

**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 and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in 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.

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**1. Name of Property**

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historic name Casper Supply Company of SD  
other names/site number Parts Central

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**2. Location**

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street & number 415 Main Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Rapid City Vicinity N/A  
state South Dakota Code SD county Pennington code 103 zip code 57701

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**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	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.) N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Specialty Store

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Specialty Store

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement: Art Deco

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete

Roof Other: Composite

Walls Brick

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

See Continuation Sheets

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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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)

Architecture  
Community Planning and Development  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Casper Supply Company  
Name of Property

Pennington County, South Dakota  
County and State

**Significant Person** N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** E. L. Henry

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

See Continuation Sheets

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(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: Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission



Casper Supply Company  
Name of Property

Pennington County, South Dakota  
County and State

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## Property Owner

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

name Janet Carlon  
street & number 3769 Johnson Ave telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Gowrie state IA zip code 50543

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**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.

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Constructed in 1946, the Casper Supply Company building is a simple representation of the Art Deco movement that also features elements of the Moderne style. The building is located in downtown Rapid City, South Dakota on a wide one-way street. It is located within a block of the Rapid City Downtown Historic District. There are several individually listed buildings in the surrounding area as well. Buildings to either side of the parts store are not historic. Immediately to the west side of the building is an open parking lot; while to the east is a parking lot in front of another business with a large setback.

The building has a concrete foundation, a flat roof with a parapet, topped by a narrow, concrete coping and brick walls in a common bond with six stretcher rows between each header row. The façade (north) of the building is symmetrical and features a central entry. On either side of the double doors is a vertical pilaster element. These elements have two-foot high concrete bases and brick shafts. The brick is set in an alternating vertical pattern of headers with four columns of brick set out and three set in. Above the front doors is a single course of soldier bricks. Above this course of bricks is a glass block window. The window features six-inch square blocks with eight set vertically and fourteen horizontally. Finally, above the glass block window is a section of brick set in a decorative pattern. A checkerboard pattern is formed by alternating groups of three stretcher and three soldier bricks. This patterned section of brick and the pilasters rise two feet above the roofline and have a narrow cast concrete cap. A non-historic sign hangs in the center of the decorative brick.

Located on either side of the central entryway are large storefront windows. The windows are rectangular at the end nearest the entry and from half circles at the ends away from the entry. Originally the windows were divided into two large panes, one rectangular and one U-shaped. In 1968 the windows were divided into seven sections. The end has been formed into a semicircle and filled in. The rest of the window has been divided into three smaller panes over three larger panes. The original wood framing around the windows remains intact.

The east elevation of the building features a glass block window, five blocks high by ten blocks wide. To the south of this window are four multi-light windows. These fixed windows are four lights high by two lights wide. All of the windows have brick sills. Set halfway back on this elevation, a neighboring building is attached to this building. The buildings are not related historically and do not have an opening between them. The west elevation of the Casper Supply Company building has no openings.

The rear (south) elevation features a central pair of metal doors. Approximately four feet to either side of this entry are large, fixed, multi-light windows. The windows are four lights high by six lights wide. This elevation does not have a parapet at the roofline. There is a flat roofed, rectangular



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structure located on the roof near the rear of the building. This structure serves as the housing for the store's service elevator. A concrete loading dock runs from just west of the doorway across the back of the building to an addition constructed at the southeast corner of the building in about 1968. This small, flat roof addition features two garage-type doors. One door opens onto the deck while the other opens over a sloped ramp constructed for semi-trailer unloading.

The interior of the building has seen very few changes over the years other than cosmetic decorative changes. The front part of the store features shelves for displaying goods and a service counter located in the center of the building as you enter the building. To the east of the service counter are small offices and a restroom. In the center of the store is the stairway to the basement. At the rear of the store is an original service elevator used to move materials down to the basement for storage. The floors in the store are concrete except for the very rear of the store where the service elevator is located. These floors are wide, hard wood.

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### Statement of Significance:

The Casper Supply Company building is significant for its architecture and because it shows a period of growth in Rapid City, South Dakota. This period of growth and prosperity mirrored the post WWII economy occurring across the nation. In 1946, E. L. Henry designed this Art Deco structure, with Moderne elements, to house a car parts and small appliance store. Its significance as one of a handful of buildings in Rapid City constructed in the style of the Modern Movement is undeniable. The building, constructed completely of concrete and brick, was so architecturally sound, that for years people of Rapid City considered it a fallout shelter in case of nuclear attack. In 1968, Christian Hoseth bought the building and changed it to strictly a car parts store, Parts Central. It was at this time that most of the alterations occurred to the building. For over fifty years the Casper Supply Company building has continued to reflect its history, both in its architecture and its continuing commercial function.

During the mid-1940s, the American people experienced a period of renewal and growth. The Depression of the 1930s was fading from memory and the conclusion of World War II brought a sense of prosperity and hope for the future. All over the country businesses were booming and towns were growing. The built environment that resulted from this era reflects the optimism of the nation. Rapid City, South Dakota was no exception to this national excitement. In the early 1940s, the United States Army located an air base near Rapid City. The establishment of what is now known as Ellsworth Air Force Base created a huge impact on the city by providing employment opportunities and a continuing supply of consumers. Not only was the military taking notice of Rapid City, so was the American public. With the increase in tourism after the Depression and war, Rapid City gained the label "Gateway to the Hills" and became a major destination for tourists visiting the Black Hills and surrounding sites. These two factors, in addition to new highway improvements, Forest Service involvement and the establishment of recreational sites, were major contributors to this period of economic growth.

Such economic prosperity can be seen today in the surviving architecture of the period. The Casper Supply Company building, for example, is one of only a few structures in Rapid City built in the Art Deco style. Although Art Deco was most prominent further east during the 1920s and 1930s, it sometimes took several years for fashionable trends to reach westward to the Great Plains. The Modern Movement in architecture was a digression from earlier, highly ornamented, classic styles. Architects used flat surfaces and symmetry to mimic the streamlined industrial design being used for ships, airplanes, and automobiles. The Casper Supply Company building has many of the Art Deco characteristics. The flat wall surface, decorative brickwork, and the vertical emphasis of the pilasters, which rise above the roofline. As with many buildings from this time, a combination of the Moderne

Casper Supply Company  
Name of Property

Pennington County, South Dakota  
County and State

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(5-86)

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style can be seen with the Art Deco style. These elements include rounded windows and glass block.

Minor alterations to the building exterior and interior have not compromised its ability to reflect its modern movement architecture. The replacement of the front windows and doors, although an alteration, do not detract from the original design of the façade. The interior has seen little alteration; even the service elevator in use today was installed in 1946.

The Casper Supply Company building is important to Rapid City as a historic reflection of the growth of the city after WWII. For more than fifty years the property has served as car parts store, meeting a special retail need for the city. The building is also significant as a surviving example of the Art Deco style in Rapid City.

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Name of Property

Pennington County, South Dakota  
County and State

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## Bibliography:

Erpestad, David and David Wood. Building South Dakota. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1992.

Miller, David B. Gateway to the Hills. An Illustrated History of Rapid City. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications Inc., 1985.

Weber, Eva. Art Deco in America. New York: Bison Books Corporation, 1985.

## Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 7 and 8, Block 86 Original Town of Rapid City

## Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes all of the property historically associated with the building.

Casper Supply Company

Name of Property

Pennington County, South Dakota

County and State

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All photos taken March, 2000 by Stephen Rogers. Negatives on file at SHPO, Pierre, SD.

1. view of façade and east elevation, camera facing sw.
- 2.