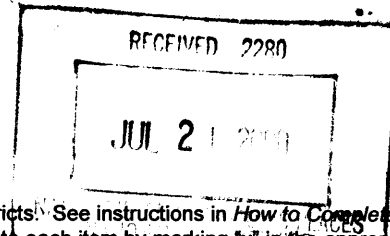


(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sturgis High School
other names/site number Williams Middle School

2. Location

street & number 1425 Cedar Street not for publication
city or town Sturgis vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Meade code 093 zip code 57785

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Jay D. Vogt, SHPO 07-18-2000
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 certifying official/Title Date
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:)

Edson H. Beal Signature of the Keeper 8/16/00 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Schools in South Dakota

0

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 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL: Collegiate Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1936-1950

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

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:
South Dakota Office of History

Sturgis High School
Name of Property

Meade County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than five acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 617746 4918236
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher J. Hetzel
organization _____ date June 1, 2000
street & number 5736 N. Las Virgenes Rd., #222 Telephone (818) 871-9637
city or town Calabasas state CA zip code 91302

Additional Documentation

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.)

Property Owner

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

name Meade School District
street & number 1425 Cedar Street telephone (605) 347-5232
city or town Sturgis state SD zip code 57785

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

SECTION 7: Description

The Sturgis High School in the City of Sturgis, Meade County, South Dakota is an excellent example of standardized school design for large consolidated schools built in South Dakota during the 1930s. Established by the South Dakota Department of Public Instruction's standardized guidelines adopted in 1907 and the South Dakota Financial Incentive Program of 1919, South Dakota's standards for school design and construction influenced such features as classroom doors, egresses, window to floor area formulae, artificial lighting, windows, chimneys, and ventilation. Constructed in 1936, the Sturgis High School incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended for larger schools of the time. Its construction consequently reveals much about the evolution of standardized school design in South Dakota during the early twentieth century.

Typical of large standardized schools in the 1930s, the Sturgis High School is a two-story, rectangular building with single-loaded corridors in a U-shaped plan around a central gymnasium. It has a flat roof, red brick veneer in a common bond pattern on the exterior walls, cast stone detailing, and a poured concrete foundation. The fenestration consists of original, six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows set in tripartite groups or in pairs. All of the windows have wood frames. The banks of windows on each story sit between two horizontal beltcourses of cast stone, above and below, that circumvent the entire building. A similar cast stone beltcourse runs along grade, defining the building's foundation, and another caps the roof parapet. All of the building's exterior entrances contain non-original metal doors. The school building stands on a parcel of land near downtown Sturgis, South Dakota, with an east/west orientation. The property encompasses an entire city block and city streets bound the property on all sides.

The Sturgis High School's east (front) façade features a central three-story section containing the main entrance and projecting from the rest of the building. The section is truncated at the top with a cast stone cap and does not extend to the roofline. Vertical cast stone detailing characterizes the entrance and vertically divides the section's three stories. Three single, two-over-eight, double-hung, wood sash windows appear on the second and third stories above three single door openings on the first story. Above the windows, the words "19 STURGIS HIGH SCHOOL 36" appear in relief in the cast stone cap. Flanking the central section, the symmetrical façade features four tripartite groupings of original windows on each story.

The school building's north and south elevations have similar configurations. Both have three groupings of paired windows on the first and second stories with an extra single window on the first story and an additional set of paired windows on the second. This pattern is disrupted by the presence of three six-light casement windows forming the central window grouping on the north elevation's first story, and the conversion of a pair of windows into an overhead garage door opening on the south elevation. On both elevations, the windows are offset to the west, leaving a section of unbroken brick veneer to the east. This design specifically avoided the presence of two walls of windows in corner classrooms.

The north and south elevations' westernmost window groupings are contained within an addition to the building constructed in 1953. The addition's design matched that of the original building and is physically evident in only a slight color variation of the exterior masonry and mortar. The addition contained space for three additional classrooms, an expanded band room with individual practice rooms on the second floor, and additional locker room facilities in the basement.

The Sturgis High School's west elevation consists of three sections. Two outer sections of brick veneer flank a larger inset central section. The outer sections each have one set of double exterior doors with two nine-light transom windows on the first story and a single exterior door leading to metal fire escapes on the second. Seven equally spaced pairs of double-hung sash windows characterize the central section's second story, looking into the interior gymnasium. Four of these window pairs are now enclosed. Six, six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows are located on the central section's first story, flanked on the north by a basement entrance. These windows look into the school's basement level locker rooms.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

The interior of the Sturgis High School is typical of the large standardized school designs from the same period. Centered on a main staircase, the school has a U-shaped floor plan with single-loaded corridors. The U-shaped plan wraps around a central space containing a gymnasium and stage. The gymnasium features an original wood floor and wood plank bleachers. Accessed from the gymnasium by separate stairs, original boy's and girl's locker rooms exist in a basement area beneath the bleachers. The existing stage was converted for use as a cafeteria and its proscenium arch enclosed in 1983. The original band room in the northwest corner of the second floor and the original second-floor study hall in the building's southwest corner were partitioned into smaller rooms in the 1980s. Some of the building's notable character-defining features include its terrazzo floors, original solid wood interior doors, original metal lockers in the first and second floor corridors, and full height ceilings. Many of the classrooms possess original wood-framed blackboards, wood baseboards, picture rails, and wood-frame cloak closets and storage closets. The superintendent's office, located in the southeast corner of the building's first floor, also contains original wood-frame, interior windows and wood detailing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

SECTION 8: Statement of Significance

The Sturgis High School in the City of Sturgis, Meade County, South Dakota is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The building is significant under Criterion A in the context of education as a school constructed by the Sturgis Independent School District in 1936, and under criterion C as an excellent example of the type of standardized school design commonly built in South Dakota during the 1930s. Its construction represents the state of progressive educational reform in Sturgis during the 1930s and the manner in which these reforms manifested themselves in the school's physical design.

The result of increased enrollment, the City of Sturgis approved construction of the Sturgis High School in 1934 with two bond issues totaling \$112,000. The bonded funds were allocated to the construction of the new high school and for equipment and furniture in both the new school and the existing elementary school. The Sturgis High School's design followed the standard of large school construction common in the 1930s. The school district subsequently hired architect D. E. Matter to design an addition to the building in 1954. The addition increased the amount of classroom space and expanded the school's existing band room and locker room facilities. The general contract for the project was granted to Garland Construction Company with Glover Plumbing & Heating and J. J. Electrical hired as subcontractors. The addition's design matched that of the existing building.

Educational reform in South Dakota as it affected the design of new school construction had its origin in the Progressive era policies of the late nineteenth century. During this time, reformers believed that improved school facilities directly affected the quality of education in rural communities and advocated the implementation of standardized school designs. They cited overcrowding, inadequate lighting, and poor heating and ventilation as just a few of the conditions that hindered learning, and believed that modern, properly constructed facilities would bring concepts of progress to rural communities.

To combat these perceived shortcomings, policy makers implemented progressive curriculum reforms at all levels of government. In 1880, the United States Bureau of Education published an influential plan book of standardized school designs and specifications for school improvement. Many state governments followed suit by formulating their own plans for educational reform, using the federal plan as a model. State policy, however, languished until 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt formed the National Commission on Country Life. This Commission focused national attention on the inadequacies of rural schools and encouraged state governments to implement standardized formulas and recommendations for school design in the 1900s and 1910s.

In South Dakota, the first statewide effort towards school standardization occurred in 1907 when the State Superintendent of Instruction adopted specific guidelines for school construction. The state legislature formalized these guidelines and granted the State Superintendent the power of approval over all new school construction plans at this time. These new standards for school construction called for at least fifteen square feet of floor space in each classroom, two hundred cubic feet of air space per pupil, and an approved heating and ventilation system among other regulations. The placement of classroom windows was of particular concern as contemporaries believed that improper illumination caused headaches, backaches, and various nervous disorders. Consequently, the state guidelines prescribed specific window arrangements and formulas, dictating the size of windows and limiting their placement on only one wall of a classroom. By 1915, these regulations also extended to such features as classroom doors, egresses, window-to-floor area formulae, artificial lighting, windows, chimneys, fire drills and escapes, ventilation, and water fountains.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

The construction of the Sturgis High School represents an important step in the evolution of these standardized designs. In 1936, it was the latest building project in a long history of school improvements performed by the Sturgis Independent School District. The result of increased enrollment, the Sturgis High School supplanted the old high school building, constructed in 1902 and located less than a block away. This older structure embodied earlier conceptions of standardized school design. Still extant, the two-story school was built in the Richardson Romanesque style with a central tower, Boulder red sandstone exterior cladding, and a rectangular plan. On the interior, it had a basement level gymnasium, combination study hall/auditorium, and a thermostatically controlled hot water radiator system

Prior to South Dakota's aforementioned standardization efforts, larger schools (averaging four to eight rooms) were characterized by irregular floor plans arranged asymmetrically around a central hall and possessed symmetrical facades often influenced by styles such as the Richardson Romanesque. Many also lacked the gymnasiums, auditoriums, and other amenities that characterized later structures. When they did exist, these amenities often possessed much different configurations. Gymnasiums, for example, first appeared in the basements of school buildings in the 1900s and 1910s such as that found in the 1902 Sturgis School. During the 1920s and 1930s, however, gymnasiums began to appear on the main floor of schools as athletics were increasingly recognized as important community social activities. The Sturgis High School exemplifies the outcome of this trend.

The Sturgis High School incorporated the standardized designs and facilities recommended for larger schools in the 1930s. The school had a symmetrical U-shaped plan with single-loaded corridors arranged around a central gymnasium and main staircase. The school also contained a library, study hall, band room, and a science laboratory, a modern heating and ventilation system, and each classroom was illuminated by only one wall of windows, contained prescribed cloak closets and blackboards, and featured standardized wood doors. All of these details, among others, were in keeping with contemporary notions of standardized school construction. On the exterior, the Sturgis High School reflected contemporary school design with its symmetrical façade, brick veneer, cast stone detailing, and Collegiate Gothic style elements.

The standardized plans and designs promulgated by the State of South Dakota were similar to those prescribed by the United States Department of Education, and other state and local agencies in the early twentieth century. These standards provided schools across the nation with uniformity in layout, appearance, and function best suited to an educational environment. The Sturgis High School is a local example of this prominent building type.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 5

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

SECTION 9: Bibliography

Erpstad, David and David Wood. Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997.

Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression. New York, NY: Harpercollins Publishers, 1992.

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado, 1996.

Hallstrom, Linda and Maricarrol Kueter. South Dakota Country School Days. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1987.

Onsite Photography. "A Context for Educational Development in South Dakota." Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society, 1999.

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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

SECTION 10: Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Lots 1-12, Block 12; Lots 1-8, Block 13; Bosworth Addition, Sturgis, Meade County, South Dakota

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Sturgis High School.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 7

Sturgis High School
Meade County, South Dakota

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION: Photographs

Name: Sturgis High School
Location: Sturgis, Meade County, South Dakota

Photographer: Christopher J. Hetzel
Date: July 1999

Location of Negatives: Historic Resources Group
1728 Whitley Court
Hollywood, CA 90028

1. North and east elevations, looking southwest
2. North elevation, looking south
3. West elevation, looking east
4. South elevation, looking northwest
5. East elevation, looking west
6. Main entrance hallway, looking north
7. First floor, west hallway, looking south
8. First floor, east hallway, looking south
9. Mural in north hallway on the first floor
10. First floor classroom
11. First floor science classroom, looking west
12. First floor science classroom, looking east
13. Second floor classroom
14. Superintendent's office, first floor, looking southeast
15. Gymnasium, looking southwest
16. Gymnasium, looking northeast