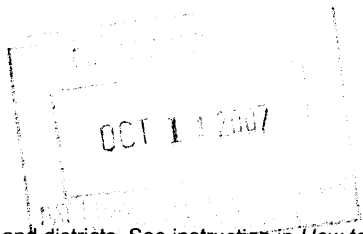


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1208

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Pioneer Park Bandshell

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number SW corner of intersection of US HWY 14 and 1st Ave [ ] not for publication

city or town Brookings [ ] vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Brookings code 011 zip code 57006

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be
considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official: Jay D. Vogt
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 09-19-2007

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
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:

- [X] 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
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] other, explain
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper: Elson H. Beall
Date of Action: 11.19.07

Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Name of Property

Brookings County, South Dakota  
County/State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	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.)

Federal Relief Construction in South  
Dakota, 1929-1941

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Recreation and culture: music facility

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

Recreation and culture: music facility

**7. Description**

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

Art Deco

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other Brick

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheets

Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Name of Property

Brookings County, South Dakota  
County/State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History  
 Economics  
 Entertainment/Recreation  
 Architecture

**Periods of Significance**

1936  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1936  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person(s)**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

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

**Cultural Affiliation**

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

**Architect/Builder**

Albert Pugsley: architect  
 C.M. Fassett: builder

**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.) See 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Name of Property

Brookings County, South Dakota  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 14 675068 4908740  
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[ ] 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 Leigh Raderschadt, SHPO Intern

organization South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office

date 08/07/07

street & number 900 Governors Dr

telephone 605-773-3458

city or town Pierre

state SD

zip code 57501

## 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 City of Brookings

street & number PO Box 270

telephone 605-692-6281

city or town Brookings

state SD

zip code 57006

**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 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The Pioneer Park Bandshell is located on the east end of the park in Brookings, South Dakota. The Pioneer Park is located south of US highway 14 in Brookings between Western Avenue and First Avenue. The construction of the bandshell is concrete which is covered with stucco. The rounded roof over the main stage and the shorter surrounding hipped roof are covered in asphalt shingles. The façade is located on the east elevation of the bandshell and features a quarter-sphere opening for the stage. An arched parapet extends over the stage opening and also hides the round roof behind. Two-story square wings on either side of the stage protrude forward from the parapet slightly, broadening the framing of the stage area.

The north and south sides of the band shell are identical. Doors flanked on each side by enclosed windows are centered on the two-story wings. Recessed rectangular features are centered above the doors and windows. Across the rest of the elevation, which is slightly recessed from the wings, extends a row of enclosed high, short windows. On the north side only, there is a handicap accessible ramp along the side of the structure. On the south side there are stairs.

Symmetrically from left to right across the west elevation are two short enclosed windows, an arched gallery with five arches that houses the restrooms, and two more short enclosed windows. The architecture of the bandshell is Art Deco which is carried through by the geometric musical motifs that are present at each side of the stage as well as the apex of the arched opening.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 2**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pioneer Park Bandshell is significant under criterion A for its association with economics, social history and entertainment/recreation of Brookings during the Great Depression. The bandshell is also eligible under criterion C as an example of the type of resources constructed in parks across South Dakota during the 1930's and 1940's as well as the distinctive construction method. As a federal relief project, the bandshell is significant because it is associated with federal programs designed to provide work for unemployed segments of the population and to supplement the depressed economy of many rural communities. This particular bandshell is of the Art Deco style and was built in 1936 with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. This is typical of the majority of the bandshells built during this time period.

The park system in Brookings started in 1924 after the City of Brookings purchased the land currently occupied by Pioneer Park and initiated plans to develop the parcel into a city park. Prior to the purchase by the city, the Brookings county fair was held at the location from 1907 to 1922. The city acquired the property in 1923 for a total of \$10,000.<sup>1</sup>

In June of 1924 the Park Board retained Mr. Charles Ramsdell, a Minneapolis landscape architect, to design Pioneer Park, formally known as West Park and City Park, for a fee of \$300. Mr. Ramsdell provided a site plan and specifications for construction of the park. In general, the park was constructed according to the site plan, including the road, landscaping, and nominated bandshell.<sup>2</sup>

Nearly a decade after the park was designed, the bandshell was finally constructed. The structure was designed by Lincoln, NE architect Albert Pugsley, a former resident of Brookings. The WPA assisted with construction of the bandshell. The development of the park was the impetus that resulted in the establishment of the Brookings Park Board in 1924.<sup>3</sup>

1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression with the stock market crash followed by mass unemployment and failed banks. South Dakota was no different, but what added to depression was the farm values shrank as well as the decline in farm income. Between 1920 and 1930 23,000 farms had been foreclosed and 71 percent of the state's banks had failed. In addition to these economic woes, the Great Plains endured droughts, dust storms, grasshopper plagues and severe winters. Any form of relief was going to have to come from the assistance of the federal government.<sup>4</sup>

The WPA was a massive employment relief program started in 1935 under President

<sup>1</sup> *Historic Parks of Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Brookings* (Rapid City, SD: sixth district Council of Local Governments, 1982), 63-71.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 63-71

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 63-71.

<sup>4</sup> Michelle Dennis, *Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929- 1941* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 2.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 3

Roosevelt's second New Deal. Harry L. Hopkins was appointed chief administrator of the program. The two qualifications for employment were need (means-test) and employability (health and physical fitness). The wages and hours for WPA workers were set up as a fixed monthly "security" or subsistence wage for between 120 and 140 hours per month. Workers were paid even if time was lost due to factors beyond their control.<sup>5</sup> The philosophy of the program was to 'put the unemployed back to work in jobs which would serve the public good and conserve the skills and the self esteem of workers throughout the US.' In South Dakota alone, the WPA provided employment to an average of 15,000 people monthly; this included over 2,000 women and over 12,000 men. From 1935 to 1939, and about \$80,000,000 was expended through work projects.<sup>6</sup> The WPA in South Dakota was divided into five district administrative units with offices in Aberdeen, Watertown, Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City. The state administrator was M.A. Kennedy.<sup>7</sup> The Pioneer Park Bandshell is a physical reminder of the unprecedented use of government aid to construct community improvements and help the depressed local economy.

Construction projects made up the bulk of the work, and were under the direction of the Division of Engineering and Construction. Recreational buildings such as bandshells were built under the third category, the Public Buildings Projects. Certain architectural features and the use of particular materials developed from the program and the WPA followed the newer tendencies of simplification of architectural style, as simplicity was best suited for the workers with limited skills. The result of this was the construction of public buildings in regional variations of Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. Concrete was the most widely used material, however other materials native to the region were also used.<sup>8</sup>

During the great depression of the 1930's, many construction and improvement projects for parks, campgrounds and picnic grounds across South Dakota were undertaken as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration federal relief programs. While most park resources such as picnic shelters, recreation buildings and bridges utilized rustic architecture, other projects were less rustic and more closely related to the Art Deco and Modern styles. Bandshells in particular followed this practice. They were generally of concrete construction with a quarter-sphere shape to not only cover the band from the elements, but also direct the sound towards the audience. The Pioneer Park Bandshell reflects this type of construction.<sup>9</sup>

The Art Deco style is characterized by smooth wall surfaces usually of stucco. Zigzag chevrons or other stylized geometric motifs were used as decorative elements at the apex of

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 37-38.

<sup>6</sup> M.A. Kennedy, *Work Pays South Dakota* (Mitchell, SD: Works Progress Administration, 1940), 3.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 43.

<sup>8</sup> Dennis, 40.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 83-84; David Erpestad 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), 277.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 4

the arch and on the sides of the stage to give a vertical emphasis. These style elements characterize the Pioneer Park Bandshell.<sup>10</sup>

The bandshell is also locally significant in the areas of recreation and entertainment for its contribution to the community at large, which continues today. As with all WPA, CWA and PWA projects, the bandshell was public property intended to enhance the social and recreational activities in Brookings and the surrounding area.

Within the context of the Multiple Property Listing (MPL) "Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota 1929-1941", the bandshell is notable as an individual property type (parks, Campgrounds and Picnic Grounds) under the category of Social and Recreational Facilities. The MPL states that in addition to social history and economics, the bandshell is significant in the area of entertainment/recreation and architecture.

The Pioneer Park Bandshell meets all the registration requirements stipulated in the associated Multiple Property Listing in that it was financed in part by the federal government through the Works progress Administration; it was completed prior to 1941. It is locally significant and it retains its historic integrity. It is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

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<sup>10</sup> Stephen Rogers and Lynda Schwan, *Architectural History in South Dakota* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2000), 10.



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 9 Page 5

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 10 Page 6

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA****VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the Pioneer Park Bandshell include the area just immediately surrounding the bandshell. The boundary is an imaginary line that forms a rectangle encompassing the bandshell. The rectangle is an extended 10 feet around the perimeter of the actual structure.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary needs to not only encompass the bandshell itself but also the area around it used for audiences during performances.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Pioneer Park Bandshell  
Brookings County, South DakotaSection number 11 Page 7**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-4 except as noted:

Name of Property: Pioneer Park Bandshell  
County, State: Brookings County, SD  
Photographer: Jason Haug  
Date of Photographs: April 2007  
Location of Original: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre, SD

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1.	East elevation, facing west
2.	West and south elevations, facing northeast
3.	East and north elevations, facing southwest
4.	South and east elevations, facing northwest