

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Yankton College Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12th and Douglas Streets. not for publication

city, town Yankton vicinity of congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Yankton code 135

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Yankton College

street & number 12th and Douglas Streets

city, town Yankton vicinity of state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register's Office

street & number Yankton County Courthouse, 3rd and Broadway

city, town Yankton vicinity of state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Yankton College Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion vicinity of state South Dakota

7. Description

<u> </u> excellent	<u> </u> deteriorated	Check one <u>XX</u> unaltered	Check one <u>XX</u> original site
<u>XX</u> good	<u> </u> ruins	<u>XX</u> altered	<u> </u> moved date _____
<u> </u> fair	<u> </u> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Yankton College Historic District consists of sixteen structures and landscape features, which were constructed between 1882 and 1970. Sited on a hillside north of the historic center of the city, the college campus forms a large rectangular of three city blocks with two structures located on adjacent blocks to the east and west. The landscaped grounds extend for twenty-five acres and are located in a well-to-do residential area of the city. Although orientated, for the most part, to the south, the college has as its major street of access, Douglas Avenue which is a primary residential street. There are ten landmark structures, two contributing structures, three fabric buildings, and one intrusion which are discussed in chronological sequence.

The architecture of Yankton College covers a diverse range of styles and exhibits a variety of influences that represents a pattern which can be found on campuses throughout the Midwest. The original core of buildings best exhibits this pattern. Like many other frontier colleges, Yankton received its initial buildings through gifts of philanthropists and from money raised in the East. Often the designs for the building accompanied the donation and this resulted in the diversity and sophistication of the small buildings. In the 1880's New England provided much of the capital for fledgling Midwest colleges, and at this time Yankton College received the Conservatory, designed by a Massachusetts' architect. By the 1890's Chicago had grown to dominate the region, and the Richardsonian Romanesque design of Ward Hall represents the philanthropy of the new wealth of this city. In the early twentieth century Tudor Revival architecture became fashionably associated as a collegiate style. The Art Building (formerly Carnegie Library) and Kingsbury Hall both bear elements of this style with the red brick and label moldings. The Garden Terrace Theatre is an unusual landscape feature for a small Midwest college and is a product of the romanticism associated with college life during the first decades of the century. Forbes and Look Halls continue the tradition of Tudor motifs for collegiate buildings but these motifs have become highly abstracted and are heavily mixed with Prairie School and Art Deco influences. These are some of the last buildings in George Elmslie's work; he was hired by the Board of Trustees in 1927 to prepare a campus plan and was retained for the two resulting commissions. Between 1896 and 1903 the college grounds were landscaped, and a depression-valley was created for new buildings which gave the campus area a more bucolic appearance. The other buildings of the college all represent the steady growth of the institution and are good examples of popular collegiate styles from their periods. It is for this reason the Warren Campus Center and Lloyd Library have been included as fabric.

Landmark Buildings:

8. Conservatory of Music 1882-84
Architect: John M. Allen, New Bedford, Massachusetts (associated architect with the Congregational Church). Supervising Architect: Wallace L. Dow (this was one of the first buildings Dow worked on after settling in Dakota).
Listed separately in the National Register.
7. Ward Hall 1894
Architect: unknown
Constructed with funds provided by Chicago philanthropist Dr. D. K. Parsons, Ward Hall was built as a science building and is similar to the science building at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, (another Congregational college) which was also donated by Parsons. It was constructed of brick and brown sandstone on a quartzite

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basement. The building is rectangular in plan with a hip roof. There are central projecting gabled bays on the two entrance facades, and wider projecting gables on the two other facades. Prominent ornamental features include the repeated brick arches trimmed with sandstone and the turrellies on the corners of the gables, dormers, and the principal corners of the buildings, which are of brick and are trimmed with rounded foliated sandstone pinnacles, all common to the Richardsonian Romanesque. There have been no significant additions or alterations. The building now houses the administrative office, classrooms, and the chapel.

16. Observatory 1895
Sited on a hill on the southwest side of the campus, the Observatory continues its original function as an astronomy classroom and laboratory. It is a two story cylinder of brick with a one story brick "L." There are sash windows on three sides of the building and a door on the side of the cylinder furthest away from the "L." The cylinder is covered with a metal dome which is fitted with a sliding shutter.
6. Fargo Union 1901
Architect: Unknown
Fargo Union was built as a field house, remodeled in the 1940's for a student center and has been used since the late 1960's as a practice gym for the wrestling teams. Constructed of brick, this rectangular structure is covered with a hip roof. The brickwork on the raised basement is banded or rusticated. The main gym floor occupies most of the upper portion of the building and has three-light windows under segmental arches. Smaller windows at the top of the building are joined in a frieze under the roof. The stylistic features of the low horizontal block covered by a hip roof are reminiscent of early Prairie School design.
10. Art Building 1903
Architect: Unknown
Constructed with funds from the Carnegie Foundation for use as the college library, this structure has housed the art department since 1970. The building is a simple square of two stories and is brick with stone trim. Simple label moldings decorate the windows and door on the primary or east facade on the first floor while the large second floor windows are joined in an arcade of brick segmental arches. A stone beltcourse encircles the top of the building above which is a crenellated brick parapet with stone coping. The roof is flat. These decorative features draw references from the Tudor Revival.

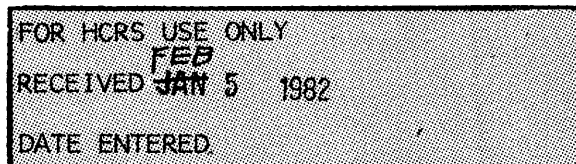
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4. Kingsbury Hall 1914
Architects: Patton and Fisk, Chicago
Built and used as a women's dormitory, Kingsbury Hall is a free version of the Tudor Revival, a common collegiate style of the time. The building is T-shaped, comprised of a symmetrical five-bay and three-bay main block and a subordinate rear ell attached to the center of the block. Four stories in height, the dormitory is entered through a porch and centrally located doorway. The first story is a raised basement which has a heavy beltcourse which jogs upward over each window to form a lintel. The center two floors are grouped together under a small cornice marked by widely spaced modillion blocks. Placed partially under the roof, the top floor has windows in the gable ends of the side facades and in dormers on the front and rear, which are joined with a label mold. The dormers are further distinguished by their stepped parapet treatment. The tile roof has wide eaves which extend between the dormers and is supported by large exposed rafters.
13. Garden Terrace Theatre 1915
This landscape feature is roughly 140' X 200' and is enclosed by a wall to the west and by a hedge to the north, east, and south. The lawn slopes gently down and westwardly to the raised stage. Trees are planted on each side of the stage. At the rear, center stage the wall rises to frame a doorway under a small roofed balcony with exaggerated balusters supported on large consoles. The overall style is drawn from the Mediterranean "Period" style fashionable in c. 1915.
12. Forbes Hall 1930
Architect: George Elmslie, Chicago
Forbes Hall is constructed of tapestry brick. Covered in a slate roof, the structure has three floors including the raised basement. The openings are large and regularly spaced and are fitted with metal casement windows. The building is an "E" shape, consisting of the long main block with an auditorium wing abutting the center of the rear facade, and smaller classroom wings at each end of the rear facade. Entrances mark each end of the building and the center of the main or east facade. The primary entrance on the east facade is approached by a stair with brick plinths to each side, that support light fixtures which are in the Prairie School tradition. Small pavilions project to either side of the main door with windows set deeply in concentric squares. The carved ornament on the stone strapwork squares and cornice of these pavilions retains some of the delicacy of Elmslie's earlier Prairie School work. The rest of the design of the building is quite different from Elmslie's Prairie School commissions and is more closely related to the Art Deco version of Collegiate Gothic, one of the less widely used forms of the Art Deco adaptations of historical styles. In Elmslie's design for Forbes Hall, the basement and first floors are joined by buttresses which are capped with carvings depicting flora and scholarly monks.



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The buttresses serve more to join the basement and first floor windows into horizontal groups than to give vertical emphasis to the design. The second floor windows accentuate the horizontal design through the use of a string-course which runs the entire length of the building at the sill level. The broad expanse of the roof is contained by low parapets on the gable ends and is unbroken except for a small Gothic belfry in the center. The interior is plainly appointed and is mainly distinguished by the Prairie School stained glass panels in the doors to offices and classrooms.

17. Look Hall 1932
Architect: George Elmslie, Chicago
Look Hall is stylistically related to Forbes Hall. It is constructed of tapestry brick and has metal casement windows. The basement is slightly raised with small windows set just above ground level. The first and second floors have the same fenestration with large metal casements; the third floor, under the roof, is lighted with a series of dormers. The building is a long rectangle with a cross gable on the south end that projects slightly. The simplicity of the form is broken on the main or east facade with a projecting pavilion and entrance on the first floor. Ornament is limited to carved Art Deco figures on the top of thin buttresses rising to the first floor level of the cross gable, and to a carved wood panel set under the roof of the open porch, which is in the Western Stick Style tradition.

Contributing Buildings:

2. Crane-Youngworth Field 1903
This landscape feature occupies five acres on the north side of the campus and includes a football field and a track. The cement grandstand on the south side of the field was constructed in 1903.
3. Nash Gymnasium 1948
This building is used as the field house and gymnasium for the college and high school. A square brick building, it is covered by a shallow vault. Windows are filled with metal awning windows and glass block. The main or west facade has a series of buttresses and a projecting entrance pavilion with Streamlined Modern lettering and ornament. Materials from the building came from an airplane hanger which was dismantled and shipped to Yankton by train.

Fabric Buildings:

5. Maintenance Building 1904
The Maintenance Building is a one-story, square, brick building with a hip

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roof and flat roofed addition to the east. The north side has a raised basement and garage doors. The west side has four sets of paired windows on each floor. The brickwork of the basement is banded or rusticated and the style is very closely related to that of the adjacent Fargo Union (Site #6).

14. Warren Campus Center 1967
Architects: Meese & Foss, Huron, South Dakota
The Campus Center houses the cafeteria, meeting rooms, post office, bookstore, and student government offices for the college. It is a polygonal building of cement, brick and glass set into a hill. The entrance on the lower floor is on axis with the Conservatory. Entrances to the upper floor are found on each side. The circular design, folded roof and extending beams are representative of college buildings of the mid 1960's.
9. Lloyd Library 1970
Architect: Leo A. Daly, Omaha, Nebraska
The library is a style of building commonly found in collegiate architecture of the mid 1960's - 1970's. Constructed of framed, poured concrete, and infilled with glass and red brick, the library has blank projecting bays on the second floor which are separated with narrow windows. Exterior stairs are cantilevered from piers on each end of the rectangular structure. An interior "floating" circular stair is supported by polished metal rods.

Intrusions:

15. Durand Hall 1964
Durand Hall was constructed for use as a co-ed dormitory. It is separated into two wings by a one-story entrance hall. Each wing is three stories with a flat roof and is faced with red brick with course aggregate concrete spandrel panels.

The final site is a tennis court.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1882–1970 **Builder/Architect** John Allen, Wallace L. Dow, Patton & Fisk, and George Elmslie

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Yankton College Historic District is significant in the areas of education, religion, architecture, and social/humanitarian activities. Founded on August 30, 1881, it is the oldest institution of higher learning in South Dakota. In addition, it retains all its structures erected over its lifespan thereby providing a catalog of small campus, collegiate architecture of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Yankton College has also provided frequent fine arts, humanities, and sports events for the community which has made it a regional center for cultural activities.

The Reverend Joseph Ward was the founder of the college, and served as its first president and as a teacher. Supported by the Congregational Church, the college received most of its financial backing from eastern benefactors. Although local support was sometimes difficult to solicit, in later years alumni and Yankton residents became primary financial supporters. On October 4, 1882, the first classes began with five students; only one of whom eventually graduated.

The architecture of Yankton College covers a diverse range of styles, a pattern rare to South Dakota, but common to Midwestern colleges. Like many other late nineteenth century frontier colleges, Yankton College's earliest buildings were erected with funds provided by eastern philanthropists. Often the donations were accompanied with explicit architectural plans as in the case of the Conservatory, which was designed by a Massachusetts' architect. This practice resulted in this rather unusual collection of stylistically sophisticated buildings. The only loss suffered by the college has been Dakin Hall, erected in the 1880's and destroyed by fire. The catalog of architecture begins with the Conservatory, an eclectic, picturesque structure popular on eastern college campuses at the time. By 1894 when Ward Hall and Dakin Hall had been erected, the taste in institutional buildings had shifted to the Chicago-influenced Romanesque style of Richardson. Between 1896 and 1903 the grounds were landscaped to create a more bucolic setting and a small valley or depression was created in the center of the campus. The early twentieth century buildings were sited here. Between 1903 and 1915, three new structures were added, this time bearing elements of the Tudor Revival which was a very popular style for libraries, educational buildings and churches. The Art Building, a former Carnegie Library, Kingsbury Hall, and the Terrace Garden are products of this period. The Garden Terrace Theatre is an unusual feature for a small academic community and is the only structure which reflects the romantic freehand adoption of exotic architecture more commonly found in suburban residential architecture of the time. Forbes and Look Halls continue the use of Tudor motifs; however, in this case, the motifs have become highly abstracted and are mixed with Prairie School and Art Deco influences. This is some of the last of George Elmslie's work and it exhibits a high degree of skill and the confident blending of several styles into an entirely striking whole. Forbes Hall is a state architectural landmark. Elmslie had been hired in 1927 to prepare a campus plan and stayed on to complete these two commissions. Warren Campus Center and Lloyd Library blend less successfully with the other structures, yet they represent mainstream academic architecture of their period and therefore are included here as fabric buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Karolevitz, Robert F. Yankton: A Pioneer Past. Aberdeen: North Plains Press, 1972. pp. 99, 101, 114, 116, 120, 129, 140, 147, 160, 173, 184-6, 194, 196.

McMurtry, W. J. Yankton College. Yankton, 1907.

Stewart, E. I. Yankton College. Yankton, 1932.

Yankton Student, June 1892, Vol. 7, No. 9; June 1895, Vol. 10, No. 9.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 25 acres

Quadrangle name Yankton, South Dakota

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	3	1	2	9	8	4	7	4	8	8	4	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B

1	4	6	3	1	7	5	0	4	7	4	8	8	5	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

C

1	4	6	3	1	7	4	5	4	7	4	8	2	8	0	
Zone		Easting				Northing									

D

1	4	6	3	1	3	0	0	4	7	4	8	2	8	0	
Zone		Easting				Northing									

E

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H

Zone		Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Yankton College Historic District is bounded by the property lot lines in which it is situated. The district includes lots 1-12 of blocks 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15; lots 1-6, block 16; lots 10-18 of block 12; and lots 1-4 of block 35 of the lower Yankton Plat of the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Peterson (technical editing: John Burrows, Carolyn Torma)

organization Yankton College (Hist. Preservation Cntr) date 3 Nov 80

street & number 12th and Douglas (USD-216 E Clark) telephone (605) 677-5314

city or town Yankton (Vermillion) state South Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James R. Fisher date 1/27/82

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Braithwaite</u>	date <u>3.22.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Yankton College represents for South Dakota some of the highest achievements in collegiate architecture and is the only full, though small scale, catalog of academic styles from 1883 to 1970.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION CONTINUED: Item Number 10

City of Yankton. It includes lots 20-24 of block 1 of the Tripp and Harrison Addition to the City of Yankton.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Yankton College Historic District
Continuation sheet

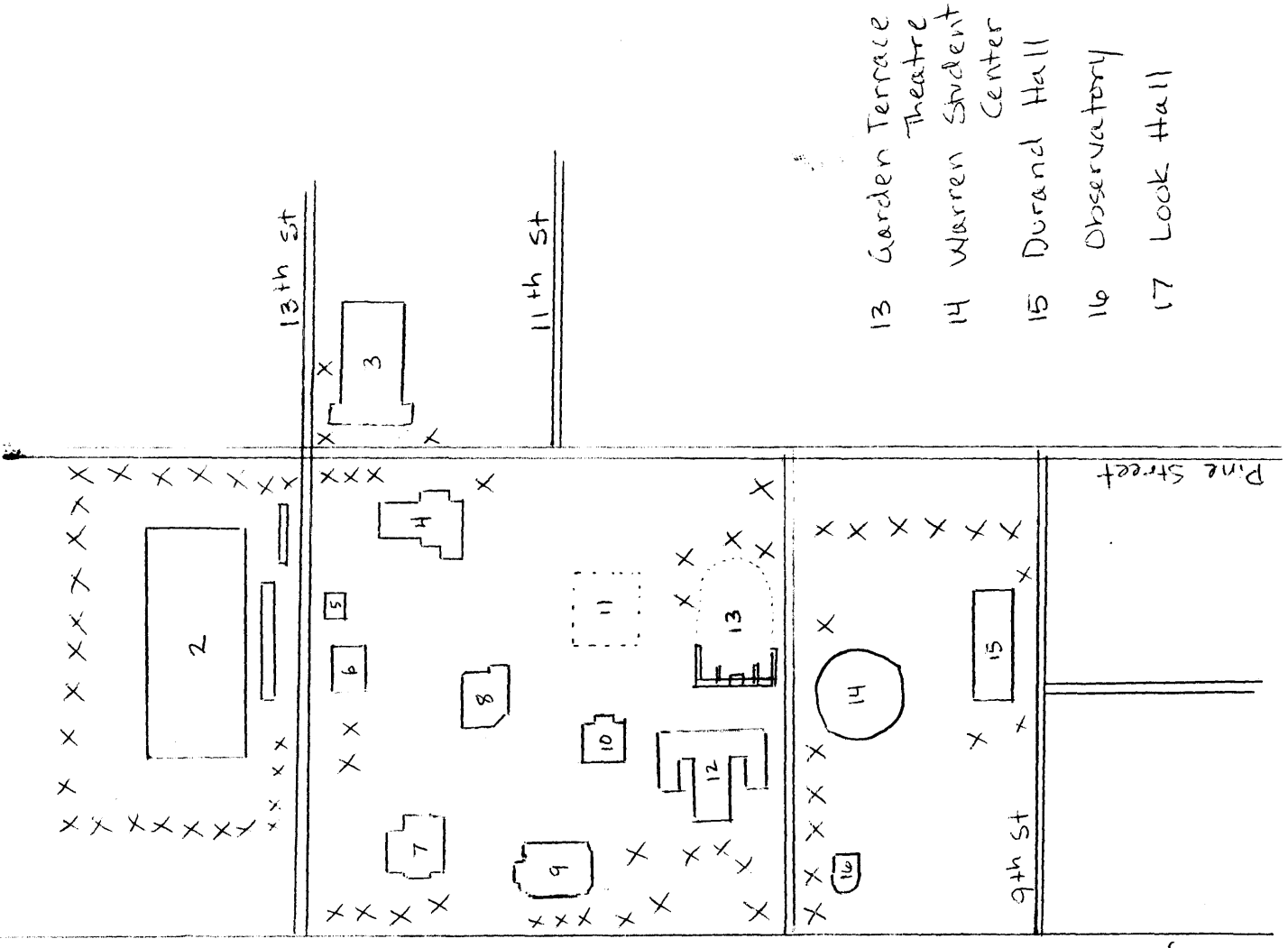
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date entered

Item number 10

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- 13 Garden Terrace Theatre
- 14 Warren Student Center
- 15 Durand Hall
- 16 Observatory
- 17 Look Hall

← 2

KEY

- 2 Crane Youngworth Field
- 3 Nash Gymnasium
- 4 Kingsbury Hall
- 5 Maintenance Building
- 6 Fargo Union
- 7 Ward Hall
- 8 Conservatory
- 9 Library (new)
- 10 Art Building (old library)
- 11 Tennis Courts
- 12 Forbes Hall

Yankton College

SOUTH DAKOTA'S MOST SCENIC CAMPUS

12th STREET



BROADWAY AVE. U.S. PAN AMERICAN HI-WAY 81

To Gavins Point Dam and Lewis & Clark Lake



KEY

- 1 HOME OF THE PRESIDENT
- 2 CRANE-YOUNG WORTH FIELD
- 3 NASH GYMNASIUM
- 4 KINGSBURY HALL
- 5 MAINTENANCE BUILDING
- 6 FARGO UNION
- 7 WARD HALL-Administration
- 8 CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
- 9 LIBRARY
- 10 ART BUILDING
- 11 TENNIS COURTS
- 12 FORBES HALL OF SCIENCE
- 13 GARDEN TERRACE THEATRE
- 14 WARREN STUDENT CENTER
- 15 DURAND HALL
- 16 OBSERVATORY
- 17 LOOK HALL