Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA	SHEET
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

1976

STATE

STATE

South Dakota

South Dakota

RECEIVED EB 5

DATE ENTERED

MAY 2 8 1976

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

Pennington County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STF	REET	& 1	NUM	BE	R

	<u>301 St. Joseph S</u>	t	-NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN		P.	CONGRESSIONAL DIST	RICT	
	Rapid City	VICINITY OF	2		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
	South Dakota	046	Pennington	103	

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	APUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XXBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	XGOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Pennington County

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

Rapid City ____ VICINITY OF 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Pennington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

4...

Rapid City 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

301 St. Joseph St.

South Dakota Historical	Sites Survey
March 1974	FEDERAL XSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
FOR	
DRD9Historical Preservation	Center
vermillion	State South Dakota
	^{FOR} D RD Historical Preservation

7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
EXCELLENT X-GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED _XALTERED	_XORIGINAL S MOVED	DATE

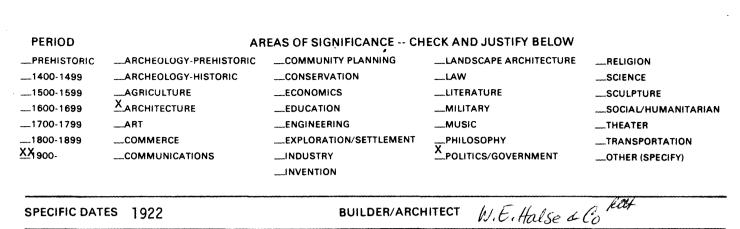
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three-story Pennington County Courthouse is 124 feet long and 102 feet, 10 inches wide. It uses a light select grey stock of Indiana oolitic limestone from the Bedford district as its facing material, which appears in block form 12 by 12 inches. The building utilizes terra cotta for its trim.

The architectural firm of W.E. Halse and Company gave the building a simplified Beaux Arts design. The front facade displays four sets of coupled columns with round arched windows between them. These fluted columns are of the Ionic order and support a medallion decorated frieze and a denticulated cornice, and these continue around the structure. The three round arched windows are two stories high with keystones and have a considerable amount of muntin. The main door is of wood construction with number fourteen gauge cold-rolled bronze plates as covering. Iron grill work divides these double door's window panes and opaque transom light. The encasement features floral medallions, a denticulated cornice and a cartouche. The projection of the podium that flanks each side of the steps displays typical Beaux Arts cast iron light fixtures.

The remaining portion of the building is rather plain, with the exception of the fluted pilasters divided by the first and second story windows. These openings are mildly distracting with modern window panes and colored transoms. The third floor windows are smaller and grouped in pairs. The rear entrance features a pedimental surround. Also the major exterior alteration appears here, an elevator shaft.

A pink Kastate marble along with plaster comprise the major interior materials. Some trim and office furniture are steel, painted brown to resemble wood. The most impressive interior features are Corinthian columns, two curved marble staircases on each side of the building and a balustrade on the second floor. At one time the building had a dome, but it was closed off to add office space in the 1960's.



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Pennington County Courthouse is the only example of Beaux Arts classicism in Rapid City, and one of the few examples in the state. W.E. Halse and Company designed this 1922 building, and it is one of the city's most visible landmarks. The Bedford limestone wall, coupled columns, and tall, round arched windows created an attractive structure.

Of course, the building is significant as the center of county government, with various offices such as Auditor, Register of Deeds, and Treasurer being housed here. It is also a legal center with the circuit and county judges presiding in the building. Over the years various events have occurred within the walls that shaped the history of Pennington County.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Halse, W. E. and Company, "Architectural Plans for Pennington County Courthouse," Located at Pennington County Courthouse, Rapid City, SD.

UTM REFERENCES	ICAL DATA			
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STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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