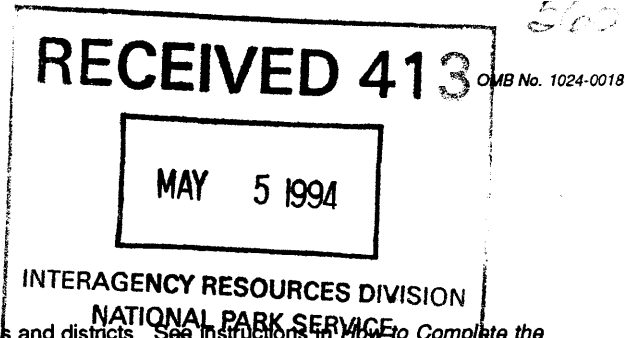


United States Department of the Interior  
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### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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 "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Delmont Public School

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Location

Street & number: 205 West Third  not for publication

City or town: Delmont  vicinity

State: South Dakota Code: SD County: Douglas Code: 043 Zip code: 57330

#### 3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official: [Signature] SD SHP Date: 4/20/94

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 the Keeper: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action: \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Edson H. Beall Date of Action: 6/3/94

Delmont Public School  
Name of Property

Douglas, SD  
County and State

**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>1</u>     |                 | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
|              |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     |                 | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

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**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular Collegiate

Gothic

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**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof other: tar

other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Delmont Public School  
Name of Property

Douglas, SD  
County and State

**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.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1923-1944

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1923

1938

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/BUILDER**

Grabe, George

\_\_\_\_\_

**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:

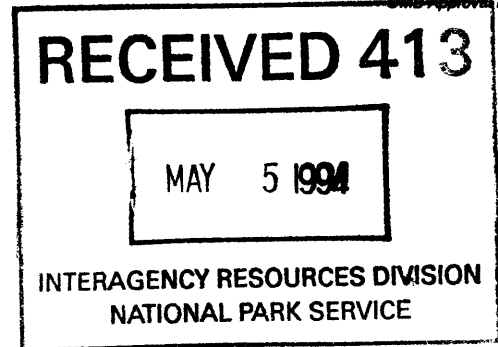
\_\_\_\_\_



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



### Narrative Description:

⑤ The Delmont Public School is located on a full block in the small town of Dlmont. The rectangular building reveals details of Collegiate Gothic architecture. Built in 1923 the school has served the purpose of an educational facility for the city and remains so today. A large ceremonial entrance to the brick building is enhanced with attached buttresses that reach to a second story brick arch connecting the two buttresses. Directly over the arched entrance is a relief cement plaque stating the function of the building. The words "Public School" are set in the arch. A coursed effect is achieved on the bricks on the tall water table by banded rows of recessed darker bricks. The water table is capped by a bevelled brick beltcourse delineating the first floor of the building.

Ornamental brick work sets off features all around the school. The main facade has windows only above the central entrance which light the interior stairway. No other fenestration is present on the main facade. On either side of the centered vertically oriented entrance are two massive panels set off by recessed brick around the rectangular feature. These panels rise from above the water table to the cornice line. The main facade has four pilasters, two rising from the entrance and two acting as cornerposts. The pilasters are capped by brick panels set in concrete to provide a geometrical, diamond-shaped pattern.

The sides (east and west facades) have a center pilaster rising to the same geometrical design in the cornice with six windows on each floor on either side of the center pilaster. These windows were infilled sometime during the 1970s and replaced with small one pane windows.

The rear of the building houses the auditorium which was added in 1938. This large addition was constructed of brick and is one story with a vaulted false front roof. The windows on the auditorium were replaced at the same time as the schools; however in the rear of the building two of the original multipaned full length windows are present.

The interior of the Delmont school retains a high degree of historic integrity. The arched entrance is adorned with leaded glass transom and sidelights on the interior. Entering into a staircase the lower

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level houses the cafeteria and access to the auditorium. The cafeteria still boasts its pressed metal ceiling. The classrooms have all retained their form with four large rooms on the main level and four rooms as well as a stage on the second level. Wood lockers are still present in the rooms and the stage has pressed metal surrounding it.

The lot where the school resides is speckled with swingsets and play areas typically associated with a school building. Also on the lot is a temporary mobile structure that houses some classes.

Overall the Delmont School continues to be an effective teaching facility and its historic character is appreciated by the community.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

The Delmont Public School is locally significant under criterion A for its association with the growing educational needs of the small town of Delmont, South Dakota, and criterion C as a good example of the vernacular Collegiate Gothic type of construction. The Delmont Public School is associated with the historic context labelled V. Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929) A. Changing Urban Patterns and C. Civic Improvements.

As the city of Delmont was settled and expanded the need for a first school became evident and in 1886 a small frame building was erected to fulfill this purpose. This building served the purpose of the town for quite a while. The early settlers provided the care and staffing of the school.

Soon, the town had outgrown this small school building. The school district as a whole was growing as settlement of the area expanded and on March 11, 1902 the district was divided into five separate and independent districts. Soon, even with the newly established subdivisions, the old frame school was too small to accommodate all the pupils, and for a time part of the classes were being held above the local store. In this same year a new building was erected in the present day location of the city park. This was a two story four room frame structure. Only the two downstairs rooms were completed initially which was adequate to house the enrollment of 38 students, 18 boys and 20 girls.

In 1904 the two finished rooms were no longer adequate to house the students. Now at an enrollment of 24 girls and 25 boys with the grammar and high school enrollment at 33, construction had to be finished. During the summer of 1905 the upstairs rooms were completed. By 1907 the enrollment skyrocketed to 100 pupils.

Until the year 1922, classes were conducted for the first ten grades. Then in September of 1922, the junior year was added and in 1923, the senior year. To accommodate the students the present day school was built. Dedicated on the 19th of October, 1923 the completed school designed by architects Grabe and Hellberg from Nebraska came into action. The modern facility provided roomy locker space and an interior to accommodate the entire high school. The basement housed

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the cafeteria which still boasts its decorative pressed metal ceiling, while the two upper floors provided ample class space. The first commencement of the new four year high school course was held on Thursday, May 22, 1924, with seven students receiving their diplomas.

Again the town was expanding and by 1938 more space was needed for class rooms. A new auditorium was built to accomplish this and it was completed in 1939. This rapid bustling growth of the town began to cease. The town of Delmont began to decline in population. The school was used for all grades and by 1961 there was an enrollment of 144 students, 67 in high school and 67 in the grades. A class of 18 members was graduated in May 1961.

The city of Delmont has more than adequately responded to its growth by developing a strong and responsive school system. This system provided the education and expansion of the small town, as well as aesthetically pleasing its residents.

The style of the school building was a popular type during this period. Many colleges and universities around the state and around the country were erecting buildings with features resembling Gothic architecture. The Delmont School is ornamented with some of the more vernacular revival features of the style such as the buttressed central entrance and the verticle feeling of the facade.

Overall the school retains its historic integrity and is associated with the historic educational development of the small town of Delmont and is associated with the vernacular type of building style Collegiate Gothic.



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**Bibliography:**

*History of Davison County, Centennial Book*

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundaries of the Delmont Public School include the area historically associated with the building and only the building.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries include the school and its attached auditorium and only that building.