

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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style is another variant in this movement. The Elks Building (#63) is the only example of the Spanish variant in the district (fig. 8). The Elks building served as not only a meeting hall, but a movie theater and center for the community. It is constructed of tan brick to simulate stucco and adobe materials. It has decorative pilasters, arched entrances, and a decorative parapet.

The Alex Johnson Hotel provides an interesting bridge of revival styles between two periods (fig. 3). The hotel blends the popular Tudor revival style with the new skyscraper form coming from larger cities. The top story has the half-timbered facade with gable end dormers to provide the capital for the skyscraper. The five stories below the capital use the typical running bond brick forming the column. The base of the skyscraper is the lower two stories with large 1/1 double hung windows with a stone surrounds and transoms. The structure is one of the most visible and unique structures in the downtown area.

The Craftsman style is also present in the historic district. Mail order house plans were very popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Many people patterned their homes and businesses are mail order house, even if they did not order them from the company. The Hill Apartments (#53) was patterned after No. 131 from the Sears, Roebuck and Company Catalog.<sup>4</sup> The size and difference in floor plan are not identical enough to be ordered from the catalog, but the style is definitely similar (fig. 12).

The third and fourth periods of building began in the 1920 for the Commercial District. At the turn of the century, The Chicago school of architecture started and by the early twentieth century became very popular in a formal style called the Chicago Style and a vernacular version called the Utilitarian style. Since the Rapid City Commercial District served as a retail hub for the region, it also adopted the new technology and modern styles of the twentieth century. Many buildings in the district are classified as Utilitarian, which include: (#1) 430 Main Street Gambles, (#4) 510 Main Street, (#5) 512 Main Street Sears, (#6) 513-19 Main Street, (#7) 521 Main Street, (#8) 523 Main Street, (#10) 605-607 Main Street Haines Building, (#16) 615 Main Street, McNamara Brothers. There are only two examples of the Chicago style, which are (#13) 610 Main Street, the Duhamel Building (fig. 7), and (#13) 610 Main Street, the former Rapid City Fire Hall.

The Moderne and Art Deco Style buildings in the district reflected the post war economic boom bolstered by the air force base and new manufacturing posterity. The Art Deco style is seen in varied degrees throughout the district. The best example of the Art Deco is the Rapid City Business College, (#51) 802 Street Joseph Street. There are also two Art Deco facades 613 Main Street and (#31) 608 Street Joseph Street, Hall Building which cover older buildings, but are good examples of the style. The Utilitarian style occasionally had minimal

<sup>4</sup> H. Ward Jandl and Katherine Cole Stevenson, *Houses By Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*, (New York: Preservation Press, 1986), 338.

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#66

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>NR Status</u>
522-30 6th Street	Duhamel Building		1908	Contributing

**Description:** Chicago; brick (running bond) and stone; 2 stories; irregular plan; flat roof: tar and gravel; \*\*see narrative

**Legal Description:** S 90' Lot 17-20 Lot 21-25 Vac 6th & St. Joe Adj to pt Lot 17 pt of Lot 23 of Block 85 of Original Town of Rapid City

#67

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>NR Status</u>
523 6th Street	Alex Johnson Hotel		1928	Contributing

**Description:** Vernacular commercial adaptation of Tudor Revival; brick (running bond), stone; 9 stories; irregular plan; flat roof: tar and gravel; gable roof: composite shingles. \*\* see narrative

**Legal Description:** Lots 30-32 of Block 84 of Original Town of Rapid City

\* #68

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>NR Status</u>
616 6th Street	City Hall	Renner & Sperlich Engineering	1903	Contributing

**Description:** Colonial Revival; brick (running bond), wood; 1 story; rectangular plan; hip roof - composite shingle; west (main facade) 3 bays arched windows portico; decorative brick pilasters on corners.

**Legal Description:** N 45' Lot 17-20 & W 9' of N 45' Lot 21 of Block 95 of Original Town of Rapid City