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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 Rapid City Historical Museum  
other names/site number Sioux Indian Museum/Minnelusa Pioneer Museum

2. Location

street & number 515 West Boulevard  not for publication  
city, town Rapid City  vicinity  
state South Dakota code SD county Pennington code SD 013 zip code 57701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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] [Date]  
Signature of certifying official Date  
[Agency]  
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. [Signature] [Date]  
 See continuation sheet. National Register 12/24/88

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

               
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

---

walls stone/limestone

---

roof asphalt

---

other metal/iron

---

---

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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Situated at the east end of Halley Park in the heart of Rapid City, the Rapid City Historical Museum is a rustic limestone masonry building rising from a stone foundation. The T-shaped building is capped by intersecting gable roofs covered with asphalt shingles. Two stone chimneys rise from the roof line, one at the north end and one near the center of the structure. A flagstone terrace marks the front entrance on the east facade. Ends of rafters, ridge pieces, and purlins are exposed along wide, overhanging eaves. Four large modern galvanized ventilators pierce the roof line along the west (rear) side of the south and north wings. Original fenestration consists of twenty-three elongated rectangular windows and a multipaned picture window on the south gable end all with wrought iron grills.

As originally constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1938 the building was a long rectangular structure with two flagstone terraces, one each at the centers of the west and east axial facades. In 1957, the west (rear) terrace was removed, and a west wing similar to the original construction was added. There are no windows along the axial walls of the addition. Modern steel doors and a covered picture window now mark the west gable end.

The initial room arrangement comprised a central reception area, a large exhibition room on the north and a smaller exhibition room and a curator's living quarters on the south. A single exhibition room was added with the west wing. The north and south wings have been extensively remodeled to meet changing needs of the museum, which no longer call for residential space. Original slate floors remain intact in the reception lobby and in the north and south wings. The west wing has not been altered from its 1957 appearance.

**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)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Winter, Waldo J. W.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL PRESERVATION CENTER

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 13 641330 4888250  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

Quad: Rapid City East, Scale: 1:24000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robert E. Preszler, Director (w/technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO Staff)  
organization Minnelusa Historical Association date August 5, 1988  
street & number 515 W. Boulevard telephone 605-394-6099  
city or town Rapid City state South Dakota zip code 57701

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Under Criterion C of the National Register Criteria, the Rapid City Historical Museum is significant in the area of architecture, because it is an excellent local example of the vernacular rustic style. Designed by Rapid City architect Waldo J. W. Winter, the building was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (Project No. 1112) in 1938 to house local and regional historical collections. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the property relates to the historic context labeled: VI. The Great Depression-- Farm Foreclosures, Bank Failures, and Government Assistance Programs.

The design of the museum building was influenced by the Adirondack rustic style and the ongoing craftsman movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From 1870 to 1930, this rustic style evolved in upstate New York as a popular form of domestic architecture for resorts and vacation homes of the wealthy. Such buildings have a "rusticated" appearance and are characterized by the use of logs, and indigenous stones, shingled roofs with broad overhangs, exposed rafters, brackets, and simply proportioned fenestration. Although originally intended as a local vernacular style, it spread to the west partly because the National Park Service adopted its use for park structures. Many architects throughout the west, such as Mr. Winter, employed this style for a wide variety of public and private buildings. A number of W. P. A. projects in South Dakota use this style.

The Rapid City Historical Museum was constructed of native limestone blocks on a rectangular plan. Typical of rustic and craftsman traditions, it features exposed rafter ends, ridge pieces, and purlins as well as wrought iron grills covering the windows, slate floors, and large stone chimneys. It is unique within the city.

Settled in 1876, as a support community for Black Hills area mines and ranches, Rapid City grew to be the second largest city in South Dakota. It continues to serve as a regional hub of commercial and transportation activity. Since the early twentieth century, an ever-expanding tourist trade has also been centered around the city. The greatest increase in population, however, came from the impact of the installation of Ellsworth Air Force Base at nearby Box Elder.

Early in 1936, several Rapid City commissioners met at city hall with Waldo Winter to discuss the construction of a city museum building. A majority of those concerned wanted to place the facility in Halley Park; however, the architect was strongly opposed to that site. Discussions came to a standstill until later in the year when George B. Mansfield, president of the local historical society, and R. L. Bronson, secretary of the chamber of commerce, convinced Winter that Halley Park was an appropriate location for a museum.

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Using local artisans and craftsmen, the Works Progress Administration began construction in 1937 and completed the project in early spring of 1938. Dedication ceremonies were held on Sunday, May 2, 1938. The first resident curator was John A. Anderson, a pioneer Indian trader who lived on the Rosebud Reservation for forty-two years. His extensive collection of Native American artifacts became the basis for the Sioux Indian Museum.

In 1957, a west wing was added using the same stylistic treatment as that of the original construction. James Ewing, another local architect, designed the addition. Limestone blocks for the addition came from the former Lincoln School, which had recently been demolished. Local contractor Peter D. Capa supervised construction.

Currently, the Minnelusa Pioneer Museum, operated by the Minnelusa Historical Association, occupies the west wing, and the Sioux Indian Museum, administered by the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the U. S. Department of the Interior, occupies the rest of the building. Both museums are served by a common entrance vestibule and reception area. The City of Rapid City owns and maintains the building. Except for the 1957 addition and changes to the interior, the museum retains its original architectural integrity as a long-time city landmark.

The period of significance of the nominated property does not extend beyond its date of construction in 1938.

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Jackson, Taylor. Manuscript. (W. P. A. Writers Project). N. p. N.d.

Kaiser, Harvey H. "The Adirondack Rustic Style." Old House Journal. XI, n.1  
(1983): pp. 30-33+.

"Museum at Rapid City Will Preserve Mementos of Pioneer Days." The  
Improvement Bulletin. September 10, 1937.

Rapid City (South Dakota) Journal. various issues from 1936 to 1956.

Secretary's Minutes Books. Minnelusa Historical Association. July 1956 to  
July 1957. housed at Minnelusa Pioneer Museum. Rapid City, South  
Dakota.

Winter, W. J. W. Original Plans and Specifications. housed at Minnelusa  
Pioneer Museum. Rapid City, South Dakota.



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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a rectangle centered around the T-shaped building. The eastern boundary line lies 25 feet east of the easternmost (axial) wall of the building and is parallel to that wall. The southern boundary line lies 25 feet south of the southernmost (gable-end) wall of the building and is parallel to that wall. The western boundary line lies 25 feet west of the westernmost (gable-end) wall of the building and is parallel to that wall. The northern boundary line lies 25 feet north of the northernmost (gable-end) wall of the building and is parallel to that wall. The property is located at the east end of triangular-shaped Halley Park, which was formerly known as Blocks 1 and 2 of the Boulevard Addition to the City of Rapid City, South Dakota.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property are set to include only the museum building and to explicitly exclude the parking lot to the east of the building, public roadways, and other park structures.

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1.  
Rapid City Historical Museum  
Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota  
by John Rau  
February 1988  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
East facade, camera facing west  
Photo No. 1
  
2.  
Rapid City Historical Museum  
Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota  
by John Rau  
February 1988  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
West wing, camera facing northeast  
Photo No. 2
  
3.  
Rapid City Historical Museum  
Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota  
by John Rau  
February 1988  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
South gable end, camera facing north  
Photo No. 3
  
4.  
Rapid City Historical Museum  
Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota  
by John Rau  
February 1988  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
North gable end, camera facing south  
Photo No. 4

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Rapid City Historical Museum

Pennington County, SOUTH DAKOTA

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

*for* Keeper *Alonzo Byers*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 27 1989

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AMENDMENT TO NOMINATION: CHANGE OF COUNTY CODE DESIGNATION

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: Rapid City Historical Museum.  
NRIS Reference No. 88002837.

2. LOCATION: Due to a typographical error in the county code section on the original nomination form this property was inaccurately attributed to Brown County. The proper code should be "SD 103" for Pennington county, South Dakota.

All other items of the original nomination should remain unchanged.

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

John E. Rau, National Register Coordinator  
South Dakota State Historical Preservation Center  
P. O. Box 417, Vermillion, SD, 57069  
phone: 605-677-5314.

January 23, 1989.

4. 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 for 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

1-23-89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Deputy SHPO  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau