

57501 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Building

Other names/site number: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing:
n/a

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 426 St. Joseph St.

City or town: Rapid City State: SD County: Pennington

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____	_____
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ 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
-

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Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Organizational

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Organizational

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Walls: Brick; Roof: Synthetic.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Building (1955) is a two-story, simplified Modernist design faced with yellow buff bricks laid in a running bond over concrete masonry units. The bricks have vertical striations. A large, neon sign (1959) atop the building depicting a cowboy on a horse and reading "SOUTH DAKOTA STOCKGROWERS ASSN." is a defining characteristic of the property. The long, narrow structure has a poured concrete foundation and a flat, synthetic roof with a parapet capped in concrete. The building is located on the eastern periphery of Rapid City's commercial core and is bordered on the east and west by parking lots. The unobstructed view of the neon sign from St. Joseph Street has been part of the Rapid City skyline for over half a century.

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Narrative Description

South Elevation

The south elevation is the front of the building. The top half is clad in brick while the bottom half is clad in stucco. The storefront has a canted, recessed marble entrance with two aluminum/glass doors with transoms. One door accesses the first floor and the other a stairwell to the second floor. To the east of the doors are three, fixed-pane windows with aluminum framing. Above the storefront is "SOUTH DAKOTA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION" in serif script metal letters. The second floor has two large fixed-pane windows covered by a two-part bronzed brise soleil perforated metal screen that is decorative and practical for shade. The metal screen is not original but was added during the building's period of significance.

West Elevation

The west elevation has no openings. Another building adjoins the northwest corner of this elevation.

East Elevation

The east elevation has eight openings with a combination of fixed-pane and casement windows of vinyl and metal. Second-story openings have concrete sills. Two metal vents also puncture the second floor. The east elevation also has a basement entrance with a metal railing located at the southeast corner.

North Elevation

This is the rear of the building that faces the alley. It is stuccoed and has two metal doors along with electrical/mechanical features.

Roof

A large, neon sign (1959) comprised of a cowboy on a horse is located toward the front of the building. The cowboy is colloquially referred to as "the midnight rider." Steel cables secure the sign to the building.

Interior

The first floor is primarily comprised of office space and a conference room. Drywall partitions frame the space, and the large conference room features an asbestos popcorn ceiling, asbestos floor tiles (pink and brown), built-in wood sliding door closets, and fluorescent lighting with aluminum slats. The second floor is primarily office space with wood paneling and paneled wallboard. Bathrooms and water fountains are found on both floors. Concrete masonry unit walls are exposed in the basement and the ceiling steel truss system is visible.

Summary of Character-Defining Features

- Neon sign
- Brise soleil screen
- Canted recessed entry

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- Brick
- Aluminum case lettering

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8. Statement of Significance

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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1955-1973

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Corner, Howe, and Lee - Builder
Rosenbaum Signs - Sign

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Building (1955) is eligible under Criterion A for Agriculture. Its level of significance is local, but is better described as regional to the West River area of South Dakota where the Association historically had the most impact. It represents one of the oldest and most influential agricultural organizations in the state. No other National Register-eligible buildings with significant associations tied solely to agricultural movements or organizations within the state have been identified. The period of significance begins with its construction in 1955 and ends in 1973, the standard 50-year National Register cutoff.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association

French, Spanish, and American fur traders brought the first cattle into what would become South Dakota, though in very limited numbers as stock raising was never a priority during the fur trade era (c.1790-1860). In 1833, the Western Department of the American Fur Company maintained a 150-head cattle herd at Fort Pierre Chouteau and smaller posts occasionally kept a few head for subsistence. Appreciable numbers of livestock in the region were not present until after the creation of Dakota Territory in 1861.¹

Civilian and military reports on the Territory's stock raising potential were optimistic and foreshadowed development. Lt. Colonel George Custer's 1874 expedition to the Black Hills confirmed more than the mineral wealth of the region. Reports "were effusive" concerning the stock-raising potential of the area.² Custer wrote, "In no portion of the United States, not excepting the famous blue grass of Kentucky, have I ever seen grazing superior to that found growing wild in this hitherto unknown region."³ A.B. Donaldson, botanist for the Custer expedition, recorded that the grazing and dairying potential of the area was better than that of western New York and the Western Reserve in Ohio.⁴ Geologist Walter Jenney and geological assistant Henry Newton also detailed the region's value during their 1875 Black Hills expedition. While their primary goal was to assess mineral values, Jenney along with his military escort Colonel Richard Dodge, recorded the agricultural possibilities of the region. Jenney noted, "The

¹ Harry F. Thompson, editor. *A New South Dakota History*. (Sioux Falls, SD: Center For Western Studies, 2009), 255 & 261.

² Thompson, 261.

³ General G.A. Custer. "Report of General Custer to the Department of Dakota, St. Paul, Minnesota, August 2, 1874, via Fort Laramie." In *Senate Executive Document No. 32, 43rd Congress, 2nd Session, (1875)*. Reprinted in *South Dakota Historical Collections*, VII (1914), 583-594.

⁴ Hyamn Palais. "The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills." *Black Hills Engineer*, v.XXVIII, No.1, 4.

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grazing potential of the Black Hills is most excellent. Nine-tenths of the whole area is covered by a thick growth of the finest wild grasses. It constitutes the great future wealth of the region, and its value can hardly be over estimated (sic).”⁵ Jenney continued, “No matter how rich the gold placers in the Black Hills may prove to be, the great business in this region in the future, will be stock-raising and dairy farming.”⁶ Colonel Dodge agreed stating, “The valleys are broad and covered with excellent grasses. It will be some day the grazing grounds of miriads (sic) of cattle.”⁷

Euro-American development of the northern plains into a stock raising empire faced many obstacles however, first and foremost being American Indian occupation of the land. The United States government would alleviate this situation through a predictable pattern of treaties and wars. The first treaty to open land in South Dakota to non-Native settlement occurred in 1858 when the Yankton (Sioux) ceded approximately 11 million acres east of the Missouri River in exchange for a smaller reservation. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, which among other things placed western South Dakota within the Sioux Reservation, would prove pivotal to the history of regional stock raising. It not only opened eastern Dakota Territory to settlement, but also promised beef rations to tribal members who remained on the reservation. With the United States government obligated to provide one pound of meat daily for every tribal member over the age of four, demand greatly exceeded the local supply. This shortfall resulted in cattlemen driving Texas Longhorns from the southern plains to ranges near the northern plains’ Indian agencies.⁸

Various events in the 1870s also influenced the development of the stock raising industry in South Dakota. News of Custer’s Black Hills expedition set off an illegal gold rush onto the reservation, which the military was unable and unwilling to stop. Congress decided the solution lay not in removing the prospectors from the Black Hills, but in removing the Black Hills from the Sioux Reservation. The Battle of the Little Big Horn (aka Greasy Grass) in June of 1876 had been a military defeat for the Army, but a public relations advantage for the federal government when it came to treaty negotiations. With little sympathy, Congress halted rations until the Sioux agreed to relinquish the Black Hills and far western South Dakota from the reservation through the Sioux Agreement of 1877. This modification to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 opened millions of acres of land into the public domain and ushered in the open range era in western South Dakota.⁹

⁵ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 5-6, As quoted from Walter P. Jenney and Henry Newton, *Report On The Geology and Resources of the Black Hills of Dakota*. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1880), 317-320.

⁶ Palais, “The Cattle Industry in the Black Hills,” 5-6.

⁷ Wayne R. Kime. *The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge*. (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996), 58.

⁸ Thompson, 255 & 259; James Steeley, etal. *History of Agriculture in South Dakota: Components for a Fully Developed Historic Context*. (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2013), 12.

⁹ Thompson, 263; Steeley, 12; I.S. Bartlett. *History of Wyoming, Volume I*. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918), 29; Note, the Sioux Agreement of

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Cattle from Nebraska, Wyoming Territory, Montana Territory, as well as Texas were promptly trailed into the Black Hills and the surrounding prairies. Large cattle outfits, including several capitalized from England, Scotland, and New York, took full advantage of the free grazing while demand from mining camps and the Indian agencies ensured good profits. With no fences or need for supplementary feed, herd numbers soared. In 1884, it is estimated that the range¹⁰ held 700,000 – 800,000 head with over fifty companies, including the Continental, Standard, Vermont, Cresswell, Anglo-American, Flying V, and Sheidley, heavily invested. In 1880, the value of Dakota Territory livestock was estimated at \$6,463,274, a number that grew to over \$43 million by 1888.¹¹

While the open range model offered many advantages to stock raisers, it also brought challenges. Large, intermixed herds scattered over hundreds of thousands of acres caused certain logistical problems that required cattlemen to collaborate. Protection from theft, coordination for roundups, rewards for the apprehension of rustlers, and lobbying for favorable legislation were mutual issues that led to cooperation between cattlemen. Nothing more than loose, regional affiliations at first, livestock associations quickly grew into effective instruments of the northern plains' cattle industry.¹²

The first stock raising alliance in the northwest was established in Colorado Territory in 1867. In 1872, the Laramie County Association in Wyoming Territory was formed and later expanded in 1879 into the broader Wyoming Stock Growers' Association. During the early years of Black Hills settlement, the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association provided inspection and detective services for Dakota cattlemen. Because the Black Hills and foothill ranges were prime trafficking regions for cattle stolen from the Wyoming range it was good business for the Wyoming association to extend their services into western Dakota Territory. Some Dakota Territory producers joined the Wyoming Association outright. V.T. McGillicuddy, Indian Agent for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, registered the agency's brand with the association as did other western Dakota cattlemen who raised stock along the territorial borderlands.¹³

1877 was signed in 1876 and ratified in 1877. Therefore, it is also referenced as the Agreement of 1876.

¹⁰ The range also included portions of Nebraska, Wyoming Territory, and Montana Territory.

¹¹ Steeley, 12; Herbert Schell. *History of South Dakota*. (Omaha, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1964), 245; Steph Jacon and Allyson Brooks. *Homesteading and Agricultural Development Context*. (Vermillion, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Center, 1994), 9-10; Barbara Beving Long. *Open Range Ranching in North Dakota 1870s-1910s: Context Study*. (1996), 7 & 23; Bartlett, 29; Bob Lee and Dick Williams. *Last Grass Frontier*. (Sturgis, SD: Black Hills Publishers, 1964), 102; J. Leonard Jennewein and Jane Boorman, editors. *Dakota Panorama*. (Dakota Territorial Commission, 1961), 31.

¹² Thompson, 269-270.

¹³ Colorado State Library Archives and Special Collections. Identifier: ACCA, *Records of the Colorado Cattleman's Association*; Lee and Williams, 77-83; Bartlett, 614; Thompson, 265; R.A. Larson. *History of Wyoming Second Edition*. (Omaha, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1978), 171.

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In the summer of 1878, the *Deadwood Times* reported the impending organization of a northern Black Hills stock growers' association in Dakota Territory, but it is unclear if it developed. Two years later, an advertisement in the 16 September 1880 edition of the *Black Hills Journal* (Rapid City) proclaimed,

“Stockmen, Attention! There will be a meeting of stock men held in Rapid City, Dakota, October 25, 1880, for the purpose of founding a stock association for Dakota and portions of Nebraska and Wyoming and for the consideration of other business in the interest of stock growers. All are respectively invited to attend.”

At the meeting, twenty-seven charter members organized the Black Hills Livestock Association with the objective to advance and protect local stock growers' interests in the territory. The newfound organization had an immediate impact shepherding eight bills through the 1881 territorial legislature concerning fence laws, brand alterations, and penalties for intentionally starting range fires. By 1882, the association had grown to fifty-two members who had around 264,000 head of cattle on the range. This represented approximately seventy-five percent of the cattle in the Black Hills area and involved many of the large operators. However, by 1884 the Black Hills Livestock Association faded from the historical record. It is presumed to have morphed into smaller organizations, but the history of its precise disbanding is unknown.¹⁴

Dakota stockmen continued to form local affiliations in the mid-1880s to serve their needs. Roundups, a major function of stockmen organizations, continued through loose regional networks. Occurring in the spring and fall, roundups brought stock raisers together and provided time to strengthen industry relationships as they communally gathered cattle from the open range. Several associations including the Black Hills Stock Association, Black Hills Stockmen's Protection Association, Fall River Stockgrowers Association, Black Hills Breeders Association, and Black Hills Protective Association organized in and around the Black Hills during this period.¹⁵

The late 1880s brought significant impacts to the cattle industry in western Dakota Territory. First, the devastating winter of 1886-87 reset the paradigm of open range cattle production on the northern plains. Deep snow and severe weather brought herd losses of up to 80-90% for some of the largest operators, resulting in them leaving the business for good. Those who stayed learned that putting up winter forage and investing in breed diversification were necessary to continue. Second, the breakup of the Sioux Reservation in 1889 placed an additional nine million acres into the public domain. This presented challenges and opportunities to stock raisers who welcomed the additional free range but not the influx of homesteaders who increasingly claimed desirable stretches of land. In 1892, around thirteen prominent stockmen gathered in Rapid City

¹⁴ *Black Hills Journal*, 16 Sept 1880; Thompson, 265-275; Schell, 249; Lee and Williams, 77-83, 85-86 & 92; Long, 10.

¹⁵ Thompson, 270-71; Lee and Williams, 85-86.

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to discuss these issues at the first meeting of the Western South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.¹⁶

Some of the association's first actions, after electing H.A. "Lon" Goddard president, included hiring a range detective at \$125 a month and setting a voluntary two-cent a head assessment on cattle for an inspection fund. It also arranged for brand inspections at shipping points and stockyards. A five-dollar annual dues fee was also set for membership, which was open to any stockman operating in the counties west of the Missouri River. By 1894, the association was the largest in the state with 240 members. Other stock raising organizations in the state, including the Missouri River Stockmen's Association, continued to operate but were less influential when it came to legislation.¹⁷

In the late 1890s, the Western South Dakota Stockgrowers Association dealt with many of the same issues that had plagued earlier organizations. Cattle rustling, brand violations, low prices, and the loss of land from the public domain as homesteading proliferated were substantial problems for livestock producers. In response to these challenges, the organization continued to employ a range detective, developed an agreement with the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association for coordinated inspections to prevent fraud, and published a yearly brand book. As membership increased and the services achieved their goals, the association prospered.¹⁸

After president Lon Goddard stepped down, C.K. Howard assumed control from 1896 to 1908. Howard increased membership (it reached 677 in 1902) and put the organization on firm financial grounds during his tenure. One of the issues he pushed for in the early 1900s was for the opening of the Indian reservations to cattle leases. In 1902, association member Ed Lemmon successfully lobbied President Theodore Roosevelt for large leases on the Standing Rock Reservation. Others followed, and by 1904 almost four million acres of the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock reservations were leased to cattlemen. Large leases proved short-lived, however, as homesteaders expediently gobbled up newly opened reservation lands. By the late 1900s, the open range cattle era was ending.¹⁹

When C.K. Howard passed control of the association to H.A. Dawson in 1908, western South Dakota was changing. From 1905 to 1910 its population increased from 47,000 to 137,000 as railroads expanded and more land was opened to settlement. Homesteading, which peaked in 1909-10, drastically reduced the public domain and further confined cattlemen to large, medium, and small ranches. The failure of the herd law referendum in 1912, which was the final gasp of the open range era, was one of the many challenges the association's next president, James Craig, faced after taking over for Dawson.²⁰

¹⁶ Jacon and Brooks, 18; Steeley, 13; Lee and Williams, 165-66; Schell, 247; Thompson, 271.

¹⁷ Lee and Williams, 188-201; Thompson, 272.

¹⁸ Lee and Williams, 188-201; Thompson, 272.

¹⁹ Lee and Williams, 209 & 244.

²⁰ Lee and Williams, 209, 244, 246-49, 252-56; Long, 8; John H. Burkeholder. "Poised to Profit: Fort Pierre and the Development of the Open Range in South Dakota." *South Dakota History*, v.41, no.3, (Fall 2011), 352.

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Like the previous decade, the 1910s presented concerns for the association. Droughts and bad winters in conjunction with low prices reduced herd numbers and subsequently led to decreased membership as cattlemen left the business. With reduced membership, the association's inspection system and general budget ran a deficit for the first time. Prices rebounded during World War I, but declined again in the early 1920s when wartime federal price supports for agricultural commodities ended. Under Craig's long tenure, the association navigated the good and bad times.²¹

In 1930, Tom Jones assumed the presidency. Drought, high interest rates, and a shortage of capital tested cattlemen in South Dakota as the decade began. Association members participated in federal New Deal buyout programs for emaciated cattle, which reduced herd numbers during the Great Depression, but did not solve all the cattlemen's problems. Rustling also increased and required additional expenditures along with costs for the reinstatement of the brand and sanitary boards. The largest cosmetic change occurred when members voted to drop "Western" from the name and rebrand themselves as the "South Dakota Stockgrowers Association".²²

Coming out of the depression, association membership was low. In 1943, it dipped below 100 and the treasury hovered around \$400. Yet, the association pressed forward. That same year it lobbied for the Livestock Ownership Inspection Area law which included twenty-three west river counties. It provided mandatory inspections for cattle passing in and out of the area with a State Brand Board overseeing the process. Improvements with inspections and the publication of *The South Dakota Stockgrower* newsletter, which began in 1947 under president Roy Houck, boosted membership. In 1948, 171 new members joined the association followed by 640 more the next year.²³

Throughout its history, the association has operated out of several locations in Rapid City including the First National Bank, American National Bank, and the Bellamy Building. Around 1955, local banker H.R. Browning transferred a lot downtown to the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber in turn offered the association a free lot on St. Joseph Street valued at \$11,000 with the caveat that they construct a building within one year. The offer was accepted, and the association planned to build a one-story building with a full basement. Plans changed when the chamber requested that a second story be added to serve as its headquarters. The agreement came with a 99-year lease after which time the association would own the entire building. At its December 1955 meeting, the association approved the plan and selected the construction firm of Corner, Howe, and Lee. The contract totaled \$89,232 and the building was dedicated in August of 1956.²⁴

²¹ Lee and Williams, 252-275; Steeley, 17-18.

²² Lee and Williams, 270-285; Steeley, 21-22; Roger C. Lambert. "The Drought Cattle Purchase, 1934-35: Problems and Complaints." *Agricultural History*, V.45, no.2 (April 1971), 85-93.

²³ Lee and Williams, 299-337.

²⁴ Lee and Williams, 385; South Dakota Stockgrowers Association records.

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In 1958, the association adopted a trademark consisting of a cowboy on a horse. A year later, Rosenbaum Signs created the iconic neon sign that adorns the building. Ollie and Franklin Rosenbaum founded their company in 1928. In 1936, their nephew Walter Rosebaum joined the company. Walter eventually bought out his uncles, and sold the company to Thomas Farrar in 1981. The Farrar family continues to run the company to this day.²⁵

The neon lighting in the sign failed in the late 1970s due to hail damage. Around 2000, Rosebaum Signs replaced the neon and repainted the sign. The Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission coordinated this effort with a \$2500 grant from the Modern Woodman of America which the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association matched.²⁶

The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association shared the building with the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce for many years. After the Chamber relocated, the second floor was leased to private individuals and businesses including, most recently, a law office. A railroad hobby club currently (2023) uses the basement. Change in use over the years has not impacted the physical layout of the building significantly.

Since headquartering out of its new building in the mid-1950s, the association has continued to advocate for its members. Advancing beneficial legislation, reducing theft, and improving industry standards continue to this day. While the organization has matured over the last fifty years, its original mission to promote, educate, and self-regulate the industry with as little government assistance as possible remains intact.

Brief History of Other Agricultural Organizations in South Dakota

Consistent and intense settlement occurred across portions of the future state of South Dakota beginning in the 1870s. The climate and soils west of the Missouri River (which bisects the state north to south) were more suitable for open range livestock production while lands east of the river favored the raising of grains and cereals along with small-scale animal husbandry. This difference led to the primacy of stock raising associations in the western part of the state (as discussed above) and farmers' organizations in the east.

The first major attempt to organize farmers nationally occurred in 1867 when Minnesotan Oliver Hudson Kelley formed the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. In 1872, Henry L. Ferry organized a local grange in Dakota Territory unaffiliated with the national organization. A year later, territorial farmers organized the Dakota State Grange comprised of twenty-five local granges and 2000 members. This was the first cooperative organizational activity to occur

²⁵ South Dakota Stockgrowers Association records;
<https://www.rosenbaumsigns.com/about-us>.

²⁶ *Rapid City Journal*, undated article in the State Historic Preservation Office file.

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within agriculture in South Dakota. The National Grange peaked in 1875 but declined locally due to improved economic/crop conditions.²⁷

While economic pressure on territorial farmers eased in the late 1870s it did not dissipate. External forces continued to exploit agricultural producers' precarious financial situations. Local elevators owned by Minneapolis grain magnates unfairly weighed and graded staple crops including wheat. Railroads charged exorbitant shipping prices and out-of-state financial and marketing institutions conspired to keep grain prices low. These factors, combined with periodic droughts and grasshopper infestations, led to a decline in farm profitability.²⁸

The Farmers' Alliance was an agrarian economic movement that grew out of the activism of the 1870s. One of its subsidiaries, the Northern Farmers' Alliance, issued a charter to a group of Yankton-area farmers in 1881. The movement spread and took hold in the central counties of the territory where wheat production was prevalent. In 1884, the continued decline of grain and cattle prices led to the establishment of the Dakota Territorial Alliance in Huron. The venture was incorporated as a joint stock company in 1887 with a cooperative store in Watertown.²⁹ The Dakota Territorial Alliance cooperative also offered fire, hail, and life insurance to its members. All these undertakings failed during the hard economic times of the early 1890s as the Alliance drifted into local obscurity.³⁰

Agricultural and economic conditions improved in the early 1900s as farm production and local consumption stabilized while parity (rural versus urban buying power) was relatively equal. However, many longstanding issues – the Minneapolis markets, railroads, banks – continued to hamper farm prosperity and gave farmers a desire to organize. In 1902, the American Society for Equity was founded in Indianapolis and by 1906 had a chapter among wheat farmers in South Dakota. In 1911, it incorporated the Equity Cooperative Exchange to control what members produced. When the Minneapolis Grain Exchange denied them membership, the organization constructed its own terminal in St. Paul in 1920 (the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association took over this operation eventually). Though this and other parallel movements failed to achieve their goals of ending farmers' economic problems, they did lay the groundwork for the more influential South Dakota Farmers Union and South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation that followed.³¹

In 1902, the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America was organized in Texas and later became a national organization in 1905. In 1914, Nebraska farmer J.K. Weinmaster organized farmers around Mitchell, and by 1917 the South Dakota Farmers Union was founded. Like previous agricultural organizations, it promoted education, cooperatives, and the

²⁷ Lynwood E. Oyos. *The Family Farmers' Advocate: South Dakota Farmers Union, 1914-2000*. (Sioux Falls, SD: Center for Western Studies Augustana College, 2000), 1-2; Thompson, 227-28.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ No information was found as to which building this store was located in.

³⁰ Thompson, 228; Schell, 224; Oyos, 2.

³¹ Thompson, 228; Oyos, 1-4.

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advancement of favorable legislation. Unlike preceding movements, the South Dakota Farmers Union continues to this day.³²

The South Dakota Farm Bureau was organized in 1917 though work on the county level had begun as early as 1913. Early work had a social and educational function furthering extension services along with cooperative efforts to purchase seed, equipment, and other agricultural products. Bureaus also banded together to offer products such as insurance and pursue lobbying efforts. Today, the South Dakota Farm Bureau is headquartered in Huron and continues to represent the social, political, and economic interest of over 16,000 South Dakota farm and ranch families.³³

Various farmers' organizations/movements of short duration also occurred during the 1920s and 1930s in South Dakota. The United Farmers League appeared briefly in northeastern South Dakota in the mid-1920s. This organization favored government-sponsored rural credit, direct relief, and other left-leaning programs. The Farmers' Holiday Association was organized in Des Moines in 1932. South Dakota farmers met that summer to establish a state Holiday Association, which erected roadblocks around Sioux Falls, Yankton, and Watertown to halt grain and livestock shipments. The efforts weren't successful, though the association did have success obstructing farm foreclosure auctions before fading away after a few years.³⁴

New farmers' organizations continued to appear in the postwar period. The National Farmers Organization formed in Iowa in 1955 and attempted to accomplish many of the aspirations of the Farm Holiday Movement. It was popular in southeastern South Dakota. In 1977, the American Agricultural movement developed in Colorado. One of its main tenets was legislation for parity of all domestic and foreign agricultural products. It, like many farmers movements before, enjoyed varying success in South Dakota.³⁵

Agricultural Organizations and the Built Environment in South Dakota

Physical representations of the above agricultural movements in South Dakota are rare. While general agricultural history is well-represented in the National Register through barns, farmyards, university buildings, county fairgrounds, cooperative feed and seed buildings, etc., the state lacks historic structures that convey the economic and social impacts of broader agrarian movements. Given the short duration of many of the movements, the absence of properties related to them is not surprising. Many organizations were not around long enough to necessitate a long-term home while others did not have the need, choosing to rent or lease existing meeting halls. Whatever the reason, the tangible footprints of farmers' and stock growers' organizations in South Dakota's built environment is considerably light.

Along with the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association building in Rapid City, two additional historic buildings have been identified as being built specifically for farmers and/or stock

³² Thompson, 228.

³³ Thompson, 228.

³⁴ Thompson, 234; Schell, 285 & 294.

³⁵ Thompson, 248-49.

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growers organizations in South Dakota. The South Dakota Farmers Union headquarters was built in Huron in 1951. Architect Walter J. Dixon designed the two-story buff brick building with horizontal bands of windows and a flat roof. The building, which had been determined eligible for the National Register in 2007, has since been razed and replaced by a modern building at that location. A local Farmers Union Hall built in 1917 is in Plankinton. It is a gabled, wood-framed building clad in clapboard with a gabled entrance vestibule. It is located on the courthouse grounds and was likely relocated to this location for interpretation purposes. The building is also referenced as being the Firesteel Township Hall. Given the ambiguity surrounding the structure, no National Register determination has been made.



South Dakota Farmers Union Headquarters (Huron). Razed post-2007. (SD SHPO files)

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South Dakota Farmers Union Headquarters (current, Huron). (2022 Google Earth)



Farmers Union Hall (Plankinton). (South Dakota State Archives)

South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
Building
Name of Property

Pennington County, South
Dakota
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Building

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1964.

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Websites

<https://www.rosenbaumsigns.com/about-us>

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 # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PN00000929

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Zone: 13 | Easting: 642128.75 | Northing: 4882284.84 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary consists of the original city lot (Original Town of Rapid City, Block 86, Lot 20) and a city easement that includes the building's basement stairwell (5'x12') located at the southeast corner of the building on the adjoining lot to the east.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the area historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: CB Nelson
organization: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us
telephone: n/a
date: 1 January 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Building

City or Vicinity: Rapid City

County: Pennington State: SD

Photographer: Liz Almlie

Date Photographed: 20 September 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 10.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0001. Looking E down St. Joseph Street.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0002. Looking East at the west elevation.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0003. Looking SW at the east elevation.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0004. Looking SW at the north elevation (rear).

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0005. Looking NW at the south (front) elevation.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0006. Looking NE at the south (front) elevation.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0007. Looking NE at roof.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0008. Interior meeting room.

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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0009. Interior office view.

South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
Building
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SD_PenningtonCounty_SouthDakotaStockgrowersAssociationBuilding_0010. Interior view hallway.

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Boundary Map



South Dakota
Stockgrowers
Association
Building

Rapid City,
Pennington
County,
South Dakota

Z=13
N=642128.75
E=4882284.84

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Photo Map

