaced. Staff members at the institution report that some of the cork and plaster lining has pulled away from the interior walls. The building is otherwise intact and in excellent condition.

The Ice House is a contributing feature of the Training School Historic District.

¹³McClelland's plea for a new ice house appeared in the Training School's 11th Biennial Report (1924) on page 13. His glowing appraisal of the finished building appeared in the 14th BR (1930) on page 444. The Board of Administration selected Van Horn and Ritterbush as architects for the Ice House on 28 July 1925. The Board awarded the construction contract to Hedlinger and Hansen on 19 August of the same year. See the entries for those dates in Director of Institutions, Minutes of Board of Administration, microfilm 6947, NDSA.

¹⁴Both the monitor and the original dock are depicted in a postcard view of the campus taken sometime between 1929 and 1944. See Color Halftone Postcard, Collection 992-5, NDSA.

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Root Cellar

Architects: Van Horn and Ritterbush, Bismarck

Builder: Institutional Labor?

Date of Construction: 1927

The Root Cellar is a large, earth-sheltered structure, set into the north slope of the hill overlooking the main campus. The building is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 50 by 100 feet. Built entirely of reinforced concrete, the Root Cellar has a low, double-pitched, slab roof supported by a system of square pillars and cast-in-place beams. Ventilation and temperature are regulated by a system of adjustable air intake and exhaust stacks. Sixteen square-section, concrete, intake stacks are distributed evenly around the structure's outer perimeter. Each intake is capped with a T-shaped, galvanized iron head. Four square-section, concrete, exhaust stacks are staggered along each side of the building's midline. Each exhaust stack is capped with a conical, galvanized iron, Model "H" aerator head manufactured by the King Ventilating Company, Owatonna, Minnesota.¹⁵

The east wall of the Root Cellar has been left exposed to provide access to the interior. The wall is surfaced with ochre, rough-cast stucco, and has a round-arched parapet with a massive concrete coping. A simple plaque mounted inside the arch bears the date "1927." A pair of wood, vertical-plank, sliding doors is centered beneath the arch. A reinforced concrete wingwall angles downward from the corner of the end wall to retain the berm.

One of the first structures erected on the Training School grounds was a concrete-block root cellar designed to provide safe storage for potatoes, corn, and other produce harvested from the institution's extensive truck gardens. As the inmate population increased during the early 1920s, however, the old cellar quickly proved to be inadequate for the school's needs. "A new root cellar is imperative," wrote Superintendent McClelland in 1922. "I can safely predict that not one-third of the roots and vegetables we will harvest this fall can be taken care of in our present root cellar, which has not only outlived its usefulness, but is located in the worst possible spot that could be found, right at the foot of a coolie[sic]." After reiterating his request for a root cellar several times, McClelland finally got what he wanted. In 1928, he was able to report that "an excellent root cellar has been built during the past year, which will take care of the wants of the

¹⁵Architectural drawings of the Root Cellar are included in the collection of the North Dakota State Archives. See file number 46846, NDSA/VR.

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institution . . . for years to come. It is generous in size; is located on high ground; and is well ventilated."¹⁶

Designed by the prominent Bismarck architectural firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush, the Root Cellar remained in use for its original purpose until 1994. Since then it has been used for general storage. The structure is highly intact, and apart from some peeling stucco, it is generally in good condition.

The root cellar is a contributing feature of the State Training School Historic District.

¹⁶13th BR (1928), 6. McClelland's plea for a new Root Cellar appeared in the 10th BR (1922), 18.

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"A" Cottage/Assistant Superintendent's Residence

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Date of Construction: ca. 1910-1920; moved to site between 1958-1960

"A" Cottage is a simple, two-story, American Four-Square style house with a hipped roof. A partially-enclosed, one-story porch with a hipped roof extends across the front of the house, and there is a small, enclosed, one-story entrance porch with a shed roof on the east side. A small hipped dormer projects from west slope of the main roof.

The house rests on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls are sheathed with light gray cement-asbestos siding. The front porch has a closed rail with four small Doric columns supporting a simple architrave. Both the porch and the main part of the house have overhanging eaves with beadboard soffits. All exterior trim is painted white. The main roof and dormer have reddish-brown, cement-asbestos shingles, applied in a diamond pattern. The porches have light brown, asphalt, T-lock shingles. A flight of concrete steps with wrought iron railings provides access to each porch.

Windows in the house are arranged individually or in pairs, and have 1/1 double-hung, wood sash, with white combination storms. The dormer contains a pair of wood, six-light sash. The front porch is enclosed with wood-framed screens.

Although its style suggests a pre-1920 construction date, this simple Four-Square house did not arrive on campus until the 1958-1960 biennium, when it was moved to its present site to serve as a cottage for young boys.¹⁷ The building is currently occupied by the Training School's assistant superintendent.

Cottage A was moved into the district after the period of significance, and is non-contributing.

¹⁷ 29th BR (1960), 229.

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Dakota Hall

Architects: Van Horn and Ritterbush, Bismarck
Builder: Hedlinger and Hansen, Wahpeton
Date of Construction: 1925

Dakota Hall is a two-story, Tudor Revival style dormitory building with a steep, double-pitched, intersecting roof. The building is essentially H-shaped in plan, consisting of two long wings connected by a transverse center section. Measuring approximately 82 by 118 feet overall, the structure is oriented along a north-south axis, with its principal facade facing west. There is a shallow, two-story pavilion with a shaped parapet at the midpoint of the building's center section. Projecting from the pavilion is a shallow, one-story entrance bay with crenellated parapets and a flat roof.¹⁸

Built of structural tile and brick, the dormitory stands on a concrete foundation. It has no basement. Exterior walls are faced with smooth, salt-glazed, dark brown brick. There is a soldier course of dark brown brick at the base of the walls. The entrance bay has a wide, arched corbel table of buff brick. The long wings terminate in gabled parapet walls. A small lancet window is set into the peak of each parapet wall. There are two false wall dormers on the outer face of each wing. Each dormer has a gabled parapet containing a buff brick medallion. Parapets throughout the building are capped with concrete copings. The roof is supported by a system of wood trusses, and is covered with dark brown, asphalt shingles. Two metal-framed skylights straddle the ridge of the roof above the south wing. Two square, brick, interior chimneys rise from the roof above that wing.

A wide flight of concrete steps flanked by concrete parapet walls leads to the dormitory's main entrance. The main entry doors are set into a Tudor-arched surround with blind tracery. The surround is made of concrete, painted white. A buff brick escutcheon is centered in the parapet above the surround. On each side of the surround is a narrow, rectangular, window opening with a quoined, buff brick surround. The glazed, wood, double-leaf entry doors are set into the surround beneath an unadorned tympanum. Centered in the pavilion above the entrance bay are three narrow windows with a buff brick surround, and a Tudor-arched drip molding made of buff brick. A buff brick medallion is set into the wall between the windows and the drip molding. There is a small entrance opening in the south wall of the north wing. That opening has been filled in with plywood. There was originally an additional entrance in the outer wall of each of the long wings. The entrance on the north end of the building was altered when Dakota Hall was

¹⁸Architectural drawings of Dakota Hall are included in the collection of the North Dakota State Archives. See file number 46914, NDSA/VR.

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connected to a new high-security residence unit (Pine Hall) in 1963. The connecting link between the buildings was removed in 1994.

The windows in Dakota Hall originally had 6/6 wood, double-hung sash, fitted with heavy wire-mesh security screens. The original sash remain in the front portion of the south wing. All other openings contain either aluminum-framed jalousie-type windows, or glass-block infill with aluminum-framed ventilators. Window openings have painted concrete sills and quoined, buff brick surrounds.

The Board of Administration began discussing the need for a new boys' residence hall at the Training School in 1919, but the building did not actually begin to take shape until nearly four years later. On 6 May 1923, the Board hired the Bismarck architectural firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush to prepare plans and specifications for a new boys' dormitory. The project was sent out for bids in March 1924, and on 1 April, the board awarded a \$44,916.00 construction contract to Hedlinger and Hansen of Wahpeton. The contractors completed the buiding in February of the following year. The new dormitory immediately helped to alleviate severe overcrowding at the school, and allowed officials for the first time to separate male inmates according to age and disposition.¹⁹

Dakota Hall served as the institution's primary boy's residence hall from 1925 until the early 1970s. It also provided central kitchen and dining facilities for male inmates at the institution until about 1989, when these functions were moved to Centennial Hall, a large new building located immediately to the south. Dakota Hall's first level contained a kitchen, bakery, and pantry, a staff locker room and lounge, and dining areas for both students and staff. The second floor contained two large dormitory rooms, and two slightly smaller ward rooms for students, as well as accommodations for live-in staff. A locker room, dispensary, linen storage room and bathrooms were also located on the second level.

Dakota Hall is virtually unaltered, except for the window replacements and some minor interior remodelling, and it retains good integrity. Although the building is generally in good condition, it has been vacant for several years, and is showing the effects of deferred maintenance. Dakota Hall is slated for demolition as part of the school's 1995 Master Plan.

Dakota Hall is a contributing feature of the Training School Historic District.

¹⁹Board Minutes, 8 December 1919; 6 May 1923; 3 February 1925.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The State Training School Historic District has statewide historical significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of government as the central focus of juvenile justice administration in North Dakota from 1924 to 1945.¹

The District also has statewide architectural significance under National Register Criterion C as a cohesive collection of buildings designed by the prominent Bismarck architectural firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush.

The Training School was one of 14 state institutions authorized by delegates to the state's constitutional convention in 1889. The legislative assembly formally established the school the following year, but for more than a decade after that, lawmakers failed to provide the appropriations needed to make the institution a reality. Plagued by a chronic lack of financial support, the school's board of trustees was unable to acquire a site until 1901.

When the Training School officially opened in 1903, the design of its physical plant reflected the belief that delinquent children could be rehabilitated by placing them in a carefully planned environment. In accordance with this theory, North Dakota officials attempted to make the Training School surroundings as beautiful as possible, siting the institution in a rural area, and hiring a prominent architectural firm to design its first building. Adopting elements of the prevailing "cottage plan" theory of institutional organization, officials divided inmates into small family-like groups, and announced their intention to operate the school as a well-regulated home.

Within a year, however, the school's new facilities had already proven to be miserably inadequate. The original building was filled to overflowing with inmates of both genders, and was poorly heated and dimly lighted. There was no formal classroom space, and there were no facilities for indoor recreation or vocational training. With the legislature unwilling to appropriate money for additional buildings, the school seemed doomed to exist, not as a well-regulated home, but as an overcrowded, underfunded warehouse for wayward youth. Desperate to improve conditions, officials adopted a do-it-yourself approach, using institutional staff to design a number of cheap, utilitarian buildings for the campus -- and using inmate labor to build them.

¹The school has been operated under three names. From 1903 to 1920, it was known as the State Reform School. From 1920 to 1961, it was called the State Training School. In 1961, it was renamed the North Dakota State Industrial School. The institution is called the State Training School throughout this nomination.

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The situation worsened dramatically after 1911, when the legislature established a juvenile court system in North Dakota, spawning an exponential increase in the Training School's population. Although school officials maintained their theoretical commitment to environmental therapy and the cottage plan, they utterly lacked the facilities to implement these ideas. As the institution's "families" grew larger, signs of serious dysfunction began to appear, culminating with the conviction of a guard for physically abusing inmates in 1919. After an investigation by the State Board of Control, Training School Superintendent J.R. Devine was forced to resign.² William F. McClelland took over the position, vowing to help the institution overcome nearly two decades of neglect.

Under McClelland's leadership, the Training School launched an ambitious construction program, adding six new buildings to the main campus between 1922 and 1929. Five of the buildings were designed wholly or in part by the Bismarck architectural partnership of Arthur Van Horn and the Ritterbush brothers, Robert and Clarence. By the early 1920s, the partners had already established a reputation as one of North Dakota's foremost architectural firms. Their work, concentrated primarily within 100 miles of Bismarck, had a significant impact on the architectural character of the entire region.

In Mandan, the partners created a series of unpretentious, but highly functional buildings that helped transform the Training School from a public embarrassment into a model institution. The new structures ended two decades of serious overcrowding, provided the school with much-needed recreational and support facilities and enabled staff and students for the first time to concentrate their full attention on rehabilitation programs. The buildings included in the State Training School Historic District served as the central focus of life at the institution from 1924 until the early 1990s. The District provides important tangible evidence of North Dakota's official willingness to help troubled young people by providing them with an environment where they could get a second chance.

²The Training School and other North Dakota institutions were administered by individual boards of trustees until 1911, when the Board of Control assumed responsibility for all state institutions. The Board of Control was replaced by a State Board of Administration in 1919.

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HISTORY

The Origins of the North Dakota State Training School

On 22 February 1889, the United States Congress passed a bill authorizing the division of Dakota Territory into two separate states. During the summer of that year, 75 delegates from the area that would soon become North Dakota convened in Bismark to begin framing the new state's constitution. One of the most important discussions at the convention focused on defining the nature and location of the state's custodial and educational institutions. Four institutions had already been established in North Dakota during the territorial period. These included the capitol and penitentiary in Bismarck, the hospital for the insane at Jamestown, and the university in Grand Forks. By the time the convention was over, the delegates had also agreed to establish two normal schools, an agricultural college, schools of forestry, science, and industry, schools for the blind and deaf, a soldier's home, and a reform school.³

This ambitious program of institutional development was probably motivated less by altruism or a sense of social responsibility than by political expediency and a strong instinct for survival. Recognizing that large, publicly funded institutions would virtually guarantee the long-term economic vitality of their host cities, the astute convention delegates had assiduously assigned an institution to almost every major settlement. Thus, when North Dakota was admitted to the Union on 2 November 1889, it already had, on paper, at least, fourteen state institutions. With a population of well under 200,000 people, however, it utterly lacked the financial resources to support them.

This lack of money had a direct impact on the development of the North Dakota State Training School. Although the legislature dutifully enacted a law establishing the school in 1890, and appointed a five-person board of trustees to administer it, lawmakers consistently failed to appropriate enough money for the board to buy land or erect buildings. Operating on a shoestring budget for more than a decade, the board struggled unsuccessfully to overcome this obstacle. Meanwhile, the state continued to send its youthful offenders to the former territorial reform school at Plankinton in southeastern South Dakota.

The situation improved dramatically following a change of state administrations in 1901. Shortly after taking office, the governor replaced the school's original board of trustees. The new board secured passage of legislation allowing it to issue \$20,000 in bonds to finance construction of buildings. At about the same time, a Morton County landowner offered to donate a site for the facility. The board quickly accepted the

³For a concise account of the debate over locating state institutions, see Elwyn B. Robinson, *History of North Dakota* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 210-211.

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land, issued bonds, and set out, at long last, to make the North Dakota State Training School a reality.⁴

"Make Its Surroundings as Attractive as Possible"

The Training School property was located in a rural area on the bank of the Heart River, southwest of Mandan. The board's choice of a rural site for the facility grew out of a belief that environmental factors could play an important role in the rehabilitation of troublesome adolescents. By 1900, penologists and social welfare activists generally felt that delinquent juveniles should be reformed rather than punished. They also agreed that the best way to accomplish this reformation was to remove the young offenders from the temptations of urban life, move them to the country, and expose them to the beneficial effects of fresh air and hard work -- chiefly farm labor.

Nonetheless, writes social historian Anthony Platt, "the aim . . . was not merely to use the countryside for teaching agricultural skills. The confrontation between depraved delinquents and unspoilt nature was intended to have a spiritual and regenerative effect." One prominent reformer from this period theorized that when inmates were exposed to a rural environment, "their vices [would] drop from them like the old and verminous clothing they left behind."⁵ Most experts agreed, however, that a truly therapeutic environment required much more than just a bucolic setting. Consequently, the most progressive institutions of this period were organized according to the so-called "cottage plan," in which, as one proponent explained:

The inmates are classified, and limited numbers are placed in modest but well-built cottages, which are free from anything like the usual prison appliances, and furnished with all the necessaries and comforts of a well ordered home, presided over by a Christian gentleman and lady, who . . . hold the relation of father and mother toward the youth of the household.⁶

⁴For an excellent overview of the Training School's history, including a detailed discussion of the site selection process, see Barbara Beving Long, "The Evolution of the North Dakota State Reform School, 1890-1940," TMs, 1990, 12-15, at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Bismarck. Long points out that the Training School had been endowed with a 40,000-acre federal land grant in 1889. By 1892, however, the board of trustees had still not received title to the land. Concluding that it would be a long time before the school would be able to use the grant, the board sought appropriations from the state legislature. When those funds were not forthcoming, the land grant was offered as collateral for the bonds.

⁵Anthony M. Platt, *The Child Savers* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977), 65. Platt attributes the second quote to Charles Loring Brace, who operated a private institution for delinquent children in New York.

⁶Platt, *Child Savers*, 63.

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Theoretically committed to the cottage plan, but lacking the financial resources to create the complex of buildings it required, the Training School's board of trustees nonetheless did what it could to provide suitable surroundings for North Dakota's juvenile offenders. In 1901, the trustees hired Fargo architects George and Walter Hancock to design the institution's first building. The British-born brothers had already amassed considerable experience with institutional design, and had carved out a reputation as one of North Dakota's finest architectural teams. For the Training School, they created a substantial two-and-one-half-story brick building with a raised basement and a tall, square bell tower. Designed in the fashionable Romanesque Revival style, the building contained dormitory space for between 40 and 50 inmates, as well as accommodations for the school superintendent, a steward and a janitor. When the structure was completed in 1902, the board proudly described it as "the best building that the state owns for the money expended."⁷ The construction of the building, however, had exhausted the school's coffers, and the board had to ask legislature for an additional appropriation before the institution could actually open its doors.

The first inmates arrived at the North Dakota State Training School on 13 May 1903. The original group included just twenty-one boys and three girls, but within a year, the population of the Training School had nearly doubled, and the new building was already filled to capacity. Although school officials publicly announced their desire to operate the institution as "a well-regulated home," they soon found it virtually impossible to do so.⁸

Although inmates erected a few small outbuildings on the campus during the first few years of operation, all important activities at the school still took place in the original (Main) building, which was dimly lighted and poorly heated. Lacking separate cottages for male and female students, the institution's adolescent inmates were forced to live together in close proximity -- an arrangement that inflamed sensibilities and caused obvious problems. Sewer and water facilities at the site were miserably inadequate. There was a desperate need for a shop building and a barn where students could be taught the skills they would need to live as productive citizens once they left the institution.

Faced with a growing list of needed improvements, but perennially denied the legislative appropriations necessary to complete them, Training School administrators eventually took matters into their own hands. Between 1908 and 1915, officials used inmate labor to erect four major new buildings on campus, including

⁷*Report of the Board of Trustees of the State Reform School* (Bismarck: Bismarck Tribune, 1902), 4.

⁸*Second Biennial Report of the North Dakota State Reform School at Mandan* (Bismarck: Bismarck Tribune, 1906), 9. Subsequent references to the institution's biennial reports will be identified with the abbreviation BR, followed by appropriate date and location information.

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a central power house/manual arts building (1908, extant), a girls' dormitory (1910), a dairy barn (1913), and a boys dormitory (1914-1915). Designed by members of the school staff, and built with rock-faced concrete block manufactured on campus, these solidly constructed buildings were intended to be utilitarian, rather than aesthetically pleasing structures.

Nonetheless, officials never lost sight of their original vision for the institution. When Superintendent J.R. Brown asked the legislature to provide \$1500 to build a dam across the Heart River in 1910, he was careful to point out that the project would be useful not only for irrigation "but also for the added beauty to the school grounds bordering on the river. It should be the policy of the school," he wrote, "to make its surroundings as attractive as possible. It has long been conceded that beautiful surroundings have an influence upon character for good."⁹

During the next decade, school officials found it more difficult than ever to put this policy into practice.

"Overlooked, Sidetracked, and Practically Forgotten"

In 1911, North Dakota lawmakers enacted legislation establishing a juvenile court system in the state. By 1912, 22 states had set up similar systems in an effort to redeem wayward youth by providing a constructive alternative to the traditional courts, which had been designed to deal with adult offenders. "The juvenile court," observes historian Barbara Beving Long, "was conceived . . . as a place to render aid and education, not punishment. It was hoped that by employing probation, individualized attention, . . . indeterminate sentencing, and parole, the stigma associated with court action would diminish."¹⁰

In North Dakota, however, the new juvenile court law spawned an exponential increase in the population of the State Training School. Accepting the premise that young offenders could emerge from a reform school education without stigma, and well aware that local governments lacked the resources needed to administer probation programs, the state's judges sent an increasing number of "problem" children to Mandan, often for such vaguely defined infractions as "incurability", "vagrancy," or "juvenile delinquency." Between 1910 and 1918, the population of the North Dakota State Training School nearly doubled, but its already overtaxed physical plant remained virtually unchanged.

In 1915, J.R. Brown resigned from his position as the institution's superintendent, and Joseph M. Devine

⁹5th BR (1912), 253.

¹⁰Long, "Reform School," 19-20.

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was appointed to take his place. In his first biennial report, Devine lashed out at Brown, charging that, during his administration, the Training School had been "overlooked, sidetracked and practically forgotten."¹¹ Devine was especially critical of the school's physical plant, noting that the state had appropriated only \$44,000 for buildings during the institution's entire history, and that as a result, the school's three main buildings were "faulty in construction, badly lighted and none of them ventilated." The school would not be able to solve these problems, he warned, until it dropped its do-it-yourself approach, and sought professional help: "We can build dairy barns, chicken and hog houses; construct roads; cultivate gardens and till the farm, but we cannot build modern living buildings -- and get anywhere -- without plans, specifications and skilled workmen."

Prompted by Devine's criticism, the State Board of Administration began to make plans for a major building program that would eventually provide the Training School with a new boys' cottage, a gymnasium, a new power house, and much needed improvements in the sewer and water systems. By the last half of 1919, the board had established funding priorities, completed topographical surveys, and determined where the new buildings would be located.¹² But before any actual construction got under way, it suddenly became clear that not all of the Training School's problems were caused by inadequate facilities.

In the fall of 1919, an employee of the school was convicted of physically abusing young inmates at the institution. Devine was called before the board to discuss the case, and a special committee was appointed to investigate the school's disciplinary policies. The committee presented its findings in January 1920, reporting that school staff routinely punished troublesome inmates with forced silence, prolonged standing at attention, and severe whippings. Describing these practices as "deplorable" and "cruel in the extreme," the committee laid the blame squarely on Devine's shoulders and recommended an immediate change in management of the institution. Although the board asked for Devine's resignation in February, he remained in office for more than a year after that.¹³

Joseph Devine finally stepped down as superintendent at the beginning of May 1921. His replacement was William F. McClelland, a Cornell University graduate who had been heavily involved in the progressive

¹¹7th BR (1916), 8-9.

¹²The proposed building program is described in Director of Institutions, Board of Administration Minutes, 8 August, 12 September, and 8 December 1919, microfilm roll 6947, North Dakota State Archives, Bismarck. Subsequent references to materials from the State Archives will be identified by abbreviation NDSA, with appropriate locators.

¹³Board Minutes, 26 September 1919, 19 January 1920, 2 February 1920.

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social reform movement in New York state. The new superintendent wasted no time in getting the Training School's stalled building program moving again. Attending his first Board of Administration meeting on 21 May 1921, McClelland asked for permission to erect a new power house to replace the Manual Arts Building/Power House that inmates had erected in 1908. Like its predecessor, the new building was to be designed by staff, and built by students. The board approved plans for the building in early June, and construction got under way shortly thereafter.¹⁴

In the spring of 1922, McClelland revived another building project that had been put on the back burner at the end of Devine's administration. Stating his belief that "supervised athletics constitute one of the biggest factors in the turning out of . . . good citizens," McClelland mounted an intense campaign to provide the Training School with a gymnasium building. The effort began in March, when the Board of Administration gave McClelland permission to visit several institutions that were "known to have . . . up-to-date gymnasium[s]." Using the information he gathered on his trip, the superintendent outlined his plans for an ideal athletic facility, then convinced the board to have Minneapolis engineer Claude A. P. Turner design the building. Turner, a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete, was already well known in the Bismarck-Mandan area for his work on the recently completed Liberty Memorial Bridge across the Missouri River. For the gymnasium project, Turner collaborated with Minneapolis architect Clifford T. McElroy. Turner and McElroy met regularly with the board during the second half of 1922 to discuss the project and present ideas. After revising the plans several times, the Minneapolis men submitted their final drawings and specifications for the building in early December.¹⁵

With the Turner/McElroy plans in hand, McClelland set out to obtain materials estimates for the new building. He presented the results of his investigations to the Board of Administration on 24 April 1923. After seeing the figures, the board apparently decided to ask for some changes, probably hoping to reduce costs. Instead of sending the plans back to Minneapolis for revisions, however, they turned the project over to the Bismarck architectural partnership of Van Horn and Ritterbush.

¹⁴Board Minutes, 21 May and 6 June 1921.

¹⁵McClelland's quote appeared in the 10th BR (1922) on page 13. The Board of Administration authorized the superintendent to embark on his fact-finding tour at a meeting on 3 March 1922. Turner and McElroy's final plans for the Gymnasium are included in the collection of the North Dakota State Industrial School, Mandan. For a full discussion of Turner's role in the bridge project, see Nancy Ross, "Liberty Memorial Bridge," HAER No. ND-7, May 1991.

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Van Horn and Ritterbush

The firm of Van Horn and Ritterbush traced its origins to 1883, when senior partner Arthur Van Horn arrived in Dakota Territory. Born in Hackensack, New Jersey, in 1860, Van Horn had learned carpentry from his father as a young man. After graduating from high school in 1878, Van Horn moved to New York City, where he enrolled in the architecture program at the Cooper Institute. Five years later he left New York and headed west, arriving in Bismarck at the height of the land boom. He quickly found work as a draftsman and cost estimator for a local lumber yard, remaining there until 1889, when he accepted a similar position in Hillsboro, on the Minnesota/North Dakota border.¹⁶

After two years in Hillsboro, Van Horn returned to Bismarck, and established an independent practice as an architect and builder. Although he managed to stay in business following the nationwide financial panic of 1893, Van Horn didn't receive a substantial commission until 1899, when he was hired to design a new power house for the North Dakota State Penitentiary in Bismarck. In 1902, he became the institution's staff architect and building superintendent, a position he held until 1907, when he was named official architect for the Bismarck Public School system. In 1911, Van Horn was hired to design the Bismarck City Hall, and in 1913, he was awarded the commission for the city's new municipal building. Other important commissions followed, and by the beginning of World War I, Van Horn was already known as one of North Dakota's most important architects.

In 1920, Van Horn joined forces with North Dakota natives Robert and Clarence Ritterbush. Like Van Horn, the Ritterbush brothers had started out in the building trades as young men, working in the family contracting business. Graduating from high school a year apart in the early 1910s, the brothers left Bismarck to attend the Ohio Mechanics Institute in Cincinnati, finishing the program in architectural drafting together in 1917. Following their service as carpenters' mates in the U.S. Navy during World War I, the brothers returned to Bismarck, registered as architects, and went into practice with Van Horn.

In the early years of their partnership, Van Horn and Ritterbush had to compete with several other Bismarck-based architects, but by 1924, the partners had the city to themselves. For the remainder of the decade, the firm prospered by offering clients solid, middle-of-the-road designs, rendered in the popular period-revival styles. The partners worked exclusively in North Dakota, and virtually all of their commissions were located within 100 miles of Bismarck. Consequently, they had a significant impact on the architecture of the region. A few months after Van Horn's death in 1931, Robert Ritterbush estimated

¹⁶Material included in this section is derived from Barbara Beving Long, "The Evolution of Van Horn & Ritterbush, et al," TMs, 1991, North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Bismarck.

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that the three partners had designed 90 percent of the buildings then standing in downtown Bismarck.¹⁷ The firm also played an important role in defining the architectural character of the North Dakota State Training School.

The Building Boom Begins

By the time inmate laborers began to build the Training School's new gymnasium in the summer of 1923, Van Horn and Ritterbush had already started to work on a much larger project for the school. On 6 May of that year, the Board of Administration voted to have the firm prepare plans and specifications for a new boys' dormitory, "provided their charges are not more than charged by other architects for similar work."¹⁸ The architects labored over the plans for nearly a year, finally putting the project out for bids in the spring of 1924. The Board of Administration awarded a \$45,000 construction contract to Hedlinger and Hansen of Wahpeton on 1 April, and work began on the building a few weeks later.

Thus, by the time Superintendent McClelland completed his first full biennium in the summer of 1924, he had made considerable progress in his improvement program for the Training School. The new power house had been up and running for nearly a year, and the much-needed boys' dormitory was under construction. Meanwhile, student laborers were putting the finishing touches on the Gymnasium Building, and the superintendent was already describing the Spanish Mission style, reinforced-concrete structure as "unquestionably one of the best -- if not the finest -- [gymnasiums] in the state."¹⁹ Nonetheless, McClelland felt that there was still plenty to do.

Reviewing the problems he had encountered when he first arrived on campus, the superintendent reminded the Board of Administration that "such serious handicaps . . . exist[ed] simply because for many years the school was admittedly neglected. What was at one time considered a small item in the economic and social life of North Dakota -- namely, the caring for delinquent boys and girls -- has now forced itself upon the public attention." When the Training School opened in 1903, he noted, its population was only enough "to make a good sized family. . . . Now the school population exceeds that of many a North Dakota town that considers itself thriving -- and our physical development has not kept pace . . . with our growth in population. If the school is to have the standing as an institution which your board so earnestly desires . . .

¹⁷Long, "Van Horn & Ritterbush," 3.

¹⁸Board Minutes, 6 May 1923. Also see the entries for 3 March and 1 April.

¹⁹11th BR (1924), 5-6.

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proper facilities must in the near future be given it."²⁰

The new boys' dormitory, officially called Dakota Hall, was finally ready for occupancy by February 1925. Constructed of reinforced concrete, brick and clay tile, the building was completely fireproof, and "modern in every detail." Designed in the popular Tudor Revival style with steeply pitched parapet gables, lancet windows, heavy hood moldings, quoins and traceries, Dakota Hall was an imposing addition to the campus. Its opening had an immediate impact on the organization of the school, helping to alleviate overcrowding in the other dormitories, and allowing officials to create smaller, more manageable student "families." The new building also had a positive influence on the overall mood of the institution. "For some time past," reported McClelland in 1926, "we have used the dining room of the new building as a central dining room, the boys coming from the other two cottages to eat there. While this has caused a little inconvenience, yet the cheerful surroundings of the new building as compared with the dreary dining rooms in the Main Building and Brown Cottage has offset any disadvantage."²¹

The Board of Administration was apparently pleased with the architects' first solo effort. A few months after the dormitory was finished, the board asked Van Horn and Ritterbush to design a new ice house for the campus. The firm responded by creating a cold storage facility that was "admired by many as the best in the state."²² Two years later, the architects took on an even more prosaic project, when they were asked to design an earth-sheltered, reinforced-concrete root cellar for the campus. Despite the mundane nature of these commissions, the partners accepted them eagerly, following a long-established policy of taking every project, no matter how small, because it might eventually lead to something bigger. In the spring of 1927, this strategy paid off.

"The Girl Problem"

The North Dakota State Training School was one of only eight co-educational juvenile training facilities in the nation. During the institution's early years, female and male students were housed together in the Main Building, causing officials to voice concern about the "impracticability of keeping the two sexes in one

²⁰11th BR (1924), 5.

²¹12th BR (1926), 12. Main Building was the original Hancock Brothers building, erected in 1902-1903. Brown Cottage was the boy's dormitory erected by inmates in 1914-1915. Both buildings have been demolished.

²²14th BR (1930), 444. Also see Board Minutes, 28 July 1925.

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facility."²³ The situation had improved considerably after a separate Girls' Building was completed in 1910, but by the-mid 1920s the school was again finding it difficult to provide adequate accommodations for its steadily increasing female population. In his 1926 biennial report, Superintendent McClelland urged the Board of Administration to present a strong case before the legislature about the need to "straighten out the girl problem" at the Training School:

It is not a hidden fact that we have been obliged to release girls sooner than advisable because of the crowded condition at the Girls' Building here. As you know, we have but the one building for girls -- with a designed capacity for thirty-five. The building is poorly planned and built for a girls building. The two convenient things about it are that it has a foundation and a roof. Otherwise, not much can be said for it, and a great deal can be uttered against it. Its arrangement makes it a physical impossibility for one matron -- or more than one, even -- to keep an eye on the doings of all the girls; and in spite of all we can do in the way of fire protection, it still remains a fire trap.²⁴

McClelland hoped eventually to establish of an entirely separate facility for delinquent girls west of the main campus. In the meantime, he lobbied hard to obtain a new girls' dormitory for the institution. On 26 March 1927, the Board of Administration voted to go ahead with the project. A week later, the board hired Van Horn and Ritterbush to prepare the plans.²⁵

The architects made the girls' dormitory identical to Dakota Hall in almost every way -- including the floor plan. According to McClelland, the new building, named after former superintendent J.R. Devine, was "designed to be used by girls for but two or three years and then to be turned over to the boys. With this in mind, it has been built as . . . a boys' building, using the dormitory plan -- which we have found most satisfactory for boys -- whereas a building designed for girls should have individual rooms."²⁶ As Devine Hall neared completion in 1928, the superintendent made it clear that he still wasn't finished with his improvement program for the State Training School. "While I greatly appreciate what has been done in the way of physical improvements for the past few years," he wrote, "we still have need of many things."

²³ *Report of Board of Trustees*, 1902, 4.

²⁴ 12th BR (1926), 14-15.

²⁵ Board Minutes, 26 March and 5 April 1927.

²⁶ 13th BR (1928), 5.

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One of the Outstanding Institutions in the United States

With the onset of the economic depression in 1929, construction activity at the Training School came to a screeching halt. When the school inaugurated its trade school program in the mid-1930s, the Board of Administration mounted an aggressive campaign to obtain federal Public Works Administration funding for a new industrial arts building. The effort was unsuccessful, however, and school officials were forced to provide makeshift quarters for the program by adding a wood-frame, ten-stall garage to the south side of the existing Manual Arts Building. No other significant construction took place on the campus for the remainder of the decade.

When McClelland resigned as superintendent in 1941, he had still not succeeded in solving all of the Training School's facility problems. However, the new buildings that were completed during his administration brought an end to two decades of serious overcrowding, provided the school with much-needed recreational and support facilities and enabled staff and students for the first time to concentrate their full attention on rehabilitation programs rather than survival. With the help of Van Horn and Ritterbush, McClelland had transformed the State Training School from a public embarrassment into a model institution. After completing an in-depth study of the institution's facilities and programs in 1942, a University of North Dakota graduate student reported that the Training School offered "high standards of care, supervision and training" that made it "one of the outstanding training institutions for delinquent youths in the United States."²⁷

The buildings included in the State Training School Historic District served as the central focus of life at the institution from the late 1920s until the early 1990s. The District provides important tangible evidence of North Dakota's official willingness to help troubled young people by providing them with an environment where they could get a second chance.

²⁷Martha Bratcher, "A Study of the State Training School at Mandan," University of North Dakota Master's Thesis, TMs, 1942, 49. NDSA.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached map of the State Training School Historic District.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The district boundary includes those features of the Training School campus that were in place during the period of significance and that retain historic integrity. The loop road on the west side of campus and the flanking road on the east side were built in the late 1920s specifically to link the buildings that form the heart of the district to the existing campus. Consequently, large portions of these roads are included within the district boundaries. The area of the central campus between the loop road and the flanking road was substantially redeveloped during the 1960s, and was therefore excluded from the district. The 1923 Power House (Building 10 on the map) has been significantly altered, and was also excluded from the district.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

State Training School Historic District
Morton County, North Dakota
Photographed by John F. Lauber
4 May 1995

Original negatives on file at:
North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
North Dakota Heritage Center
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

- Photo 1 General view of the North Dakota State Training School campus, looking north from bluff above root cellar.
- Photo 2 Devine Hall, entrance detail.
- Photo 3 Devine Hall, north and east sides.
- Photo 4 Devine Hall, south and west sides.
- Photo 5 Gymnasium Building, entrance detail.
- Photo 6 Gymnasium Building and Swimming Pool Addition, south and east sides.
- Photo 7 Gymnasium Building, south and west sides. West side of pool addition visible at right.
- Photo 8 Manual Arts Building, north and east sides.
- Photo 9 Manual Arts Building, south and west sides.
- Photo 10 Ice House (left) and Fire House/Bus Garage (right), north and west sides.
- Photo 11 Ice House (left) and Fire House/Bus Garage (right), north and east sides.

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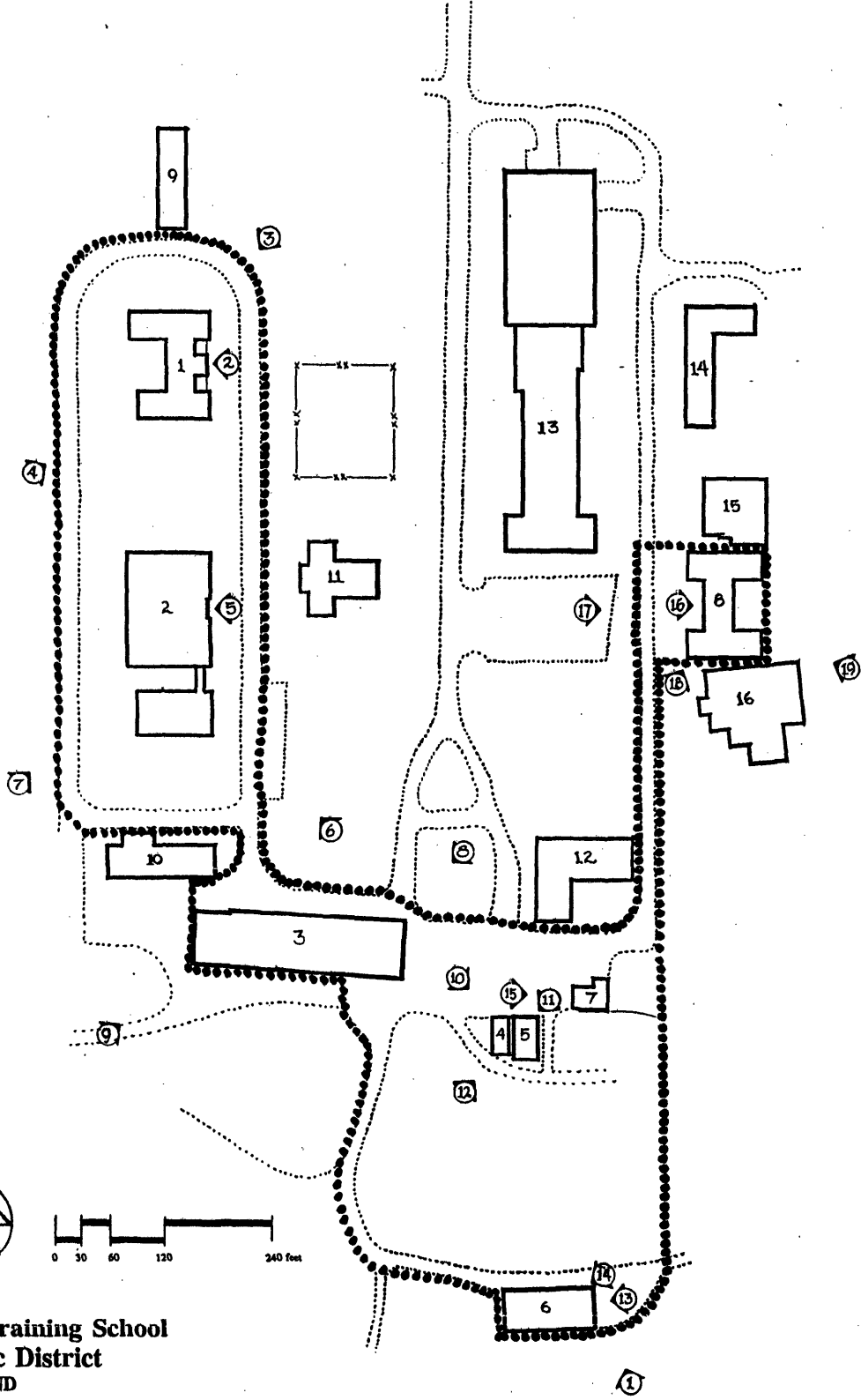
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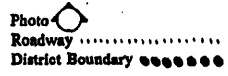
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- Photo 12 Fire House/Bus Garage (left) and Ice House (right), south and west sides.
- Photo 13 Root Cellar, east side. Note concrete retaining wall and berm at right.
- Photo 14 Root Cellar, detail of rooftop ventilators, looking west from parapet wall.
- Photo 15 "A" Cottage/Assistant Superintendent's Residence, west side.
- Photo 16 Dakota Hall, entrance detail.
- Photo 17 Dakota Hall, south and west sides.
- Photo 18 Dakota Hall, west side.
- Photo 19 Dakota Hall, south and east sides. Back of Centennial Hall is visible at left. Back of Pine Cottage is visible at right.



**State Training School
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- KEY**
 Historic District (* denotes contributing building)
1. Devine Hall (1929)*
 2. Gymnasium Building/Swimming Pool (1924/1975)*
 3. Manual Arts Building/Power House (1907-1908)*
 4. Fire House/Bus Garage (ca. 1945)
 5. Ice House (1925)*
 6. Root Cellar (1927)*
 7. "A" Cottage (Asst. Supt's House (moved ca. 1958)
 8. Dakota Hall (1925)*

- Other Buildings**
9. Hickory Hall (1955)
 10. Powerhouse/Laundry (1923)
 11. Chapel (1964)
 12. Brown Cottage (1963)
 13. School/Administration (1960/1981)
 14. Maple Hall (1952)
 15. Pine Cottage (1963)
 16. Centennial Hall (1989)



Map Sources:
 "N.D.I.S. Proposed master Site Plan, Mandan, North Dakota," Al Fitterer Architect, Mandan, ND, 1995.
 "Plan of Buildings and Utilities, State Training School, Mandan, ND," Keith & Kurke, Architects, Fargo, 1922.
 Both maps are included in the collection of the North Dakota State Industrial School, Mandan.