

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 00000721

Property Name: Watertown Stadium

County: Codington State: South Dakota

Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota MPS

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Sandra McCullard*                      July 5, 2000  
Signature of the Keeper                      Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8 Statement of Significance:

The Period of Significance is, hereby, revised to "1940-1941" to reflect the years of construction.

"Entertainment/Recreation" and "Community Planning/Development" are, hereby, dropped from the Areas of Significance because they do not reflect the aspects of significance documented in the nomination.

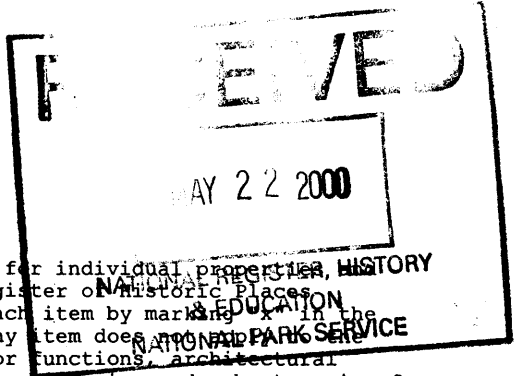
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The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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, districts, and historic structures, sites, buildings, objects, and historic military and aviation. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Watertown Stadium

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1600 W Kemp Ave not for publication N/A  
city or town Watertown vicinity N/A  
state South Dakota code SD county Codington code 029 zip code 57201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Jay D. Vogt  
Signature of certifying official

05-16-2000  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Name of Property Watertown Stadium

County and State Codington Co., SD

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

=====  
4. National Park Service Certification  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Conda M. ...*  
Signature of Keeper

*9/15/00*  
Date of Action

=====  
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

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
<u>  1  </u>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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

Name of Property Watertown Stadium

County and State Codington Co., SD

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

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

Sub:

RECREATION AND CULTURE

stadium

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

Sub:

RECREATION AND CULTURE

stadium

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

roof CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

other GLASS; METAL; WOOD; SYNTHETICS: plastic

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

**See Continuation Sheets**

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1929-1941  
Significant Dates 1940-1941

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A  
Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Perkins & McWayne; Works Progress Administration

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) **See Continuation Sheets**

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(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 State Historic Preservation Office

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property approximately 3.7 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	646918	4973802	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

Map Watertown West

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Megan D. Eades

date January 2000

street & number 1039 Magnolia Street

telephone (912)746-6510

city or town Macon state GA

zip code 31201

Name of Property Watertown Stadium

County and State Codington Co., SD

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

=====  
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**

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name Watertown Independent School District

street & number 200 9<sup>th</sup> Street telephone (605) 882-6316

city or town Watertown state SD zip code 57201

=====  
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7  

Page   1  

---

**Watertown Stadium  
Codington County  
Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941**

**VII. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The Watertown Stadium is located at the corner of Kemp Avenue and Fourteenth Street West on a 3.7 acre lot measuring 400 feet on each side. The massive, half-round stadium is situated on the corner of the lot with the longest portion of the stadium facing Kemp Avenue. The other half faces an open field while the actual ball field is bounded by Fourteenth Street. Contemporary chain-link fencing and modern stadium lights surround the open ball field.

Constructed of reinforced concrete, the stadium is composed of an enclosed lower level that contains training rooms, locker rooms with showers, meeting areas, and space for concessions. The upper level contains seating and viewing areas. Designed and executed by the Works Progress Administration in 1940, the stadium is representative of the simple and utilitarian architecture employed by Federal Relief agencies. As was typical of both the period and the property type, the stadium also features restrained Art Deco elements in the exterior shell elevations.

The structure can be divided into two sections: the elongated section fronted by Kemp Avenue and the curved center portion and shorter wall of the exterior shell. Both sections also surround the "interior shell" that contains the bleachers.

The portion of the exterior shell that faces Kemp Avenue consists of a straight, two-story wall of reinforced concrete that extends from the curved center section and primary entrance. Regularly spaced concrete piers that extend above the top of the stadium in keeping with the verticality and jagged silhouette associated with Art Deco architecture. Narrow, elongated windows consisting



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 2

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

DESCRIPTION, Cont'd.

of three-light casement windows with three vertical muntins in metal frames are located in the center of the planar surfaces between the piers. Each of these awning windows has exterior screens with wood frames. A small, rectangular viewing box/announcement room is centered at the uppermost section of this elevation.

The shorter section that faces the open lot west of the stadium and shares the same exterior features as described above, but also contains a curved portion that serves as the primary entrance to the stadium. A flat, concrete awning extends above the lower level and provides shelter for three, evenly-spaced rolling metal doors. Directly above the awning are three-dimensional metal letters identifying the structure as "WATERTOWN STADIUM." In the center bay of the curved section is also a metal plaque to signify that the stadium was a federal relief project. The plaque states:

Watertown Stadium

Board of Education 1940-1942

C.H. Lockhart	A.W. Steinmeitz
R.E. Hunter	Sever Arneson
E.W. Ukkelberg	Enoch Lindquist

Dwight A. Miller, Superintendent  
A.E. Mecham, Area Engineer, W.P.A  
Perkins & McWayne, Architects

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 3

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

DESCRIPTION, Cont'd.

The shorter ell that extends from the curved section is identical in construction and fenestration as the longer ell located to the northeast of the awning.

The inner shell is also constructed of reinforced concrete and contains a combination of older, metal bleachers and newer plastic bleachers of a similar design. The longer section also contains a small, one-story press-box, also constructed of reinforced concrete, with a shed roof. A smaller, frame addition is located directly above the larger box. The curved section also contains bleacher seating, but is sheltered by a contemporary, flat awning supported by metal posts. A small, frame press box is located above the awning, which is also topped by chain-link fencing with metal posts. Two enclosed ramps descend into the lower level of the stadium to provide access to and from the main entrance. The shorter section lies southwest of the curved seating area and contains the newer plastic bleachers but is not sheltered by the awning. Three rectangular openings are located at the very bottom of the inner shell to allow for the players access to the ball field.

The Watertown Stadium is remarkably intact property that continues to serve the city for football games and other athletic events. Renovations occurred during the years 1988 to 1991, but consisted largely of repairs, new seating, and lighting and did not have any substantial impact on the historic appearance of the structure or diminish its integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 4

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Watertown Stadium in Watertown, South Dakota is historically significant for its association with social history and economics in Watertown and South Dakota during the Great Depression. As a Federal Relief project, the property is significant because it is directly associated with federal programs designed to provide work for unemployed segments of the population and to supplement the depressed economy of many rural communities.

Prior to the economic crisis of the early 1930s, little or no federal funding was available for community-based construction activity. The Federal Emergency Relief Agency instituted programs that filtered money for improvement projects through various agencies. The projects, approved and executed by organizations such as the Civilian Works Association (CWA), Public Works Administration (PWA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), also contributed to the substantial increase in the number of public-related construction projects and community improvements. As a result of federal funding and local labor, a vast proportion communities in South Dakota erected public buildings and recreational facilities that promoted pride and local support during the economic crisis.

Within the context of the Multiple Property Listing, *Federal Relief Projects in South Dakota, 1929-1941*, this property is notable as an individual property type (Sports and Recreation Structures) under the category of Social and Recreational Facilities. The multiple property listing stipulates that, in addition to social history and economics, the stadium is significant in the areas of entertainment/recreation, community planning/development, and architecture.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 5

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

Historical Background and Significance:

Watertown, which has historically ranked as one of the largest towns in South Dakota, is located in the northeastern part of the state, just a few miles west of Interstate 29. The town serves as the countyseat for Codington County, which covers approximately 700 square miles of rolling prairie with small glacial lakes and streams. The county was organized in 1878 and designated Watertown as the countyseat later that year in order to benefit from proximity to the Winona-St. Peter Railroad.<sup>1</sup> Like many other South Dakota towns, the railroad contributed greatly to the success or failure of a new community. The railroad provided Watertown and the rest of Codington County with the necessary means of importing farm implements and other goods and exporting their crops to the surrounding environs. This allowed for a strong agricultural-based economy that in turn provided for supporting businesses, banks, hospitals, and educational institutions.

In 1884 the Minneapolis and St. Louis (M & St. L) Railroad arrived, followed by the Burlington and Cedar Rapids Railroad and then the Great Northern Railroad entered Watertown in 1887.<sup>2</sup> The railroads increased settlement and enhanced the economy, thus enabling the community to advance itself as a major trade center in the state.

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<sup>1</sup>Charles Sundling, "A Short History of Watertown," The First 100 Years in Codington County, South Dakota, (Watertown: Watertown Public Opinion Print, 1979), 8.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 10.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 6

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

The opening of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation in 1892 also enticed settlers to the area since land was available for a nominal price.

Like the rest of the state, Watertown suffered from the economic depression that followed the Great Dakota Boom at the close of the nineteenth century, but again, the fertile farmland and railroad links helped sustain the town during the crisis. Watertown continued to expand, inviting new technology, building schools and churches, and supporting local industry through the first part of the twentieth century, but did suffer from the severe droughts, terrible storms, and grasshopper plagues that accompanied the economic collapse during the Great Depression.

The Watertown Stadium is a physical reminder of the unprecedented use of government aid to construct community improvements, particularly for recreation and leisure. Built in 1940, the stadium was reportedly planned as a band shelter, since the W.P.A. wanted to build them as part of their music project. According to a local story, the structure was built in phases, and it initially looked more like a bandshell. During the last phase of construction, it was then modified for use as an athletic stadium. Although the story is rumor, the existing structure is an excellent example of W.P.A. construction and one of the more outstanding federal relief projects in the northeastern part of the state.

This stadium is also locally significant in the areas of recreation/entertainment and community planning/development for its contribution to the community at large. As with all WPA, CWA, and PWA projects, the stadium was public property intended to enhance the social and recreational activities in Watertown and the surrounding county.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8

Page 7

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

SIGNIFICANCE, Cont'd.

As an intact historical resource, the stadium is architecturally significant because it embodies distinctive features associated with the Art Deco style, and it is representative of the type of construction frequently utilized by the W.P.A. The reinforced concrete structure is both utilitarian and well-designed, and all the character-defining features associated with its period of construction.

In sum, the Watertown Stadium meets all the general registration requirements stipulated in the associated Multiple Property Document, *Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941*, in that it was financed by the federal government under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration; it was substantially complete by 1941; it is locally significant; and it retains its historic integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   9  

Page   8  

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   9  

Page   9  

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10

Page 10

---

**Watertown Stadium**  
**Codington County**  
***Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941***

X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on lots 1-80 and outlots A & B of Ways Second Addition.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Watertown Stadium.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Megan D. Eades  
September 1999

1 of 2  
Side View

2 of 2  
Facade View



75	74
= 1503	3
25'	132.7'

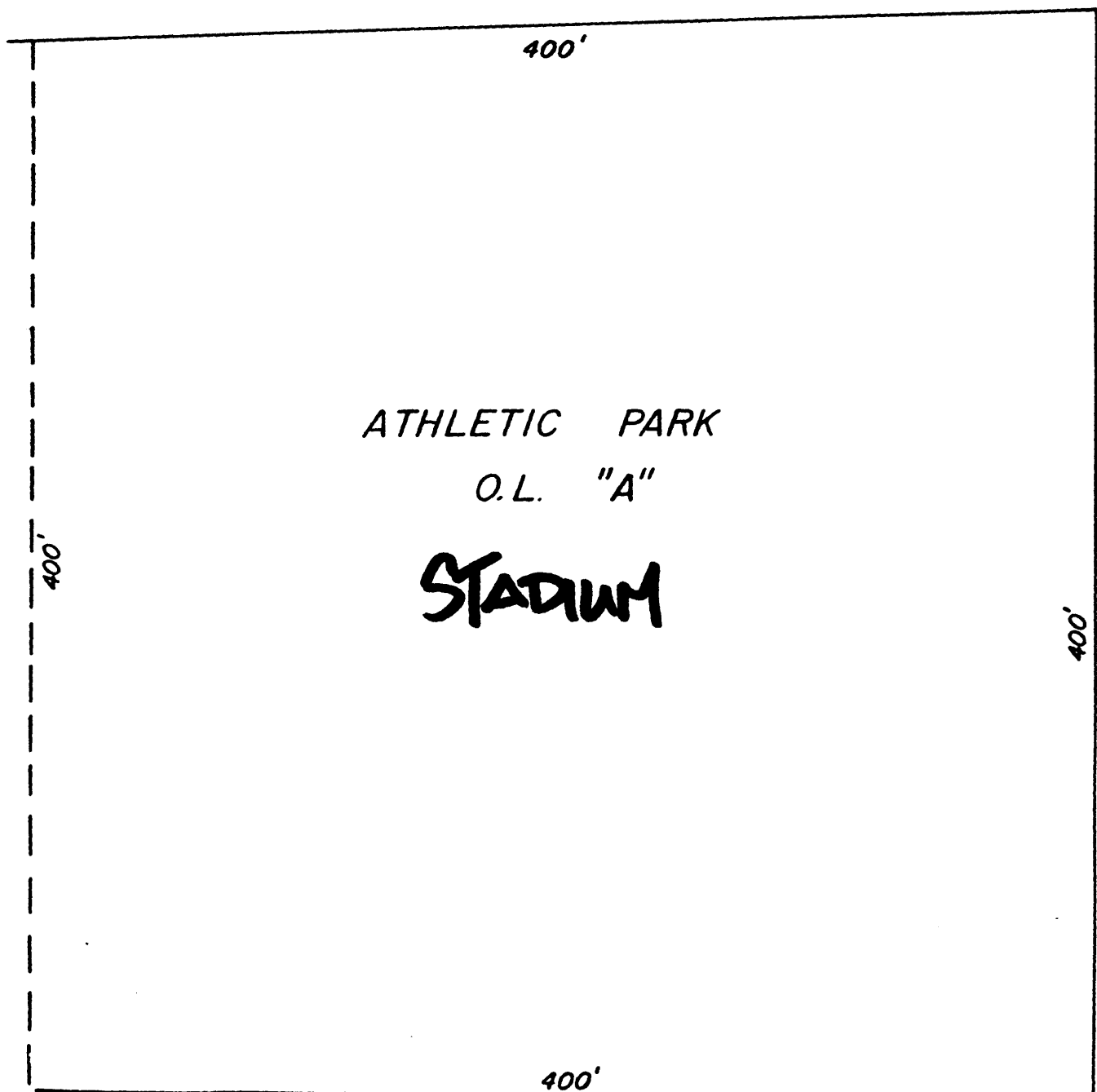
32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21
4	1421	"	"	1415	"	"	1409	"	"	1403	3
17'	25'	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	25'

60'

60'

80'

**E**



**FOURTEENTH**

VACATED REV. ...

404' 196