

SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORIC INVENTORY

Historic Name Rapid City Fire Hall

Location 610 Main Street

Historic

Function Fire Station and Police Department

Historic Context(s)

Topic V. Depression and Rebuilding

Study Unit 1 c. Civic Improvements & New

Study Unit 2 Government-Related Structures

Owner's Name Stephen McCarthy

Owner's Address P.O. Box 9041
R.C. 57709

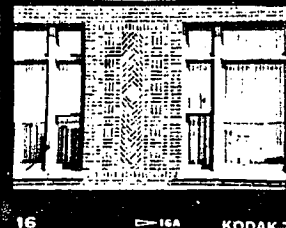
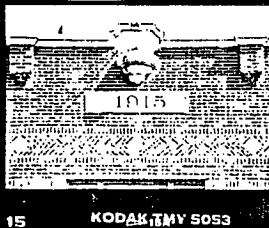
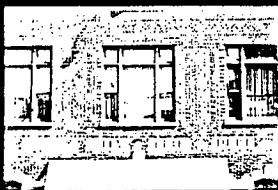
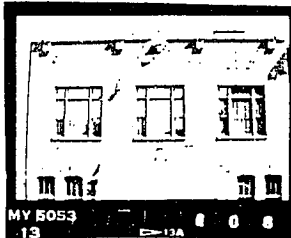
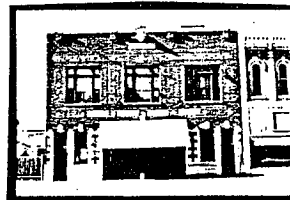
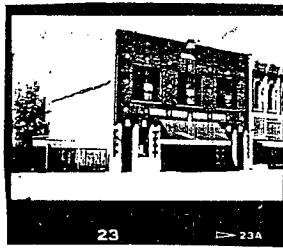
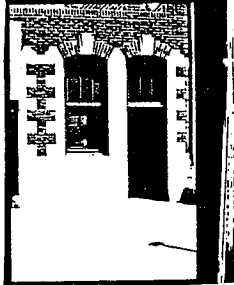
Owner's Phone # 343 1165

Dates of Construction and Founding

1915-16

Roll # 2; 4; 11; 18 Frame # 3, 4; 23; 33; 13-16

Attach Photos Here ↓



Site Number

PN		RC		14
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County

Township Name

City (Urban)

Neighborhood (Urban)

Number

U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name

Lots 26-28, Block 74, Original Townsite

Legal Description

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Q1

Q2

Sec

T

R

Surveyors Michael Koop

Date June 1990

NR Eligible

Historic Significance

Local

Architect. Sign

State

Archaeological Sign

Nat'l

Urban only

A

B

C

D

Floor Plans of Major Buildings; Indicate Room Functions

The two-story, 50' x 89' fire station is a symmetrical three bay building constructed on a coursed, smooth-faced Fall River sandstone foundation with running bond dark brown brick walls. On the first floor two large arched wood and glass doors are flanked by a $\frac{3}{4}$ double hung window and an entrance. The openings are framed by stone and feature soldier brick segmental arches with keystones.

Four stone name plates with "RAPID CITY FIRE DEPT" are centered above and accented by diamond-shaped stone insets and panels of tumbled and header bricks. Across the second floor are three identical windows, each with a large $\frac{1}{2}$ double hung sash, sidelights, and transoms. A small stone inset with "1915" is centered above the windows. Four simple brick corbels and a beehive-like stone decoration project below the parapet, which has a stone coping. There is 65'-high brick bell and hose tower at the northeast corner of the building. Part of the west wall appears to have been sandblasted. The interior has a pressed metal ceiling, exposed brick wall, and the original brass firemen's pole. This building was rehabilitated in 1977.

Site Number/Code	Date of Bldg.	Function/Bldg.	Photo Info.	Date of Bldg.	Function/Bldg.	Photo Info.	Date of Bldg.	Function/Bldg.	Photo Info.
PW-RC-14	1915-16	Fire Hall							
Materials	Sandstone								
Method of Construction	Smooth-faced course								
Design Details									
Condition	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	
Materials	brick and stone								
Method of Construction	running bond								
Design Details	openings formed by stone								
Condition	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	
Materials	tar and gravel								
Method of Construction									
Design Details									
Shape	flat								
Condition	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	
Interior Features - Moldings, Fireplaces, Org. cabinets, Wall decoration	exposed brick wall original brass pole pressed metal ceiling								
Condition	deteriorated _____ altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	

CONTEXT

Site Number/Code PN-RC-14

Statement of Significance As It Relates to the Context Topics & Study Units.

The Rapid City Fire Hall is historically significant in the context of Depression and Rebuilding, 1893-1929 because it represents a typical early 20th Century civic improvement common to urban areas.

Sources of Information

Oral Interview (name & dates) Rapid City Daily Journal 30 March 1915 p. 5; 7 April 1915 p. 6; 27 April 1915 p. 5; 8 June 1915 p. 8; 19 October 1915 p. 8; 10 May 1916 pp 1-2; 18 May

Atlas (date & publisher) 1916 p. 5; 21 May 1916 p. 5

County History (name & pages)

Deed Abstract Building permit

Tax Records Assessment in Equalization Office

Sanborn-Ferris Maps (dates) 1915, 1923, 1930

Census Records

Historic Photos (description & date)

Manuscripts (name & date)

ARRIVES IN CITY AND IS EXHIBITED

NEW INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER FIRE TRUCK SHOWN
HERE YESTERDAY

DESCRIPTION OF NEW FIRE HALL

Journal Reporter Pays Visit to New Home of Fire Boys and Tells What He Saw

The Rapid City Fire department's new chemical ladder truck arrived via the Pierre, Rapid City freight, was unloaded, exhibited on the streets and duly installed in its place in the new Fire Hall.

This machine weighs 4,600 pounds without equipment, is fifty horse power, with 2,000 pounds carrying capacity. It carries a forty gallon chemical tank, as well and two five gallon tanks for use in hand fire fighting; one roof and one extension ladder and fifty feet of chemical hose on a reel. The chassis of this machine was made by the International Harvester Company, the

equipment was supplied by W. S. Nott Company of Minneapolis, by whom the machine was shipped on four months trial. At present it is in charge of Bob Holcomb, who is training Charles Gay and William Napier in its use. One or the other of these men will always be in the building ready for action. This work will be divided into day and night shifts, so a driver will never be missing when an alarm is turned in.

The Fire Hall is also the police headquarters, and henceforth any one wishing to turn in an alarm or call the police, should call 46. An electric gong has been installed, and connected with telephone headquarters. Besides the truck the department has three hose cars, one drying rack and an extra chemical engine, and thirty two hundred feet of hose in all, of which 500 feet are kept at the mill, and 700 feet in North Rapid.

By courtesy of Fire Chief McElroy the reporter was shown about the building which certainly is a credit to the city, and one of which smaller cities might well be proud. Upstairs and to the north is a large meeting room, with seats, and a complete kitchen apparatus, including stove, dishes, sink, everything that should go with a first class club kitchen. In this room also are kept the banners won at different times by the local teams which have al-

Sweden's King

By Associated Press.

Stockholm, May 9.—The Aftenbladet prints a rumor of an unsuccessful plot of socialists and anarchists against the life of the King of Sweden in revenge for the conviction of three socialist leaders by the anti-militaristic congress recently. The plot was foiled by a cordon of detectives guarding the king at the horse show.

Democrats Strong for Wilson in Texas

By Associated Press.

Dallas, May 9.—County conventions uniformly endorsed Wilson and instructed for his re-nomination. Republicans had no instructions for president. They favored H. F. McGregor, said to be opposed to Roosevelt, for national committeeman. The progressives were instructed for Roosevelt in two counties but in others had no instructions.

Denver Repudiates Commission Rule

By Associated Press.

Denver, May 9.—The commission form of government was repudiated at a special election and Robert W. Speer returned to the office of mayor. His majority was probably 10,000.

Attends Meeting Secretaries Federation

By Associated Press.

Secretary J. K. Hall of the Commercial club, left yesterday morning overland in his car for Sturgis, where he attended the session of the Federation of commercial club secretaries of the Black Hills which met this month at Sturgis. W. H. Baldwin, district manager of the Pioneer Life insurance company of Fargo, N. D., who is located here, accompanied Mr. Hall on the trip yesterday morning and returned on the evening train. Mr. Hall will drive home this morning.

Railway Developers

GUARD TO

By Associated Press.

Washington, May 9.—The addition of additional troops under the move to Mexico, including 4,000 National Guardsmen from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, the administration officials felt that the necessary steps had been taken to prevent American border towns from suffering raiding by the Mexican bandits.

President Wilson and his cabinet discussed the Mexico situation before the advisors arrived at the White House. General Funston and Scott recommended that additional forces be sent to the border. The exchange of telegrams between Funston and Scott suggested that the National Guardsmen from the three states should be called out, in addition to all of the remaining regulars.

Some of the members of the cabinet were frankly pessimistic at Obregon's delay in ratifying the agreement negotiated with Scott regarding the co-operative border operations.

Reports from Mexico indicate that the agreement had been accepted by General Carranza. The officials are unable to understand Obregon's actions.

Including the troops ordered to the border or in Mexico, officials anticipate a spurt in enlistments.

Send Four Troops Cavalry to Bouquilla

By Associated Press.

Marathon, May 9.—Four troops of cavalry are enroute to Bouquilla where Col. F. W. Sibley, after a conference with Major Langhorne, determine what shall be the disposition.

A long range fight across the Grande between a detachment of American soldiers and the bandits near Bouquilla occurred yesterday. Captain Casper Cole reported that he did not believe any one was killed or injured. Captain Fox of Texas Rangers, believes several Mexicans were hit.

Cole believed that several bodies of bandits were operating south of the river. He is convinced there are many Mexican sympathizers on the American side of the river. He said he believed that a large number of men forded the Rio Grande in pursuit of the bandits.

Eight armed Mexicans were reported killed on Monday by the rangers.

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10 May 1916 p. 1

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 (Continued on Page Two)

Renew Attacks on the Wooden Shingle

By Associated Press.
 Chicago, May 9. — Renewed attacks on the wooden shingle were made in a report by the committee on Public Information to the National Fire Protection Association at its annual meeting here today. The report pointed to recent conflagrations at Paris, Tex., Nashville, Tenn., and Augusta, Ga., as proof that the wooden shingle is a menace. Nothing...

Commission Rule

By Associated Press.
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Railway Developers Hold Annual Meeting

Special to the Journal.
 New Orleans, May 29. — The Railway Development Association, made up of representatives of all the big trunk lines of the country, opened its annual convention here today. How to promote immigration, agricultural development and industrial progress is the theme for the sessions, which extend for three days. The railroads in each section of the country have had much to do with development, and there is an annual conference on the methods.

Report Prairie Fires East of Rapid City

Reports were received in the city last evening of two prairie fires east of the city, one occurring near the Freeman Lewis ranch and another near the Sam Morris ranch. It was stated that on account of the high winds there was some danger of the buildings on the Morris ranch being burned but they were saved, it was reported, by the work of the volunteer fire fighters. As far as could be learned no damage was done.

actions. Including the troops at the border or in Mexico to help a part in...

Send Four Troop Cavalry to B...

By Associated Press.
 Marathon, May 9. — The cavalry are enroute to where Col. F. W. Sibbey conference with Major Lee determining what shall be done.

A long range battle Grande between the American soldiers and near Bonquillo a... Captain Casper... he did not believe any or injured. Captain Texas Rangers... were hit.

Col. believed... bodies of bandits... south of the river. He there are many Mexicans on the American side. He said he believed... of men feared the in pursuit of the band.

Eight-armed... reported killed on Monday...

Thousands Ad Many Workers

By Associated Press.
 Chicago, May 9. — Men have been added ready on a strike. Sixters of the Amalgam Workers quit. Three ployes in local tannery. They demand an increase of five per cent in wages an offer of thirty. The Chicago Screw company at the Peter Schuettler pañy, quit when their refused.

Can't Afford Disc

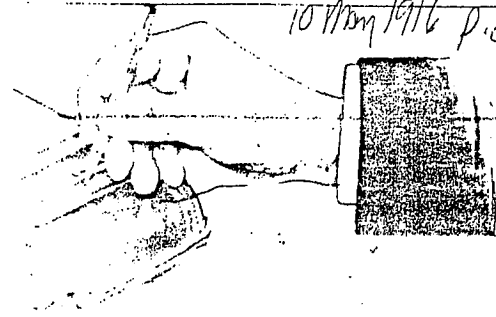
By Associated Press.
 Minneapolis, May... representing the... humanity can no keep its women... serted Dr. Frank... of Minnesota... leading... this country, in...

Min. Vol. C. 1

National Bank

South Dakota

RESERVE ASSOCIATION



Public Diary
With an Autographic Kodak
Household. The Biographer of
the Baby.

of the year tells the whole story ac-
ord is a pleasure in the keeping.
ctory and the Kodak Album to keep
Photographic department.

Ward's
STORE

Take A Bath

THE TEAKETTLE

a Gas Water Heater in your
of Hot Water any time and

Gas Light Company

and get water in thirty five and
forty seconds.

By the way, the equipment of the
club rooms was furnished by the
men themselves, and is the personal
property of the members.

A balcony runs across the north
wall downstairs, and off this balcony
are four bedrooms, completely furn-
ished, equipped with both gas and
electric lights, and steam heated. In
addition to the truck driver who will
always be on duty, two men will be
retired from each company to occupy
these rooms, so the city will always
have a force of nine men on night
duty. A sliding pole ran from the bal-
cony to the floor, but was taken out
after trial, as it was considered an
unnecessary expense, the men mak-
ing as good time via the stairs. Each
bedroom has ample closet space.

On the west wall down stairs is a
large print map of the city, to en-

ables with the streets and avenues
and to locate instantly any fire
when the alarm is turned in. The ex-
treme west room is under the bell
and hose tower and is being equi-
ped with apparatus for raising and
drying the hose. Next to this is a
bath room, equipped with tubs and
showers, for which hot water is al-
ways available, heated by a special
heater in the basement. This heater
is in addition to the steam plant
which heats the entire building. The
police headquarters are in a com-
modious room, just west of the show-
ers, and next is the office of Chief
McElroy and Secretary Traut. An
extra room is provided for a work
room, and the men are planning to
put in a tennis court back of the
bell tower.

In short everything in the build-
ing is planned for the convenience
and comfort of the men, and for the
utmost efficiency of the force. The
Chief has posted a set of rules gov-
erning the conduct of the force and
of visitors while in the building, and
he states that he intends to enforce
them to the letter. The opening will
be held on the night of the 20th
of this month, and citizens who are
fortunate enough to be present will
certainly be impressed with the
completeness of the equipment, and
the wisdom of an investment of this
nature.

The completion of this building
has rendered obsolete some ancient
buildings, which it will replace. The
old Tom Sweeney Hose House on the
Gramberg corner has been given to
Mrs. Gramberg, for the work of tear-
ing it down and hauling it away. The
bell tower back of the city hall is
the property of the city, and no
doubt will be torn down and sold for
quite a respectable figure, as it was
built when lumber was cheap, and
only the best was used in construc-
tion of this sort.

—One system, sure, safe, sound.

THISS LIGHT SPRAY

their representative in this district.
For information, and terms address

1121 Clark St., Rapid City, S. D.
Phone Red 366.

The Spring Has Come

Summer on the way.

Finke, the Tailor Makes Clothes
for the rich and poor. A fine line
of cloth samples to select from

Neat Repairing and Cleaning
a Specialty

D. FINKE, the Tailor

528 Main St. Rapid City

GLENDINNINGS

FLORIST

Cut Flowers, Flower Displays
For Plants,
Winter Vegetables.

With our 12,000 square feet of
glass and 20 years experience
in all branches of horticulture
we do a general green house
business.

GLENDINNINGS

RAPID CITY - SOUTH DAKOTA



HISTORY

Date of founding of institution or of settlement _____

Previous owners of the site _____

First owners _____
and dates _____
of ownership _____

Place of origin of owners _____

Date owners came to SD (& USA) _____

Occupation of owners _____

Historic owners: religious affiliation _____

Historic owners: social (fraternal) affiliations _____

Historic uses of the site (& buildings) Fire station and police department

Builder's name J. L. Robbins

Architect's name Wilfred W. Beach

Date of commission _____ Date of construction 1915-16

History (attach research materials to file)

J. L. Robbins was given the contract to construct the Fire Hall for \$7,840. A man named A. Emerick was awarded the contract for electrical wiring, and Hutton and Lane finished the interior. Over 180 people attended the dedication ceremony on 21 May 1916.