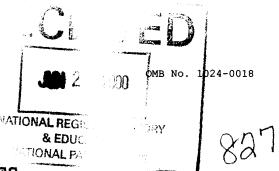
NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior ATIONAL REGIONAL PARK Service & EDUC. ATIONAL PARK



# 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 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 <u>Split Rock Creek Park Historic District</u> other names/site number <u>N/A</u>
2. Location
street & number See Section 7 not for publication N/A city or town Garretson vicinity N/A state South Dakota code SD county Minnehaha code 099 zip code 57030
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> 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 <u>x</u> meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant <u>nationally</u> statewide <u>x</u> locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certafying official Date
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

Name of Property Split Rock Park District County and State Minnehaha Co., SD Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (MPDF)
4. 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
Signature of Keeper About A Date of Action 7/20/00
S. Classification
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  private yublic-local public-State public-Federal  Category of Property (Check only one box)
<pre>building(s) X district site structure object</pre>
Number of Resources within Property  Contributing Noncontributing  buildings sites structures objects Total
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0 Name of related multiple property listing. Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Sub: Cat: LANDSCAPE city park TRANSPORTATION rail-related TRANSPORTATION pedestrian-related INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION waterworks RECREATION AND CULTURE outdoor recreation Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: Sub: LANDSCAPE city park TRANSPORTATION rail-related TRANSPORTATION pedestrian-related INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION waterworks RECREATION AND CULTURE outdoor recreation 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) OTHER: W.P.A. Rustic Materials (Enter categories from instructions) Foundation CONCRETE; STONE: Quartzite roof ASPHALT walls STONE: Quartzite; CONCRETE other METAL; WOOD; CONCRETE

County and State Minnehaha Co., SD

Name of Property Split Rock Park District

Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (MPDF)

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

See Continuation Sheets

	erty Split Rock Park District County and State Minnehaha Co., SD ef Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (MPDF)
8. Statem	======================================
Applicable	e National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for ia qualifying the property for National Register listing)  Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<u>X</u> 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.
A	Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) owned by a religious institution or used for religious
purposes B C D E F G	removed from its original location. a birthplace or a grave. a cemetery. a reconstructed building, object, or structure. a commemorative property. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of	Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  SOCIAL HISTORY  ECONOMICS  ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT  CONSERVATION  ENGINEERING  LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  TRANSPORTATION  ARCHITECTURE
Period of	Significance 1929-1941

Name of Property Split Ro Federal Relief Construction	ck Park District County and State Minnehaha Co., SD on in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (MPDF)
8. Cont'd.	
Significant Dates	1910 1933 1934 1935 1936
Significant Person	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
Cultural Affiliation	n <u>N/A</u>
Architect/Builder	Works Progress Administration
property on one or a See Continuation Sho	
9. Major Bibliograp	
	cles, and other sources used in preparing this form or ion sheets.)
been requested.  previously liste previously dete designated a National recorded by His	ion on file (NPS) ermination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has ed in the National Register rmined eligible by the National Register tional Historic Landmark toric American Buildings Survey # toric American Engineering Record #
Other State age: Federal agency Local governmen University Other	Preservation Office ncy

Name of Property Split Rock Park District County and State Minnehaha Co., SD Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (MPDF)
======================================
Acreage of Property <u>Approximately 4.2 Acres</u>
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)  Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  A 14 701255 4843868 C 14 701252 4843785  B 14 701212 4843802 D 14 701042 4843478  X See continuation sheet.
Maps: Garretson West & Garretson East Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet
name/title Megan D. Eades date January 2000 street & number 1039 Magnolia Street telephone (912)746-6510 city or town Macon state GA zip code 31201
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)

Name of Property Split Rock Park District County and State Minnehaha Co., SD Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (MPDF)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Garretson

street & number 705 Main Street telephone

city or town Garretson state South Dakota zip code 57030

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.

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#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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# Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

#### VII. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Split Rock Park is located northwest of the city of Garretson, South Dakota, in upper Minnehaha County. The park features a small collection of structures and buildings associated with the Works Progress Administration as part of community enhancement projects executed during the Great Depression.

Large deciduous trees, shrubbery, and native wildflowers grow along the creek banks and near the quartzite outcroppings and gullies. Picnic areas and camp grounds are located throughout the park, which has been well maintained to preserve its natural beauty.

The park is sited along the banks of the Split Rock Creek that runs north to south along the western edge of the park and is joined by Devils Creek which forms the park's northern boundary. The large outcroppings of jasper and quartzite in this area form Devils Gulch a historic site associated with the legendary bank robber Jesse James.

This native stone is the primary material used in the structures and building in the Split Rock Park district and contribute both to the historic and architectural significance of the property. There are a total of nine resources included within the district, consisting of a railroad bridge, dam, two culvert/bridges, retaining walls, an arched bridge, one bathhouse, and two culverts. All nine resources, which were constructed over a period of approximately twenty years, still retain their historic appearance

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Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

DESCRIPTION, Cont'd.

and setting. Each property is listed below in chronological order according to date of construction and keyed by number to the attached maps:

The oldest resource is the circa 1910 deck plate girder bridge (1) designed and commissioned by the Great Northern (Burlington Northern) Railroad. This massive structure is an elevated railroad bridge with steel trestle towers and deck with concrete footings. The elevated bridge, which still serves the railroad, spans Devils Gulch at the eastern edge of the park.

One of the first improvements made to the park utilizing federal relief funding was the construction of a new dam (2) on Split Rock Creek. This project, which was also one of the five original Minnehaha projects sponsored by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, commenced in early 1933. Built on the site of an mill dam that was almost demolished, the new structure was erected on the former dam's solid rock foundation and incorporated the indigenous quartzite from the gulch in its construction. The multitiered dam measured eight feet in height with a graduated width of five feet at the top and increasing to a full ten feet at the base. This new dam created a lake measuring approximately one-half mile long lake with widths ranging from 150 to 300 feet.

Two structures were added to the park in 1935 under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration. These two culvert/bridges are located along the main road into the park and allow transportation across the drainage ditches. The smaller structure (3) is the first one encounters upon entering the park. Built of the native quartzite along with rubble stone, this culvert/bridge features slightly flaring walls with bands of hewn or cut, quartzite and rubble infill.

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Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

DESCRIPTION, Cont'd.

The larger culvert/bridge (4) is located near the center of the park in a wide, open area near the creek and bathhouse. This bridge was built in the same year as the smaller structure and shares the same general design and materials. Each curved wall consists of cut quartzite laid in regular courses with concrete mortar and is topped by the indigenous rubble stone. The rectangular culvert openings, intended to assist with drainage, are also constructed of the native quartzite.

Directly north of the larger culvert/bridge and on each side of the open space, lie stone retaining walls (5). Built in 1936 (also by the W.P.A.), these walls were part of the landscaping improvements for the park. The two, elongated walls are located almost directly across from each other: the east wall parallels the railroad tracks while the west wall separates the bathhouse from the creek. Both walls consist of uncut, irregularly-shaped rubble quartzite that was laid without any mortar or additional stone coursing.

The only building included in the district is the large bathhouse (6) located on the eastern banks of Split Rock Creek and just a few feet south of the dam. This facility was also designed and executed by the Works Progress Administration, and like the other resources in this district, was constructed of concrete and rough-cut quartzite. The building consists of a three-bay, rectangular block with a stepped, parapet roof with cut stone coping, stone walls, and a concrete foundation. A larger, center section is

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Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

DESCRIPTION, Cont'd.

flanked by smaller wings and contains a band of four windows and a single door. Two doors are located on the rear elevation. This building currently serves as a gift shop and restrooms for campers.

The remaining structure built by the W.P.A. during this same year (1936), is the arched bridge (7) that spans Devils Gulch. Like the other structures in the district, this bridge was constructed of the cut quartzite found in outcroppings throughout the park. The bridge features smooth concrete caps above the stone and each of the four rounded arches is enhanced by cut stone that borders each opening.

All resources are intact and retain a very high degree of integrity. The original design, materials, and settings remain virtually unaltered, and each resource reflects the construction techniques employed by and associated with federal relief programs and the Works Progress Administration. Individually, each resource is representative of WPA projects, but as a whole, the district provides an excellent example of the agency's use of natural materials and embody distinctive elements associated with the style now referred to as \$\mathbb{X}\$ WPA Rustic.

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Split Rock Park District
Minnehaha County
Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

#### VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGINFICANCE

The Split Rock Park District in Garretson, South Dakota is historically significant on both the local and state level for its association with social history and economics in Minnehaha County and South Dakota during the Great Depression. As a Federal Relief project, the district is significant because it is directly linked with federal programs designed to provide work for unemployed segments of the population and to supplement the depressed economy of many rural communities.

The district, which contains multiple structures and one building, is also locally significant in the areas of architecture, entertainment/recreation, community planning/development, conservation, engineering, transportation, and landscape architecture.

Within the context of the Multiple Property Listing, Federal Relief Projects in South Dakota, 1929-1941, the district is eligible for listing because the resources contained therein meet the criteria and registration requirements. All resources were complete by 1941; the district is locally significant; the project were financed by the federal government through a relief program; and all properties retain their integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In addition to meeting the general requirement, each structure or building in the proposed district meets specific criteria set forth in the sections related to the following property types: Conservation Structures (dam); Social and Recreational Facilities (bathhouses, park, campground, and picnic ground); and Transportation Systems (bridges).

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Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

#### Historic Background and Significance:

Garretson is located in the upper east section of Minnehaha County, which is one of the most populated counties in the state. The rolling topography is dotted with trees and outcroppings of quartzite near the many streams the feed the Big Sioux River. This was one of the earliest settlement areas due largely to its eastern borders with Minnesota and Iowa. Agriculture continues to be a primary source of income for the county, but the good railroad connections, and later the proximity to the junction of the two interstates that cross the state, have contributed to the growth of successful businesses and industry.

The Great Northern Railroad bridge in Split Rock Park is significant for its association with transportation and engineering because it reflects the importance of the railroad to Garretson in the early 1900s and the type of truss and girder systems used during this period.

Although Sioux Falls grew rapidly and size and population as the county seat and major trade center, Garretson's fertile farmland and contiguity to the railroad allowed the community to flourish throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The combination of the stockmarket crash in 1929 and the subsequent droughts, dust storms, and grasshopper infestations, however, took a considerable toll on the agrarian community. Since crops were largely ruined and farming became increasingly fruitless, residents of Garretson and Minnehaha County sought alternative employment through many of the work programs instituted by the Federal Relief Agencies.

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Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

Prior to the economic crisis of the early 1930s, little or no federal funding was available for community-based construction activity. Federal Emergency Relief Agency instituted programs that filtered money for improvement projects through various agencies. One of the first agencies was the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and this organization's primary objective was to provide work projects that would allow local laborers money to buy the necessary goods to see them through the economic crisis. With the success of the RFC, other agencies were established to manage additional work relief projects. These projects, approved and executed by organizations such as the Civilian Works Association (CWA), Public Works Administration (PWA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), also contributed to the substantial increase in the number of public-related construction projects and community improvements. result of federal funding and local labor, a vast proportion communities in South Dakota erected public buildings and recreational facilities that promoted pride and local support during the economic crisis.

The Split Rock Park Dam was one of the first undertakings by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in South Dakota, and one of five projects sponsored by the RFC in Minnehaha County. Built of native quartzite, the dam is significant for engineering and conservation techniques employed by federal relief programs to assist in irrigation, improve water channels, and to provide for better habitat for aquatic wildlife. The South Dakota Fish and Game

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Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

Commission worked in conjunction with the RFC to stock the new lake with plenty of bass, trout, crapppie, and a variety of sunfish (bream) and catfish. The new dam also contributed to the landscape architecture and recreational facilities in Split Rock Park by providing not only a picturesque setting but also a good area for fishing, swimming, and wading for campers or day-visitors.

The large and small culvert/bridges and the arched bridge are significant as projects managed by the Works Progress Administration, but they are also significant examples of engineering and transportation techniques employed by this agency. All three structures utilize native materials (quartzite) and were designed not only to allow for drainage from the Split Rock Creek and Devils Gulch, but provide transportation as well. Each bridge/culvert is related to transportation because they allow access by vehicle and foot to the other areas of the park.

In terms of landscape architecture, the quartzite retaining walls as well as the culverts and bridges, are significant in the areas landscape architecture and community planning because each structure was built to incorporate native materials and to blend with the natural surroundings. While they serve a practical purpose, they enhance the overall setting of the park.

The bathhouse is the only building in the park/district, but it is significant in the areas of recreation and entertainment as well as architecture. Built in 1936 by the W.P.A., the building exhibits

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SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

established principles of construction, including the use of indigenous materials, associated with this agency. This resource was originally designed to provide changing rooms and facilities for swimmers as well as restrooms for campers. Its simple plan, consisting of a center block with two wings, is a common form used by the WPA as is the use of quartzite and concrete as the primary building materials. The bathhouse is an excellent example of the style now known as "WPA Rustic" because it reflects a utilitarian design that incorporates native stone, concrete, and/or wood materials that blend well with the natural environment.

The Split Rock Park District is a remarkably intact collection of architecturally significant resources with a strong association with the history of federal relief construction projects in Garretson and across the state. Each resource is directly related to community planning and development in Garretson as part of the local efforts to provide facilities and services that were previously insufficient. The building techniques and materials used in their construction contributes to the park and community at large.

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Name of Property Split Rock Park District
Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941(MPDF)

County and State Minnehaha Co., SD

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# Split Rock Park District Minnehaha County Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941

VIII. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

All nominated resources contained in the Split Rock Park are located in the Southeast, Southwest Section 17, Township 103 North, Range 47 West, Garretson, Minnehaha, South Dakota.

#### Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Split Rock Park District. All structures and buildings within the district are identified on the attached map and keyed to the narrative description by name and number.

UTM

	Zone	Eastern	Northern	Zone	Eastern	Northern
E.	14	701140	4843440	F. 14	701377	4843770
G.	14	701447	4843773	H. 14	701447	4843868

