Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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. N	ame	of	Pro	per	ty	
0.000		-			1.1.1	

historic name	Valley C	ity Municipal	Auditoriun
other names/site	number	City Audito	rium

2. Loca	tion					
street &	number 320 Central	Avenue South			N/A	□ not for publication
city or	town Valley City			100 M A		□ vicinity
state	North Dakota	codeND	_ county Barnes	code_003	_ zip code 58	3072

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

for determination of eligibility meets the do	al Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 🖾 nomination 🗆 request cumentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets
the procedural and professional requirements	s set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property 🖾 meets 🗆 does not meet the National
additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Merla	erty be considered significant \Box nationally \Box statewide <u>x</u> locally. (\Box See continuation sheet for <u>an E. Paaverud, Jr.</u> Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) <u>II-20-07</u> Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau	Date
Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Name of Property

Barnes, North Dakota County and State

Ownership of Property Category of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box) private x building(s)	(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)
private building(s)	Contribution Newson 1 1 dies
	Contributing Noncontributing
	<u>1 0 buildings</u>
<u>x</u> public-local district	0 0 sites
public-Statesite	0 0 structures
public-Federal structure	0 0 objects
object	1 Total
Name of related multiple property listing	Number of contributing resources previously
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	listed in the National Register
N/A	0
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions	Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium	SOCIAL: meeting hall
SOCIAL: meeting hall	
	(
	A
	·
7. Description	
Architectural Classification	Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)
MODERN MOVEMENT: Stripped classicism	foundation Concrete
	walls <u>Brick</u>
	roof <u>Tar and Gravel</u>
	other Limestone

See continuation sheet

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that

have made a significant contribution to

the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- □ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- □ B removed from its original location.
- a birthplace or a grave. $\Box C$
- D a cemetery
- DE a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- $\Box F$ a commemorative property.
- **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data: 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
- C recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Barnes, North Dakota County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-1956

Significant Dates

1936

1938

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ritterbush Brothers, architects Wick, O.M., general contractor

- П State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- \boxtimes Other

Name of repository: Barnes County Historical Society

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Name of Property				Barnes, North Dakota County and State				
10. Geog	raphical Dat	ta						
Acreage	of Property	Less th	nan one		_			
UTM Re (Place addi	eferences itional UTM refe	erences on a c	ontinuation sheet)					
1 14	575906	5196629	(NAD27)	3				
Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting See continuation	Northing	
(Describe t Boundar	ry Justificatio	f the property on	on a continuation sheet.) ed on a continuation sheet.)					
11. Forn	n Prepared B	By						
name/titl	e Wes Anders	son						
organization Barnes County Historical Society					date April 200)6		
street & number 315 Central Ave N			1	telephone		1		
city or to	wn_Valley	City			sta	te ND	zip code _58072	4
Addition	nal Documen	tation			_			_

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 SI name <u>City of Valley City</u>	IPO or FPO.)			
street & number	telephone			
city or town		state	zip code	

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.

Section number _7 Page 1

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County, ND

Description

Located at 320 Central Avenue South, on the corner of Central Avenue and 4th St SW, lots 1-6 Block 34 of the Original Valley City Townsite, stands the Valley City Municipal Auditorium today known simply as the City Auditorium. Surrounded by green space, landscaped bushes, and mature trees, the 1936 brown brick and limestone building is an impressive two-story, rectangular Art-Deco structure facing east on Central Avenue. It was designed in 1936 by Ritterbush Brothers of Bismarck, North Dakota.

Immediately west of this building is a narrow alley across which is the former Valley City Armory for the North Dakota National Guard Company G 164th Infantry constructed in 1937 (now the Valley City Parks and Recreation building). To the north, across 3rd St SW, is a small commercial building and parking lot. To the east, across Central Avenue, is residential housing. To the south, across 4th Ave SW, is a greenway created in 1998 by FEMA where there was once residential housing. Also to the south is the Sheyenne River that is crossed by the Valley City State University Walk-Bridge leading to the campus of Valley City State University.

It is fronted by two sets of stairs that lead to its main entrance lobby. Between these two sets of stairs there is a 1995 brick elevator addition that makes this public facility ADA-accessible. Its prominent northeast stairway cornerstone gives the construction date, "1936." Above the two door bays are divided glass windows in a geometric pattern. Flanking the entry façade to the north and south are stairways that lead patrons to the basement public rooms. These stairways are lighted by similar windows.

The original design of this structure had a unified stairway 25 feet wide leading up to three door bays for the entrance of the main floor lobby. Each of the three doors had glass windows extending up approximately 15 feet. The structure was modified in 1995 to make it ADA accessible by Mutchler Bartram Architects of Moorhead, Minnesota. Their modification design was specially intended to be sympathetic to the original Art-Deco intent and yet provide a prominent, fully-accessible entrance to the patrons of the City Auditorium. The middle front entrance door-bay was removed and the stairway was separated in two to accommodate the elevator structure and necessary equipment. Similar brown brick and limestone were used to match the structure as well as original style elements were incorporated to best honor the significance of the unique design.

The main City Auditorium structure is 92 feet wide (north-south) by 156 feet long (east-west) including rear stage and front stairway. The foundations are of concrete and masonry below grade and brick and tile masonry above grade. Trim and coping are of limestone. The framing is exposed steel skeleton construction with steel floor and roof joists. The floors are of terrazzo and maple hardwood over concrete. Interior walls are plastered.

The interior floor plan layout consists of a lobby 17 feet wide (E/W) x 38 feet long (N/S) with terrazzo floors and an 18 foot ceiling. Two sets of wide oak doors flank the original ticket office booth. All door openings are decorated above with three simple vertical wooden rods in an art deco motif. This space is lighted with three elegant art deco brass and milk glass incandescent light fixtures. Behind the lobby is the multi-purpose auditorium. The auditorium has maple hardwood flooring and is 90 feet wide (N/S) x 98 feet long (E/W), seating approximately 1400 persons. The stage located on the far west end of the structure is 20 feet deep (E/W) and 43 feet wide (N/S). The proscenium of the stage has a fluted art deco "frame," a motif which is echoed throughout the building.

Section number _____7, 8 ___ Page 2____

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County, ND

Description (continued)

The basement-lounge, public meeting rooms and restrooms are accessed by two stair cases flanking the lobby and the elevator. At the bottom of the stairs on both sides of the building is an open stair-hall space leading either to the basement lobby through an entry decorated with strong art-deco fluting in the plaster work and flanked by two tall art-deco lighting fixtures, or to hallways adjoining the public meeting rooms, locker rooms and restrooms. The basement lobby is 17 feet wide (E/W) x 38 feet long (N/S). To the immediate east of the basement lounge are cloak rooms and the elevator. To the west are three double door entrances to the dining room that is 33 feet wide (N/S) x 95 feet long (E/W) seating approximately 350 persons. At the far west end of the dining room is the kitchen that remains much as it was in 1936 with milk glass incandescent lighting fixtures and green painted wooden cupboards. To the north and south of the dining room and across the hallway are men's locker rooms.

The property and structure are in excellent condition, having been continuously used and maintained. The only major change to the Auditorium is the elevator. The architects worked to incorporate the three art deco wooden accent strips that were original to the other doorways into the elevator, to make it blend. They made a real effort in 1995 to make the building fully ADA accessible, but in harmony with the history and the architecture. The Art Deco door surrounds echo the stage area decoration. All of the original decorative incandescent light fixtures with their big milk glass globes still function, in a few places augmented by more modern lighting. The metal decorative light fixtures in the basement stairwells are also still in use. The restrooms have been updated, but are mostly original as well. A few dropped ceilings have been added to basement spaces. Even the original silverware stamped with "VC" and the Barnes County China Service are still there. Despite the prominent addition, the building is an excellent example of the elegant, minimalist WPA Art Deco style, retaining most of the original architectural features and decorative elements designed by the Ritterbush Brothers.

Statement of Significance

The Valley City Municipal Auditorium, more commonly known as the City Auditorium, is a large, multipurpose Art Deco building designed by local architects and built by local contractors under the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression (1936). It is primarily significant under National Register criterion A, for its role in the history of Valley City; the events that have taken place in the building are the history and fabric of the community. The architecture and quality of construction, representing both the simple, bold Art Deco styling of the 1930s as well as the workmanship of local contractors, contribute to the significant history of this building as a major project under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration.

In 1904, Valley City had the largest armory/auditorium in the state of North Dakota for Company G of the North Dakota National Guard. This wooden building tragically burned in 1919. Valley City did not have another similar building until this one was built. The city took advantage of the WPA offer to cover 45% of the costs of a building. In the election of September 1935, the citizens of Valley City voted to raise 55% of the \$100,000 cost through the sale of municipal bonds. This was a major commitment to a needed facility for the people of Barnes County in a time of great economic uncertainty. To construct such a structure during the depression took the vision, hard work, and tenacity of a substantial portion of the population – the vote in favor of bonding passed 824 to 245 with a favorable majority of 111.

Section number 8 Page 3

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Local Valley City contractors helped construct this facility. Contractors included A. M. Lingren (excavating), O.M. Wick (general contractor), Frostead Plumbing and Heating Co., Paul G. Baarstad and A.M. Bonhus (electrical). This project served the purpose of putting local people to work during the depression, as well as providing a building that would serve the community for decades to come.

According to a 16 August 1935 Valley City Times Record article, which discussed the need for the building and urged citizens to vote for the bonding needed to secure the funding, the building would have the following accommodations:

There will be smaller rooms that can be used for dining for smaller parties and used for taking care of the meetings of various clubs. ... The municipal building will be a place for these and similar groups to meet and hold their gatherings. If there should be an overflow attendance, the group can then adjourn to the main hall which will have a seating capacity of between 2,500 and 3,000. The main floor will be for holding the larger meetings of the city, and the large conventions and other meetings of that nature that wish to come to our city.

The day after the July 1937 dedication, the North Dakota State Bar Association began its annual, three-day state convention in the Auditorium. Since then, it has hosted everything from live chicken shows, to ice follies, to wrestling matches, to weddings.

The Auditorium's relationship to the next door armory, to the campus of VCSU and proximity to downtown Valley City were major deciding factors in getting Valley City designated as the home of the North Dakota Winter Show, which it has hosted since 1938. It has been used annually for the events of the North Dakota Winter Show.

During World War II the City Auditorium was the community hub of home front activity when it came to bond rallies, USO fund-raising events. Its space was used to register all Barnes County Citizens for the food rationing programs and was indispensable to the WWII home front activities of Barnes County in general, hosting many community meetings, information sessions, dances, and public gatherings.

Peggy Lee performed on stage March 6-9, 1950, three shows a day with the Dave Barbour Orchestra. Other vaudeville and big name entertainers also took the stage (see list in addenda). The Valley City Troubadours have called the Auditorium home since they were founded in 1964. The Auditorium has been used for community theater and civic concerts. The Auditorium also hosted many political and agricultural conventions, as well as public meetings and large funerals where no other facility could accomodate the attendance.

The City Auditorium has been the home of the Barnes County Tournament Class B Boys and Girls Basketball as well as volleyball, wresting, and all Valley City Hi-Liners home games until 2005 when it was replaced by the Hi-Liner Activity Center. It was the home of all Valley City High School dances and proms up to 2005 and has seen graduations and baccalaureates and other major school functions for Valley City, Barnes County, and SE North Dakota. The Valley City

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 4

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

Boy Scouts have called the Auditorium home since 1938. Theirs is one of the oldest troupes in ND. It was the center of events where 4-H held meals and meetings because of the kitchen and dining space. The Methodist Men's Annual Turkey Dinner has been held in this building for the past 50+ years, as have other fund-raisers for Rotary, Kiwanis, and the Optimists Club.

The City Auditorium has a long history as the heart of civic events in Valley City. Beginning with the community investment made in the midst of the Great Depression, the citizens of Valley City have used and maintained the City Auditorium as an invaluable public resource through the present day. The Bridges Arts Council is currently looking at possible repurposing of some of the spaces as a community arts center, continuing the building's long history of serving the community's needs.

Bibliography

People's Opinion August 16, 1935 Building Features To Accommodate Farmer Friends and City Visitors

People's Opinion August 1935 Why a Municipal Auditorium Now? By Frank Cook

A Municipal Auditorium An Editorial from the People's Opinion August 1935

Valley City Times Record Peggy Lee to sing at North Dakota Winter Show March 6, 1950

Valley City Times Record, 1941-1946.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1-6 of block 34, Original Valley City townsite. Lots are located on the corner of Central Avenue and 4th Street Southwest.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This is the entire site originally associated with the nominated building.

Section number Additional Documentation Page 5

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County, ND

Additional Documentation

Events and Entertainers at the Valley City Municipal Auditorium, as noted in local newspapers

1938 Governor William Langer Amphion Chorus George Mecklenburg Elks Band Valley City High School band and orchestra

1939 Concordia College Choir "The Roots of Civilization" (lecture)

1940 Cooperstown Band concert Enderlin Band concert Jamestown Elks Band concert

1941

Jack Ruddy, tap dancing The Wilson Sisters Shirley Anne Ronne, singing and dancing Prof. E.L. Mayor Male Octette and Girls Sextette, State Teachers' College Carole Amundson, toe and acrobatic dancing Mrs. Merritt Johnson, piano numbers Concordia College band

1943 Dr. Harlan Turbell, magician Valley City Community Chorus

1944 ND Livestock Breeders Association meeting and banquet ND Dairy Products Association meeting

1946 Enderlin male chorus Claude Ebling Bob Rindt Jerry Warren

1947 Harris Nelson Gay Nineties Quartet Corrine Jordan

1948 City Auditorium Show

1949 Sheppard Banquet Laff Parade

1951 Yogi Yorgesson Whitey Roberts

1952 Rufe Davis

1953

Bob Neller, ventrioloquist The Winslows, cyclists Edie Barnett & Yvonne, comedy dancing Vernon, Susan, Roger, and Bumpy, acrobats Ben Beri, juggler Harry Habata, accordionist Jack Pyle, magician Earl Dunn, impersonator The Bardines, comedy Jack & Angel, dancing team Joan & Jean, singers

1954

Art Froemke and his State Teachers College band Bismarck High School Concert Choir, Orland Heskin, Director The Three Kernels, Bismarck

Section number Additional Documentation Page 6

Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County, ND

Additional Documentation (continued)

1955 Howard hardin Bud Jacobson, The Gentleman Pickpocket, comedian Mary Davies, vocalist Teddy Qualls, tap dancer The Enfords, acrobat

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Valley City Municipal Auditorium NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH DAKOTA, Barnes

DATE RECEIVED: 11/21/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/10/07 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/25/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/04/08 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07001341

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

1.4.08 DATE REJECT RETURN ACCEPT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Vational Register

RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached co	mments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Valley City Municipal Auditorium Barnes County ND Connie Lappen April 2007 No neg - digital Front / East facade, camera facing W #1



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Valley City Municipal Anditmum
Barnes Co, ND
Lonnie Laffen
April 2007
Digital
Datestone at NE corner, camera facing SID
#2
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Valley City Municipal Auditorium
Barnes Co, ND
Vonnie Laffen
April 2007
Digital
Door into gym/auditorium, Nside, camera facing S
#3
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Valley City Municipal Anditorium Barnes Co, ND Connie Laffen April 2007 West and South facades, camera facing NE Disital #4



Valley City Municipal Anditorium Barnes Co, ND Connie Laffer April 2007 Interior lobby, ground floor, camera facing S Digital #5



Valley City Municipal Andiforium Barnes Co, ND Connie Laffen April 2007 Anditorium / Jym Space, camera facing W Digital #6



Valley City Municipal Anditonium Bames Co, ND Connec Laffen April 2007 Digital Basement Stair well lobby, detail of pannister #7



Valley City Municipal Auditorium Bames Co ND Connie Laffer April 2007 Digital Basement lobby-Art Deco door surrounds #8





RECEIVED 2280

To:	Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
From:	Keeper, National Register of Historic Places Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Mary Kate Ryan MUR
Date:	20 November 2007
Subject:	National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 20th day of November 2007, for

the nomination of the <u>Valley City Municipal Auditorium</u> to the National Register of Historic Places.

_____1____National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper

_____ Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper

_____8____ Photographs, black and white

_____1___Original USGS map(s)

_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

_____ Pieces of correspondence

____1 ___ Other: ___photo CD

COMMENTS:

of

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

_____This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

_____ The enclosed owner objections ____ do ____ do not constitute a majority

property owners,

Other:



		_	7.1.
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To:	Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
From:	Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr./ Mary Kate Ryan
Date:	23 November 2007
Subject:	National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 23rd day of November 2007, for

the nomination of the <u>Valley City Municipal Auditorium</u> to the National Register of Historic Places.

_____ National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper

_____ Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper

____ Photographs, black and white

_____ Original USGS map(s)

_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

_____ Pieces of correspondence

_____ Other: ___Photo CD_____ To replace previous, erroneously sent incorrect CD

COMMENTS:

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

_____This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

_____ The enclosed owner objections ____ do ____ do not constitute a majority of

property owners.

Other: