United States Department of the Interior National Park Service 409

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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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 certification comments, entries, and parattyle items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900s).

1. Name of Property	
historic name Rapid City High School	
other names/site number Rapid City Central High School,	Dakota Middle School
2. Location	
street & number 615 Columbus Street	not for publication
city or town Rapid City	vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Penn	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Pres	ervation Act. as amended.
I hereby certify that this _x nomination request for det	ermination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for ces and meets the procedural and professional requirements
In my opinion, the property <u>x</u> meets <u>does</u> does not meet the considered significant at the following level(s) of significant	ne National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property nce:
nationalstatewidex_local	
Signature of certifying official/Title	05-10-2010 Date
SD SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Reg	gister criteria.
Signature of commenting official	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
4. National/Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register	determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National Register
40.37.40	
other (explain:)	
other (explain:) A Beall	6.28.10

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.) X building(s) district site structure object	Number of Resources within (Do not include previously listed resources) Contributing Noncontribute 1	ces in the count.)
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a N/A	operty listing a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resou listed in the National Register	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) EDUCATION: School		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) EDUCATION: School	
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) LATE 19 TH & 20 TH CENTURY Beaux Arts Classicism/Americ		Materials (Enter categories from instructions.) foundation: Concrete walls: Stone and brick	
Dedux Arto Diassicismi/Americ	an Nenaissance	roof: Synthetic membrane other: Stone, metal	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Rapid City High School, now known as Dakota Middle School, is located at 615 Columbus Street at the intersection of Sixth and Columbus Streets. The school building is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C. It is the last in a series of schools built on this site and the only public high school in the city until a second public high school was completed in 1969. The nominated property includes only the Rapid City High School building. The other buildings on this site including a newer gymnasium, three annexes, a garage, a shop building and a power plant, are being excluded from the nominated area due to their age and/or lack of historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Setting

Rapid City High School is located three blocks from Rapid City's downtown historic commercial district, and is surrounded by a mix of commercial and residential development as well as churches. The building sits slightly above the street level and it is built into the hillside behind it. It is surround on three sides by mostly flat terrain. Sitting back approximately 15 feet from the street, it is separated from the street by a sidewalk and small lawn. This setting gives it a place of prominence in the area.

The school is located in the center of a site that encompasses an area equivalent to two-city blocks. The main elevation faces north towards the downtown district and because the school is built into the hillside, the first and second floors of the south elevation, are below ground making the ground level on the south elevation at the third floor of the building. On this level and adjacent to the building was once an athletic field. The garage and the annex buildings now occupy this area south of the school. The shop building, also located at this same level, sits slightly behind and to the west of the school. The power plant sits west of the school. There is access to the rear of the building for maintenance and delivery along with parking for school personnel. The newer gymnasium is located to the east of the school.

General Characteristics

Rapid City High School is an impressive four-story building that is an excellent example of Beaux-Arts Classicism/
American Renaissance architecture. The building is essentially rectangular in overall shape and essentially symmetrical in design. The presence of light wells and a portion of the east wing provide for a slightly irregular footprint. It is constructed of reinforced concrete, steel, and hollow clay tile with a foundation of concrete. The building was constructed in two phases, the east wing completed in 1923, and the central and west sections in 1936-37.

Exterior description

The building is of concrete and steel construction with a veneer of Kasota stone, a form of limestone, from Kasota, Minnesota and red brick both laid in the running bond pattern. The foundation is stepped out allowing for a slight slope away from the first floor windowsills. Kasota stone veneer wraps around the building from the ground level to the sills of the second story windows on three sides of the building. As the rear of the building sits into the hillside, only the third and fourth floors appear on the south elevation. All other windows have sills of Kasota stone. The remainder of the building is red brick veneer with the exception of the light wells where yellow brick has been used. There is a belt course of Kasota stone above the fourth floor windows on three sides of the building. Kasota stone caps the parapet on all four elevations. The large metal cornice sits above dentil molding of Kasota stone on three sides of the building. With the exception of nine windows on the south elevation that have been replaced with glass block, all of the buildings original six-over-one double hung windows have been replaced by aluminum exterior/interior frame and sash storefront windows consisting of a mapes panel on the top, a glass panel in the middle, and an out-swing awning on the bottom. The roof is flat with a slight slope allowing for drainage through a built-in gutter system with openings that appear in the dentil molding under the large metal cornice. Modern security lights have been installed above all exterior access doors.

The north elevation, the main façade of the building, has five stepped bays. Two bays flank a projecting central bay giving it a symmetrical design. The central bay of the building has a series of three windows, flanked by single windows. The first stepped bays contain six sets of paired windows with the second bays containing two sets of paired windows. Flat arches, also known as jack or straight arches, of Kasota stone veneer appear above each window on the first floor. The fenestration pattern of the windows on the north elevation is identical on all four floors with the exception of the main level of the central bay where the main entrance is located. The entrance itself projects from the central bay and is surrounded by Kasota stone. Leading to the entrance are concrete steps separated by landings. Rectangular blocks of Kasota stone edge the top landing that leads to the entrance doors. Flanking the top landing are the original matching metal lampposts topped with round globes standing on large blocks of Kasota stone with beveled edges. Engraved in the Kasota stone above the doors is "Rapid City High School." The five original metal outside entrance doors have been replaced by modern metal security doors. Above the doors are the original four-wide, two-high authentic uneven divided light transoms with metal exterior/interior frames.

On the south elevation, ground level is at the third floor. The east and west wings and central section are easily identifiable on this façade. The façade also reflects the function of the third and fourth floors, so the fenestration pattern of the windows and doors varies. The east wing has only one opening and it is on the third floor. It is an original outside access door that has been replaced with a modern metal security door. The center section has five sets of paired windows on the third floor with identical window fenestration, directly above, on the fourth floor, Glass block has been installed on nine of the windows on the third floor. One standard size double door and two tall doors also appear on the third floor of this section. The standard size double door and one tall door have been replaced with modern metal security doors. A non-opening metal panel has been installed in the remaining tall door. The third floor of the west wing has an original triple exterior access door that has been replaced with modern metal security doors. This wing also contains a bricked-in double opening. An elevator has been installed on the south elevation behind the west wing for ADA access. Brick veneer was used to blend it with the building.

The east elevation is the original east wing of the school building. It is stepped back from the north elevation and the south elevation. Seven sets of paired windows appear on the elevation with the exception of the stepped back areas. Flat arches in Kasota stone veneer appear above each window on the first floor. The fenestration pattern of the windows on the east elevation is identical on all four floors with the exception of the stepped back areas and main level where the entrance is located. The entrance to the east wing is located at the south end of the east elevation. Double modern metal security doors with narrow metal side panels have replaced original triple doors. Above the doors, original decorative brackets of concrete visually support the cornice. Directly below the cornice is a concrete frieze of intricate design work. In the north elevation step back, are matching designs of rectangular shape created in the red brick veneer. In the south elevation step back, on the third floor, is a set of two windows. Above them on the fourth floor is one window.

On the west elevation, the ground level rises from the front to the rear of the building, therefore, only two sets of paired windows on the first floor appear on this elevation. Flat arches in Kasota stone veneer appear above each window on the first floor. The fenestration pattern of the windows on the remaining floors is identical with exception of the south end of the second level where the west entrance is located. This entrance, due to the rise in ground level, is located between the first and second floors and at grade. Modern metal security doors have replaced original triple doors. A flat arch surrounds the entrance. On the southwest corner of the elevation, is a red brick curvilinear shaped retaining wall with a foundation of stepped concrete with Kasota stone veneer. Capped with Kasota stone, the wall stands above grade on the south elevation. On the north end of the façade is a rectangular shaped relief pattern created in the red brick veneer. Directly below is a bricked in area. This was once the entrance to a corridor that connected the building to the Coolidge Building located to the west. The Coolidge building was torn down in 1971 after a fire in the adjacent Washington Building damaged the Coolidge Building.

The two light wells within the building, separate the east and west wings from the central section. Brick veneer in the light wells is yellow. The first floor of the light wells once held skylights that have since been removed. Both light wells begin on the second level and bring natural light to the hallways, classrooms, auditorium and gymnasium as well as storage rooms and offices. The east light well is enclosed on all four sides. The west light well is enclosed up to the third floor with the south portion open at the fourth level. Windows in the light wells are consistent with the exterior elevations in that they have Kasota stone sills and appear in pairs, although the fenestration pattern is different on each floor.

Interior description

A high degree of historic fabric remains throughout the entire interior of the building. The most public areas of the building are the vestibule, lobby and auditorium. Completed by a crew of Italian artists, ornamental plastering is used in the creation of the mascarons found in the auditorium. Decorative molding, including egg and dart, acanthus leaf and dentil, appear in various combinations with classical molding bring the characteristics of Beaux-Arts to the interior of the building.

Rapid City High School encompasses at total 1,314,384 square feet. Much thought was given to its design and construction. At the time it was built, it was one of the finest educational buildings in South Dakota and modern in every aspect. Even though the building was considered fireproof, fire doors were installed on both sides of the central stair tower as well as the southeast and southwest stair towers on all four floors and it was equipped with the latest fire alarm system. It was built to last, but it was also built with the productivity of its students in mind. The best commercial grade terrazzo linoleum was used throughout. The building was designed to benefit from natural light and shades were ordered to be placed in 242 of its windows for control of that light. The largest air washer in the state, at that time, washed and heated the air before being sent to rooms, each of which had a separate control. Separate connections and controls were also extended to the auditorium and gymnasium. Valve controls were installed in the coach's office to prevent accidental scalding in the shower rooms.

The building's east and west wings flank a central section where the two-story auditorium and two-story gymnasium are located. The hallways on all four floors in the east wing are double-loaded corridors. The hallway of the first floor of the west wing is a double-loaded corridor. The hallways on the remaining floors of the west wing have classrooms that face out. Opposite the classrooms, light is provided to the hallways on these floors from windows in the light well. With the exception of a portion of the first floor where the administration offices and the cafeteria are located, all floors of the east and west wings of the building are comprised of classrooms, storage rooms, bathrooms and lockers. Bathrooms are in the same location on all four floors with the girl's bathrooms located in the east wing and the boy's in the west. The building originally was connected by a corridor to the Coolidge Building. The Coolidge Building was torn down in 1971 after a fire destroyed the adjacent Washington School in December 1970 and resulted in damage to the Coolidge Building. Access to the corridor leading to the Coolidge building was at the north end of the west wing on the first floor, the steps to the corridor are intact.

Dropped ceilings with fluorescent lights have been installed throughout the hallways, classrooms, offices and bathrooms of the building. Most of the classrooms and offices have the original wood flooring and baseboards. A few of the classrooms have had either carpet or linoleum installed over the wood. Walls are of painted plaster and the original hallway trim molding, either chair rail height or higher, is intact throughout the building. The 700 original lockers have been replaced with modern lockers. Most all of the original doors have been replaced with modern doors and their transoms enclosed with sheetrock and painted. The original door jams and interior window frames remain. Classrooms retain their original blackboards although some have been covered with whiteboard.

Stair towers, located in the lobby and at the southeast and southwest corners, provide access to all of the upper levels. The design of the central stair tower is intact with the exception of the second floor where the half wall of the stairwell has been enclosed to create a storage room. The remainder of the stair tower is in original condition with wooden banisters and trim. All other stair towers remain in original condition. Most have their original metal handrails. Located at the south end of the hallway on the west wing is the ADA elevator that services all four floors. A master clock links the clock systems together and operates the class bell system.

The outside doors open to a central vestibule containing the original five identical two-wide, two-high authentic uneven divided light inside doors that open to the lobby. Above the doors are the original four-wide, two-high authentic uneven divided light transoms with wood exterior/interior frame. The walls of the vestibule are tall recessed wood wainscot panels with wood trim and decorative wood brackets. Cornice, crown, cove and ceiling molding in various combinations and designs, including egg and dart and acanthus, decorate the ceiling. New fluorescent lights have been installed in the vestibule.

The central vestibule opens to the lobby where the staircases of the main stair tower to the upper levels immediately flank on both sides. Large acanthus leaf decorated brackets appear above the stairway openings. Wainscot, in the same pattern found in the vestibule, lines the lobby. The walls of the stairwell are also lined with wainscot but only as far as the immediate landing. On one side of the lobby are two original ticket windows that remain in use today. Original brass bars cover the openings. Directly across the lobby from the ticket windows, wainscot and brass panels house a furnace room giving the lobby a sense of symmetry. The elaborate ceiling decoration of the vestibule is carried through to the lobby.

Through the lobby, past the ticket windows, are hallways that extend to the east and west wings. Large double doors designed as fire doors separate the hallways from the lobby. The wainscot lined walls of the lobby end at the double doors.

The east wing of the first floor is and always has been home to the cafeteria. The rest of the wing is made up of classrooms, an overflow cafeteria room, and the girl's bathroom. Also on this wing, set into the walls, are lockers and an original glass front wood case used for trophy and other display.

The west wing of the first floor is where the administration offices, chorus and band rooms are located as well as the boys bathroom. Set into the walls are lockers and an original glass front wood case used for trophy and other display. A portion of the hallway, on the north end, that led west to the corridor connecting the building to the Coolidge Building has been turned into storage for band instruments.

On the south side of the lobby is the first floor access to the auditorium. Modern doors have replaced the original three sets of two doors. Original cases, that one time advertised playbills for the auditorium, are set into the wainscot between the doors. The doors open to a two-story auditorium capable of seating 1,400 people. It is 86 feet long and 95½ feet wide. The floor is of concrete and slopes from the entrance down to the orchestra pit. It is unusual in that there is no direct outside light exposure to the auditorium as it is flanked by the east and west light wells. Original French style stained glass windows, with the school insignia in the upper panes that once occupied the east and west sides of the second floor level have been replaced. Only one of the original stained glass windows is known to exist today. There are four sections of seats separated by three isles and the seating design of the auditorium is such that all seats have a good view of the stage. All of the original wood opera seats remain with the exception of three rows in the front of each section that were removed when the orchestra pit was covered and the stage extended to increase performance space. This stage extension is not permanent. The sunken orchestra pit, sized for a small theater orchestra, extends four feet beyond the edge of the stage and is 25 feet long. The floor of the auditorium is equipped with a system designed for heat and ventilation through tunnels that run beneath the floor. Ducts for the purpose of removing the exhaust air are located in the ceiling of the balcony.

The stage is 25 feet deep and 72 feet in length at the back. Stairs flank the stage on both sides allowing access to and from the stage from the auditorium floor. The stage is equipped with a 16-foot long by eight-foot wide gallery. Built eight feet from the floor, it houses the various controlling ropes used for movable lights, drops, and various curtains. Also located in the gallery is a switchboard that controls all the lights in the auditorium as well as the stage. Two strings of border lights above the stage are concealed in the ceiling of the auditorium and provide better lighting than the common foot lighting. The back stage extends up to the second level. Immediately back stage to the east are a set of stairs that lead down from the stage to a hallway, on the first floor level, at the south end of the east wing. This hallway eventually connects to the east wing hallway. Once located in this area were the original dressing rooms. These rooms are now used for storage/utility. Also in this area are a set of stairs that lead to the second floor and a set of two doors that open back into the auditorium at the south end and east of the stage.

The back stage area on the west is larger and leads to a set of doors that open to a short hallway on the first floor level at the south end of the west wing. This hallway eventually connects to the west wing hallway. Also in the short hallway is a single door that leads to the south end of the band room and a set of stairs that open into the southwest corner of the auditorium.

Decorative elements are similar to those of the vestibule and lobby. Above the stage is a 40-foot elaborate proscenium arch of intricate design. The ceiling of the auditorium is made of panels set between the steel joists that carry the weight of the upper central portion of the building. Decorated with various applied molding, including dentil and egg and dart, the steel joists are virtually hidden becoming part of the ceiling design. Below each joist at the wall juncture are female mascarons. The original auditorium pendant lights have been retained.

Suspended by steel rods above the main floor of the auditorium is the balcony. The original wood rails surround the edge of the balcony have been replace with steel railing. There are four entrance/exits door on this level of the auditorium. Two sets of double doors for access from the main stair tower have been replaced with modern doors. At the south end of the balcony on the east side of the stage is a single door that opens to a hallway at the south end of the second level of the east wing. In this area are a storage room and the stairway down to the first level. This hallway eventually connects with east wing hallway. At the southwest end of the balcony on the west side of the stage is a single door that opens to a storage room. The storage room opens to the south end of the second level of the west wing hallway. As a portion of the second floor of the west wing sits at grade on the west side, the southwest stair tower provides entrance/exit access to the west at this level.

On the third floor, at the south end of the hallway on the east wing, is a single door entrance/exit to the south elevation of the building. Central to the third floor is the gymnasium. It is one of the few gymnasiums to be built above an auditorium. Supported by the steel joists hidden in the molding of the ceiling of the auditorium it is constructed of layers of material used to prevent the passage of sound. The flexible floor is built on springs designed to eliminate transmission of vibrations. The main flooring of the gym is of maple. The gymnasium has a seating capacity of 1,600. It has a total of 4,750 square

Rapid City High School
Name of Property

Pennington, South Dakota County and State

feet of playing space and the ceiling is 25 feet high. Fifteen 500-watt bulbs and ten 300-watt bulbs light the main playing floor. Specially designed bleachers with footrests flank the east and west side of the playing floor. On the east side of the gymnasium, and accessed at the south end, the space under the bleachers is utilized as storage area and the boy's locker room. Also on this side are a large boy's shower, a bathroom, and the coaches offices. The space under the bleachers on the west side and accessed at the south end is where the girl's locker room is located. Also in this space is a storage area. The girl's locker room opens to the girl's shower. On the southeast side of the gymnasium is a tall entrance/exit door. On the southwest side of the gymnasium is an original tall entrance/exit door that has been closed off. The southwest corner of the west wing provides for another entrance/exit to the rear of the building. Because the gymnasium extends upward to the fourth floor, there is no access to the central section on this level.

Alterations/Modifications

Most of the alterations to the Rapid City High School building have been done with sensitivity to the building's history. Very few of the original classroom door openings have been closed off or moved. Partitions have been installed in some rooms to create extra space where needed. Change in the function of some schoolrooms has created the need to create one room where there used to be two, requiring the removal of an original wall. Although all of the original windows in the school have been replaced with modern windows, the original window openings have not been altered and the original interior window trim is intact. Despite the continual use of the building as a school and the numerous changes required to do so, the historic fabric of the building remains largely uncompromised.

B. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance
or National Register listing.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
	Education, Social History
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history,	Architecture
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant	Period of Significance
and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1923 - 1960
D. Branch, becaused and a State of the State	AND
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
	1923, 1927, 1937
Criteria Considerations Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	01
roporty in:	Significant Person
roperty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	(1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
C a birthplace or grave.	
D a cemetery.	***
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F a commemorative property.	Perkins & McWayne, Architects
	Morris Adelstein/Northwestern Engineering, Builder
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the year the first section of the building was used as a school (January 1923) and ends with 1960, at the 50-year mark as recommended by NPS and the South Dakota SHPO.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Rapid City High School building is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History. It is being nominated under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture. The period of significance is from 1923 to 1960. The level of significance is local.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

CRITERION A

The Rapid City High School is significant in the area of Education for its role in the Rapid City public school system. When construction began on the building in 1922, it was originally intended for use as the high school, but when it was ready for occupancy in January 1923, the school board opted to move the junior high students out of the existing high school building and into the new building. It was the first time that Rapid City had a school building dedicated only to junior high students. After the remainder of the building was constructed in 1936-1937, the building's use switched with the high school students occupying the new building and the junior high students moving back to the older building. From 1937 until December 1969, this building served as Rapid City's only public high school. Due to the increased population in the city, a second public high school (Steven's High School) was built and following Thanksgiving in 1969, nearly half of the student population began attending classes at the new high school.

Rapid City's first school, in 1877, was a small private school held in a log building near the center of town. The first public school in town was established in 1878; classes were held in a rented building and were taught by Edward A. Brown. By 1880, the census records show that there were over 100 school-aged children in Rapid City. At that time, a church located on Columbus Street between 6th and 7th Streets was rented for use as the public school. Rapid City was incorporated in 1882 and work began on a new high school building, located behind the rented church building. This high school, a Second Empire style building, cost \$12,000 and was touted as "one of the best school buildings in the Hills and an honor to the people of Rapid City." As the city's population grew, so did the need for additional schools. Grade schools included the first, second and third ward schools, as well as Lincoln School (1908) and Garfield School (1910). In 1913, work began on a new high school building, located in front of the 1883 building on the site of the old church rented for classes in the 1880s. This building, originally known as the Rapid City High School and renamed the Coolidge High School, was a large modern building, which included several of the principles advanced by the Progressive reformers hoping to improve schools and educational experiences.

As the population continued to grow, the need for additional classroom space continued to grow as well. By about 1920, the city began to plan for the construction of another new high school, this one intended to be constructed in three phases, and to allow for the division of secondary students into high school and junior high school divisions. They contracted the firm of Perkins & McWayne to design the new school and construction on the first phase began in 1922. The design embraced many of the notions of the "high school movement," which saw the mission of the public high school to "insure for all citizens a place in the economy" with a specialized academic and vocational curricula. Spaces within the high schools included science laboratories, home economic facilities, industrial education shops, and lecture halls; often these spaces were organized around a central auditorium. By the time the first phase, the east wing, was completed in 1923, the school board had decided to use it as the junior high school. Nonetheless, with the completion of the entire building in 1937, it began its long service as the Rapid City High School.

¹ Jeffrey V. Beuchler, City of Rapid City Historic Context Planning Document (Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission, 1989), 15.

² David B. Miller, <u>Gateway to the Hills: An Illustrated History of Rapid City</u> (Northridge, CA: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1985), 22, 53.

³ For information about the Progressive reformers, refer to Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Experience (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, n.d.), 10-12.

⁴ Mark Elliot and Melissa Dirr, Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Experience (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, n.d.), 24.

In addition to significance in the area of Education, the Rapid City High School is significant in the area of Social History. Although the original plans to build the new high school in three stages were interrupted by the Great Depression, the city was able to issue a bond to pay, in part, for continued construction in the mid-1930s. This bond was not sufficient enough, however, to cover the construction costs and the city was able to obtain federal funds through the New Deal era's Public Works Administration (PWA).⁵

The PWA was one of the programs that has been long-identified as being instrumental in moving America out of the Depression and Rapid City was a welcoming recipient of funding from this program. The Public Works Administration was created by Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act passed by Congress on June 16, 1933. Its purpose was to stimulate economic recovery by providing employment for workers in the building trades and in industries supplying the construction industry. Federal financial assistance for public works was provided in the form of grants, loans, or a combination of grants and loans. The PWA program was renewed in 1935 as part of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act; it was again renewed in 1937 under the Public Works Administration Extension Act. The scope of the PWA was far-reaching – in all but three of the nation's counties there was at least one PWA project. Among the most common projects were courthouses, post offices, schools, hospitals, water and sewer plants and thousands of miles of street and highway improvements.⁶

South Dakota was the recipient of several PWA projects. Among these projects were several schools, including additions to existing schools or new schools in towns such as Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Huron and Pierre (for a complete listing of PWA projects in South Dakota, refer to Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (National Register Multiple Property Listing, 1998). The amount funded for the construction of the Rapid City High School was \$352,727, by far the largest allotment of PWA funds for school projects in the state.

Construction of the Rapid City High School exemplified the purpose of the PWA program. The PWA funds helped to employ dozens of local workers and to purchase as many local materials for construction as possible. A plaque hanging in the entry vestibule of the school indicates that this was Project No. 1117-R of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

CRITERION C

The Rapid City High School is significant in the area of Architecture for its Beaux Arts architectural style.

The Beaux Arts style of architecture was popularized in the United States between 1885 and 1920 by the architects who had studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. The style was based on classical precedents elaborated by decorative detailing and it stressed the working plan of a building and its formal spatial arrangements with other buildings. Consequently, the style was favored for large buildings such as courthouses, city halls, railroad stations, libraries, museums, and large schools. Several features typify the Beaux Arts style including symmetrical facades; masonry walls that include large blocks of light-colored stone; first stories are typically rusticated; flat or low-pitched roofs sometimes accentuated with roof-line balustrades; cornice lines accented with dentils and/or modillions; and windows with detailed crowns or arches, sometimes with keystones. Decorative elements of the "high" style of Beaux Arts include the use of quoins, pilasters and/or columns (usually paired with lonic or Corinthian capitals) and decorative garlands and floral patterns.

The Rapid City High School exemplifies an interpretation of Beaux Arts design by South Dakota architects, Perkins and McWayne. Rather than using extensive elaboration of the elements usually associated with this "high" style, such as large columns or pilasters and decorated wall surfaces, their design for this school illustrates the slightly less ornate version sometimes referred to as the American Renaissance vein of Beaux Arts. It clearly illustrates the typical features of symmetry, a centered entrance (in this case in a bay that projects slightly from the rest of the building), a flat roof, a

⁵ Although the Rapid City Journal referred to the PWA and WPA interchangeably, the project appears on the PWA records at the National Archives rather than as a WPA project.

⁶ Michelle L. Dennis, Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (National Register Multiple Property Listing, 1998), 19-21.

⁷ Ibid, 21-23.

⁸ Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989), 379-380.

detailed cornice with dentils, masonry (brick) walls, windows (on the first story) topped with flat (also called jack or straight) arches, and the use of a light-colored stone veneer on the first floor, giving the appearance of a rusticated base.

The use of Beaux Arts design in Rapid City was limited. In addition to this school, there are only three other buildings that exemplify the style. The Pennington County Courthouse and the old Federal Building both illustrate examples of the "high" version of the style. The old Rapid City Public Library illustrates the use of the American Renaissance version of the style. Only one other school in Rapid City, the building that was known as the Coolidge High School, was of Beaux Arts design. With its demolition, the building being nominated is the only example of the style used in school architecture in Rapid City.

Although the building is not being nominated in association with the architects who designed it, it is noteworthy to mention that the Rapid City High School is one of only two buildings in Rapid City designed by the noted South Dakota architectural firm of Perkins and McWayne. Robert Perkins and Albert McWayne formed their firm in 1918 with Perkins serving as the principal architect and McWayne as the principal engineer. For 36 years the firm designed hundreds of buildings throughout South Dakota, southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa. Although they designed private residences, a large portion of their work was public buildings – schools, courthouses, city halls, armories and auditoriums. They were strongly influenced by the Beaux Arts movement, which is reflected in the design of many of their public buildings. In addition to the Rapid City High School building, they also designed the Wilson School (elementary) in Rapid City. Perkins retired from the firm in 1954, at which time Earl McLaughlin became the principal architect. The firm of McWayne and McLaughlin continued until 1976.

The building's engineering is also of note (although it is not being nominated under this area of significance). The building's functional design brought new technology to South Dakota in the construction of the gymnasium. Situated in the center of the building, this two-story gymnasium is located on the third floor of the building directly above the two-story auditorium on the first floor. To prevent noise and vibrations from being transmitted through the gym floor into the auditorium, the space between the two was engineered as a "flexible floor" system. The central portion of the building is supported by five 16-ton steel beams measuring 100 feet in length. Above these spans is a three-quarter inch layer of felt-padded board over which is poured a two-inch layer of concrete. Embedded in the concrete are metal clips, or springs, on which the sub-flooring for the gym rests. These springs are flexible and designed to "absorb" noise and vibrations so that events could occur in the gym at the same time that events were held in the auditorium. ¹⁰

In addition to the significance of this design, the installation of the large steel beams resulted in the largest derrick ever erected (at that time) in South Dakota. The derrick, from Omaha Steel & Iron Works, had a 110-foot boom and weighed 33,000 pounds. It had a 35-horse power gas engine to lift the 12-ton steel girders and a 40-horse power engine to lift the 16-ton steel girders. The girders, the largest used in the state (at that time) were 100 feet in length and five feet high. The larger girders run north-and-south to support the gym floor; the smaller girders support the rest of the upper floors of the building. In addition to using this derrick to set the girders, it was used to place the roof trusses, which are 99 feet in length and weigh 7½ tons each.¹¹

The building is also associated with Morris Adelstein and the Northwestern Engineering Company of Rapid City. Adelstein was a prominent businessman whose enterprises included the Harney Lumber Company and the Auto Bankers (a consumer loan business), in addition to Northwestern Engineering. He employed a large workforce and had a reputation for success. He was active in several civic organizations, including the Elks, the Masons, the Shriners, and the American Legion. Morris and his wife, Bertha, were active in the Jewish community in Rapid City and respected for their contributions in observing Jewish traditions. Northwestern Engineering Company served as the builder and general contractor of the 1936-37 portion of the Rapid City High School. According to Northwestern Engineering Company, this is one of only two buildings constructed by the company (the other was the Administration Building at the SD School of Mines), which was primarily a road building company.

⁹ www.SiouxlandMuseums.com accessed October 5, 2009; David Erpstad & David Wood, <u>Building South Dakota</u> (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997).

¹⁰ Rapid City Journal, May 10, 1937, 7-10.

¹¹ Rapid City Journal, April 11, 1936, 4.

¹² Howard Shaff & Audrey K. Shaff, Paving the Way: The Life of Morris E. Adelstein (Keystone, SD: Permelia Publishing, no date), 143-145.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

This building was the third in a series of buildings that served as the Rapid City High School at this site. The Rapid City School District was first organized by the County Board of Commissioners on April 19, 1877 and the first public school was held in 1878 in a rented space near the center of town. The first high school building, a three-story Second Empire style building, was constructed in 1882 on the grounds that became this central campus. A new high school building was constructed in 1913 and rebuilt in 1917 after it was damaged by the fire that destroyed the 1882 building. This was the building that became known as Coolidge High School after President Coolidge's stay in South Dakota in the summer of 1927.

In 1922, plans were drawn by Perkins and McWayne for a new high school building to be constructed just east of the existing high school. The school board planned to have only the easternmost portion of the plans constructed at that time (two additional planned phases of construction would involve the center portion of the building as one project and the west wing of the buildings as another) and hired the Olson Company of Stillwater, Minnesota as the contractor. This "east wing," as it become known, was designed to have classrooms, labs, offices, and a cafeteria. The first three floors of the building were finished by December 1923 (the fourth floor was left unfinished) and by that time, the school board had decided to use it as a junior high school.¹⁴

On June 15, 1927, President Calvin Coolidge arrived in Rapid City to spend the summer in the Black Hills. What was originally intended to be a three-week stay turned into a three-month stay, and President and Mrs. Coolidge took up residence at the Game Lodge in Custer State Park. The President set up offices for himself and other officials on the central school campus in Rapid City. His office was located in the 1913/1917 high school building (it was from this office that he issued his famous "I do not choose to run for President in 1928" announcement on August 2, 1927), as were several other offices for his substantial entourage, but newspaper reports indicate that some of the staff members, secret service agents, and more than 30 media correspondents traveling with him had office spaces in the new junior high building.

In 1929, the students attending the Rapid City High School voted to change the name of the school to the Coolidge High School in honor of the President's stay.

Later that year the Great Depression began. Plans to continue with the next phase of construction were put on hold. By the mid-1930s, the city needed additional classroom space and plans were made to secure funding to continued building. Rather than completing the school in two phases, however, it was decided to build the remainder of the entire building as one project. The city issued a bond for \$150,000 and secured PWA funding for the rest of the costs. Northwestern Engineering Company was hired as the builder/contractor and excavation on the site began in late February 1936. 16

In April 1936, the school board suggested five possible names for the new high school and published a ballot in the local newspaper for citizens to vote. The options presented were Jennie Brennan High School, Horace Mann High School, Gateway High School, Central High School, or Rapid City High School. The overwhelming majority of ballots returned favored naming the new school "Rapid City High School." 17

Work on the school continued for a year. In addition to Northwestern Engineering Company, several other subcontractors were involved with the construction, including N.A. Nelson (served as general superintendent of work), Rapid City Plumbing (Earl Traut), Rapid City Electric Company (Henry Scott), and Scheidt Tin Shop (roofing and ventilation contractor, fabricator of 750 feet of ornamental sheet metal cornice). Suppliers of materials included the Fish & Hunter Company (various building and finishing materials), the Sioux Falls Book & Stationery Company (the 1402 auditorium

¹³ E.B. Bergquist, "Twenty-Five Years in the Rapid City Public Schools, 1929-1954" (Report to the Board of Education, June 30, 1954).

¹⁴ Rapid City Journal, December 3, 1922; November 23, 1923, and December 23, 1923.

David Greenberg, <u>Calvin Coolidge</u> (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2006), 126-137; Black Hills Visitor Magazine (<u>www.blackhillsvisitor.com</u>, accessed April 17, 2009) "When the State Game Lodge was the Summer White House."

¹⁶ Rapid City Journal, February 26, 1936, 2.

¹⁷ Rapid City Journal, April 14, 1936, 2 and April 30, 1936, 2.

seats manufactured by the American Seating Company), Johnson Service Company of Minneapolis (heating and air conditioning controls), Black Hills Clay Products of Belle Fourche (brick and clay tile), State Cement Plant (supplied over a million pounds of cement for the project), T. G. Scholl (linoleum floors and window shades), Sweeney Hardware (paint and window and door hardware), and Kasota Stone of Kasota, Minnesota (the limestone facing on the building). The cost of the entire project was about \$365,000.¹⁸

Although the building was complete in May 1937, classes were not held there until the start of fall semester. At that time, the high school students were moved into the new building and the junior high students returned to classes in the Coolidge Building.

When constructed, only the first three floors were finished. It was not until 1948 that the fourth floor was finished and used for classroom space. In 1953, the shop building was constructed near the southwest corner of the building, tucked between the old Washington elementary school (on its west) and the old Coolidge school (on its north). This building has been repeatedly remodeled and adapted for various uses over time. In 1967, a new boys gymnasium was constructed as a separate building located to the east of the high school. 19

In 1969, a second public high school was opened in Rapid City. Located on the west side of town, Stevens High School was constructed to accommodate the growing student population. The new school was occupied following Thanksgiving in 1969 and at that time, the Rapid City High School officially became known as Rapid City Central High School.

The old Washington and Coolidge school buildings were victim to fire in 1970 and demolition in 1971. By the early 1970s, Central High School was deemed inadequate for continued use as a high school. The population was still growing and classes were spread out to several buildings near the school and downtown. In 1974, the city passed a bond measure to build a new Central High School at a site north of downtown on the north side of Rapid Creek. The Class of 1976 was the last to graduate from the Rapid City High School building; classes in the new Central High School began in the fall of 1976.

In 1977, the old Rapid City High School building was remodeled for use as a junior high school. At that time, the windows were replaced, the skylights were removed and the building was "modernized" and renamed Dakota Junior High School. Today it continues to serve as a school, housing the Dakota Middle School.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

¹⁸ Rapid City Journal, May 10, 1937, 7-10.

¹⁹ Rapid City Public School records and blueprints.

Bergquist, E.G. "Twenty-Five Years in the Rapid City Public Schools." A report to the Board of Education, June 30, 1954.

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Dennis, Michelle L. Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941 (National Register Multiple Property Listing, 1998).

Elliot, Mark, and Melissa Dirr, Schools in South Dakota: An Educational Experience (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, n.d.).

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Rapid City Public School records and blueprints, Rapid City, SD.

Shaff, Howard and Audrey K. Paving the Way: The Life of Morris E. Adelstein. Keystone, SD: Permelia Publishing, n.d.

Siouxland Museums, Sioux Falls, SD (www.SiouxlandMuseums.com)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:	
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 # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency x Local government University Other Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PN0000024	7	
Acreage of Property Less than one acre		
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)		
1 13 642070 4881834 3	3	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	

Rapid City High School Name of Property				Pennington, South Dakota	
		County ar		County and State	
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Fasting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 124 and vacated alley and ½ vacated 6th St., Original Town of Rapid City.

The nominated area includes only the historic Rapid City High School building. The other buildings at the school site, including the annexes, the gym, the shop building and the heating plant, are excluded from the boundaries.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the footprint of the historic school, which includes only the area associated with the significant history and that retains historic integrity that illustrate that history.

11. Form Prepared By		
name/title J. Kessloff and M. Dennis		
organization	date October 2009	
street & number PO Box 5564	telephone 605-209-1475	
city or town Rapid City	state SD zip code 57709	
e-mail		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Rapid City High School

City or Vicinity:

Rapid City

County:

Pennington

State: South Dakota

Photographer: J. Kessloff and M. Dennis

Date Photographed: October 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 001.TIF

Front (north) elevation of school

2 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 002.TIF

West end of school

3 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_003.TIF

East end of school (2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors)

4 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 004.TIF

Rear (south) elevation of school

5 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_005.TIF

Detail of stone sills, stone beltcourse, metal cornice, northeast corner of school

6 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 006.TIF

Detail of ornamentation at east entrance, first floor

7 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_007.TIF

Lobby, first floor, looking west to ticket booth windows, stairwell on right, corridor to west wing on far left

RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 008.TIF 8 of 17:

Auditorium looking southwest from northeast

9of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 009.TIF

Detail of mascaron in auditorium

10 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_010.TIF

Detail of plaster work in auditorium proscenium

11 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_011.TIF

Gymnasium, looking northeast from southwest

12 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 012.TIF

Corridor in central portion of building, looking east into east wing

13 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 013.TIF

Corridor in west wing of building, classrooms on right (west) and windows to light well (left)

14 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool PenningtonCounty SouthDakota 014.TIF

Classroom with original wood floors, blackboard trim (with whiteboard insert), original window and

baseboard trim

15 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_015.TIF

Classroom converted to overflow cafeteria space; original blackboard and bulletin board, original window

and baseboard trim intact; linoleum tile and drop ceiling modifications

16 of 17: RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_016.TIF Cafeteria; rectangular posts are part of original east wing exterior west wall which was opened up when the 1936 construction began

17 of 17:

RapidCityHighSchool_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakota_017.TIF

Central stairwell, original terrazzo flooring, wooden banisters and metal handrails

Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name Rapid City Public Schools	
street & number 300 6 th Street	telephone 605-394-4031
city or town Rapid City	state SD zip code 57701

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Rapid City High School NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH DAKOTA, Pennington
DATE RECEIVED: 5/14/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/08/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 6/23/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/28/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000409
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: NOTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: NEQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL:
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPTRETURNREJECT6.28.0DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE
TELEPHONEDATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments 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.



Rapid City High School Fannington County South Dakota - 201. TIF



RapidCityHigh School Pennington County South Dakota _000, TIFT







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Rapid City High School-Pennington County-South Dakota-005.TIF



Rapid City High School-Pennington Country South Dakota 2006.TIF



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RapidCityHighSchool-PenningtonCounty-SouthDakota_008.TI=























RapidCityHighSchool-Pennington County South Dakota 014.TIE



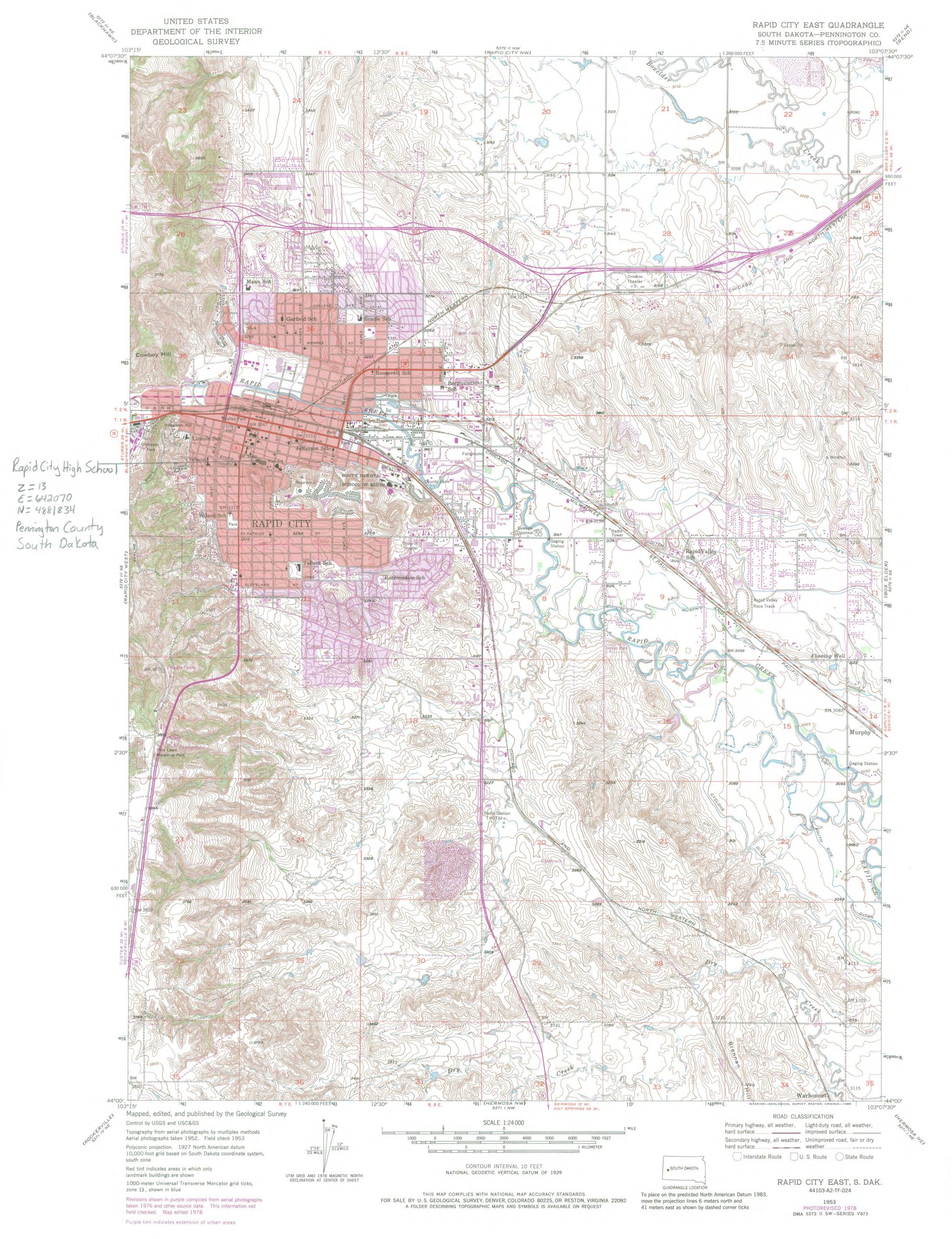
Reprid City High School-Pennington Country South Dakota 015. TIF



Rapid City High School Pennington County South Dakota-016.TIF













11 May 2010

Keeper of the National Register National Register of Historic Places National Parks Service 1201 Eye St NW 8th Floor (MS 2280) Washington DC 20005

Dear Keeper of the National Register:

Enclosed are four nominations: Rapid City High School, Hilmoe Barn and the The Washington School. Also enclosed is additional information for: The Elster House.

If you have any questions regarding any of these submittals, please feel free to contact me at 605-773-3103 or at chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us.

Sincerely,

Chris B Nelson

Historic Preservation Specialist