

March 8, 2011

City of Rapid City
Rapid City Council

On January 18, 2011 the Rapid City Council approved a resolution supporting the placement of a historic marker/plaque honoring Calvin Coolidge's announcement that he would not seek another term as president. Destination Rapid City is requesting that this historic marker/plaque be declared a public purpose sign. This sign will be located at the northwest corner of Dakota Middle School near the sidewalk for ease of public access.

Destination Rapid City

This application is for the installation of a public purpose sign to be located at the northwest corner of what is now known as Dakota Middle School. The location, per attached photo, will be on the south side of the sidewalk, allowing access to the sign without requiring interested parties to cross onto school property. The purpose of the sign is to inform the public of the history of Coolidge High School and the part that it played in the history of the presidency of the United States.

The 24" x 36" sign will be constructed of enamel and covered by a sheet of Plexiglass for protection and will be mounted on a 4 x 4 metal post. Sign colors will be brown on cream or black on white. The sign is consistent with the signs that have been installed in our downtown depicting our historic buildings.

NO. 2011-004

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF A HISTORIC
MARKER/PLAQUE HONORING CALVIN COOLIDGE'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
HE WOULD NOT SEEK ANOTHER TERM AS PRESIDENT.**

WHEREAS, Calvin Coolidge was the 30th president of the United States serving from August 2, 1923 to March 4, 1929; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Calvin Coolidge spent the summer of 1927 in the Black Hills of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, this was the first time a sitting President had spent a summer west of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 1927, President Coolidge announced in Rapid City "I do not choose to run for President in 1928"; and

WHEREAS, President Coolidge's announcement took on iconic form in the 1920's and was one of the biggest news stories in 1927; and

WHEREAS, President Coolidge's announcement was made at the high school campus in Rapid City, the east wing of which is now part of Dakota Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Destination Rapid City has proposed placing a historical marker/plaque at the 600 Block of Columbus Street in honor of this historic event; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council City of Rapid City believes it is appropriate to commemorate the location of President Coolidge's historic announcement; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rapid City Common Council that the City officially supports Destination Rapid City's placement of a historical marker/plaque in the 600 block of Columbus Street in honor of President Calvin Coolidge.

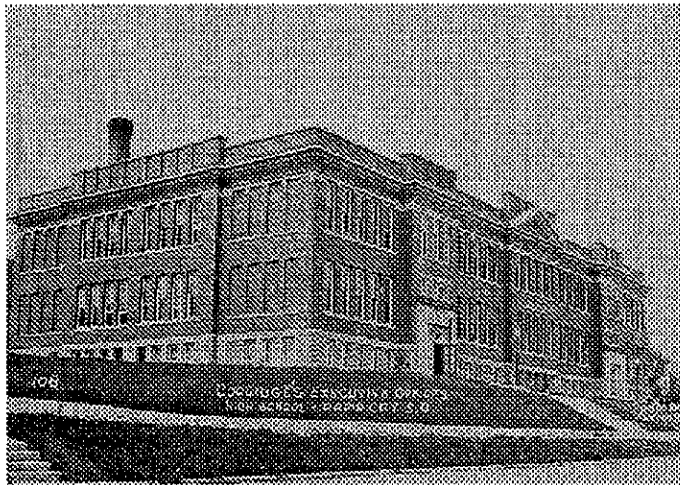
Dated this _____ day of _____, 2011.

CITY OF RAPID CITY

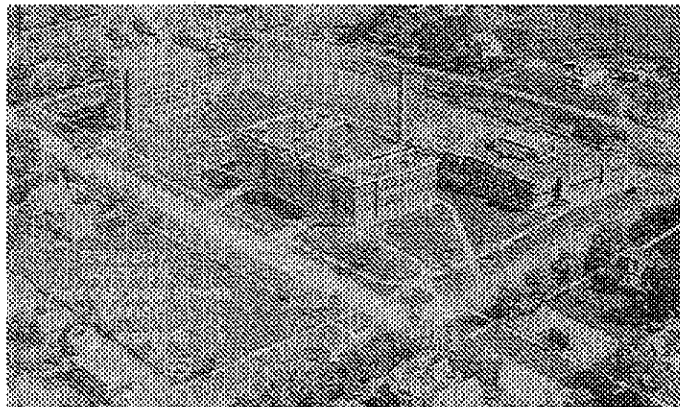
By: _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

Finance Officer
(SEAL)



Coolidge High School



East wing

Coolidge High School

Washington
Elementary School

Executive Office President Calvin Coolidge

In 1927, President Coolidge vacationed in the Black Hills and made Custer State Park his "summer White House." He used the 1913 Rapid City High School for his executive offices. It is from this location on August 2, 1927, that he released his famous statement:

"I do not choose to run for President in 1928."

It was renamed Coolidge High School in his honor.



President Coolidge on school steps (above), arriving in Rapid City (below left), and with band in front of school (below right).



Construction on a new high school began in 1922 with the east wing completed in 1923. The remainder of the new school was completed in 1937. The 1923 east wing is all that remains at this location from the summer of Coolidge's occupancy. Coolidge High School was razed in 1970 after being damaged by the fire that destroyed the adjacent 1918 Washington Elementary School.

Rapid City High School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places June 28, 2010.

Courtesy of
Historic Rapid City, Destination Rapid City
and friends of our history, 2011
Photos courtesy of Patrick Roseland and John F. Storm



