

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NOV 14 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Garden City Opera House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1st and Railroad Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Garden City

N/A vicinity

state South Dakota

code SD

county Clark

code 025

zip code 57236

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Andrew Byers

12/20/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

38

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Auditorium

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
Metal
roof Wood shingle/Asphalt
other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Situated on an open lot just north and west of Main Street, the Garden City Opera House is a large wood frame building sided with historic pressed metal panels. The two story building rises from a poured concrete foundation and is capped by a steep gambrel roof. The roof is covered with historic wood shingles on the south side and with modern asphalt shingles on the north side. Two brick chimneys ascend from the roof line along the south facade. An entrance vestibule is located on the southwest corner of the building. A wood frame lean-to sheathed with vertical boards projects from the center of the south facade. Piercing the roof on the south side, a gable roof dorner provides a fire escape from the upper level. In addition, there is a freestanding enclosed stairwell on the east (rear) gable end. Fenestration on the west (front), north, and east facades consists of paired and single elongated rectangular double-hung windows.

The first floor of the interior is one large room, which serves as an auditorium. A narrow balcony that wraps around the auditorium along the south, west, and north walls was added in the 1950s to permit spectators to watch basketball games. A ghost silhouette of the original stage, removed many years ago, is still extant at the east end of the auditorium floor. The upper level of the building is divided into three rooms. A ticket booth and access stairs to the balcony are located in the entry vestibule. Walls are covered with wainscoting and plaster. Ceilings are covered with decorative pressed metal panels. The lean-to on the south now houses the heating plant. Except for removal of the stage and addition of the balcony, there have been no changes to the interior of the building.

(40)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1908 - 1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Centennial History of the Northern Two-thirds of Clark County, Including the Towns of Clark, Bradley, Garden City, Raymond, Crocker, and Elrod. N.P., 1981. pp. 140, 161.

Deed Records, Clark County, South Dakota, Register of Deeds Office. Lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Original Town of Garden City.

Garden City, South Dakota, History: 1887-1987. N.p., 1987. pp. 2-5, passim.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	4	6	1	1	1	2	0	4	9	7	9	2	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Quad.: Garden City, Scale: 1:24000

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Clark County Register of Deeds Office: Lots 5 and 6, Original Town of Garden City, Clark County, South Dakota.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property include the parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Rau, National Register Coordinator
organization South Dakota Historical Preservation Center date September 8, 1988
street & number 3 East Main telephone 605-677-5314
city or town Vermillion state South Dakota zip code 57069

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Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, the Garden City Opera House is significant in the area of Entertainment/Recreation, because for eighty years it has served as the community's only auditorium and large central meeting place. Since its construction in 1908, it has been the site of innumerable public functions including plays, dances, banquets, assemblies, fraternal meetings, and games. It is one of only a very few extant authentic historic buildings in the community of Garden City. Under the South Dakota Historic Preservation Plan, the property relates to the historic context labeled: V. Depression and Rebuilding, C. Civic Improvements.

Clark County was created in 1873 and organized in 1881. It is located in the heart of the relatively flat glacial lakes region of northeastern South Dakota. Garden City in east-central Clark County was first settled as early as 1882; however, it was not officially platted until 1887 when the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad reached the settlement. Although it has suffered a marked decline in population in recent years, the community continues to serve as a small rural commercial center. In the early 20th Century, it was the center of a large potato-producing area. Potatoes continue to be an important commodity in the local economy today. In addition, since the mid-1950s it has been the home of station KDLO, a link in the statewide Keloland radio and television broadcasting system (a CBS affiliate).

On March 18, 1908, the Garden City Hall Association purchased lots 5 and 6 of Block 2 and commissioned the construction of a wood frame two-story building to serve as a town auditorium. The building was completed in October of that year. In August of 1915, the Association leased the lower level of the building to local banker E. L. Jacobs who promoted entertainment events there for a short time. In 1949, the Association dissolved and the Opera House was sold to the city. Over the years, it has housed many public activities, which in the early days included traveling minstrel and medicine shows. Other activities have been farm shows, auctions, flea markets, roller skating parties, church socials, and public dances. High school basketball games and commencement ceremonies were also held in the auditorium. The upper level has always been reserved for area fraternal societies, which have shared the facility. These organizations included: Odd Fellows, Rebeckas, Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Masons, and Eastern Star.

Throughout the community most of the historic buildings have been either demolished, destroyed by fire, or drastically altered. A 1914 brick public school building was demolished upon consolidation of the school district in 1972. The Garden City Opera House remains the best historic original building in the city. Even though it is not used as often as it once was, the Opera House still accommodates many local social events. A group of local concerned

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citizens hope that registration will encourage preservation and increased use of the facility.

The period of significance of the nominated property extends from its date of construction in 1908 to 1938, the established 50-year cut-off date for the National Register.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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B

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C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Quad.: Garden City, Scale: 1:24000

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

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Section number Photos Page 1

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1.
Garden City Opera House
Garden City, Clark County, South Dakota
by John Rau
May 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
West and south facades, camera facing northeast
Photo No. 1

2.
Garden City Opera House
Garden City, Clark County, South Dakota
by John Rau
May 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
East and north facades, camera facing southwest
Photo No. 2

3.
Garden City Opera House
Garden City, Clark County, South Dakota
by John Rau
May 1988
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
Interior, camera facing east
Photo No. 3

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