

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

12812

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

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

AND/OR COMMON Pennington County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Rapid City

— VICINITY OF
CODE

COUNTY 2 CODE

STATE South Dakota

046

Pennington 103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 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 checked="" 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

Pennington County

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

CITY, TOWN

Rapid City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pennington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph St.

CITY, TOWN

Rapid City

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1974

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

South Dakota

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

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.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

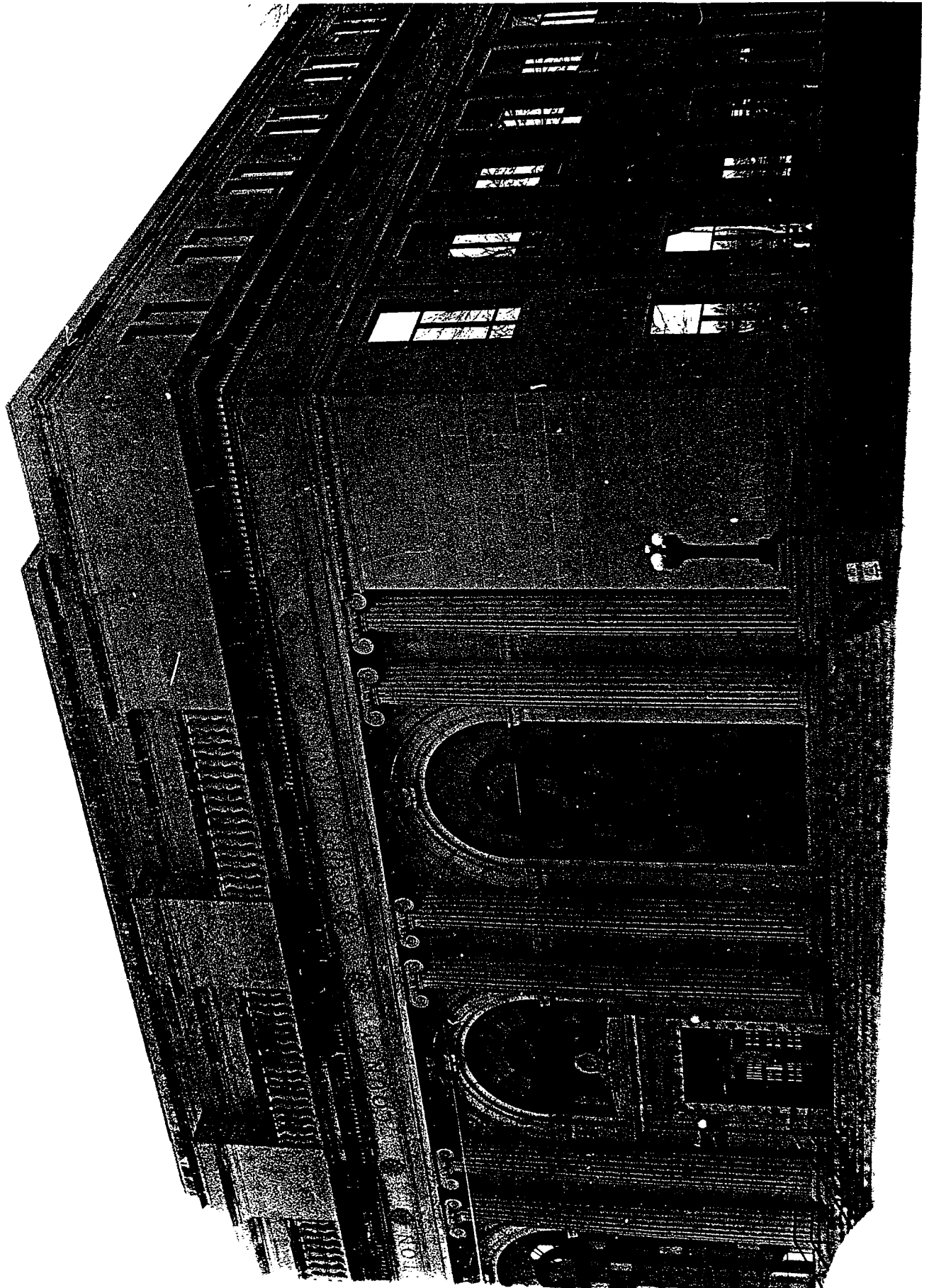
SPECIFIC DATES 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

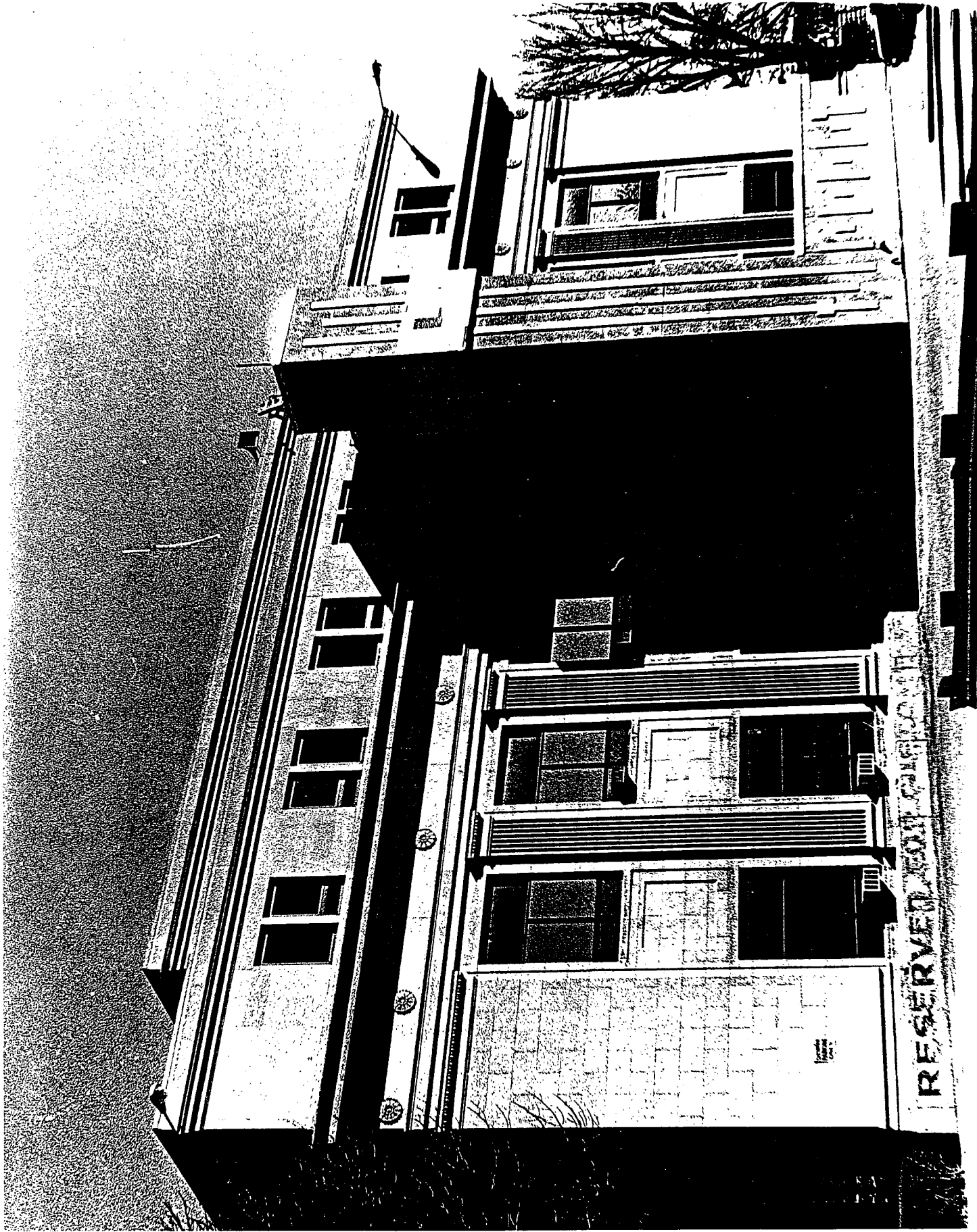
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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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