

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Natrona County High School

other names/site number Natrona County High School/Casper College

2. Location

street & number 930 South Elm Street not for publication N/A

city or town Casper vicinity N/A

state Wyoming code WY county Natrona code 25 zip code 82601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.)

Shirley Buehler-Wade 12/2/93
Signature of certifying official Date

Wyoming Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

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6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education

Sub: Senior High School

High School & Junior College

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education

Sub: Senior High School

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured Concrete

roof Tar and gravel

walls Red face brick and cream/beige terra cotta,

buff face brick

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more 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
Education

Period of Significance 1924-1941

Significant Dates 1927
1929
1931
1933

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Architects: Garbutt, Arthur; Weidner, James; Sweeney, William: Leon Goodrich (pool and gym additions) Goodrich and Krusmark stadium Stonemason: Fred Moore, Construction Overseer

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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
___ X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository:

See Continuation Sheets for continued bibliography

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 10.7258

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 13, 391323, 4744091, 3, 13, 391480, 4743968. Row 2: 2, 13, 391480, 4744158, 4, 13, 391427, 4743968. Row 3: X, See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title R. Rosenberq, E. Starr, Leah S. Glaser

organization State Historic Preservation Office

street & number 2301 Central Avenue

telephone (307) 777-6301

city or town Cheyenne state WY

zip code 82002

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
=====

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

name Natrona County School District

street & number 970 N. Glenn Road

telephone (307) 577-0222

city or town Casper state WY zip code 82601

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7. Description

Natrona County High School, located along CY Avenue in Casper, is one of the city and state's most distinctive high schools. The architectural style, Collegiate Gothic, is highlighted by a dramatic entry tower and the extensive use of terra cotta that draws attention to the building's memorable facade. Constructed after the 1920s oil boom in Casper, the architectural firm of Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney designed an educational facility with numerous amenities unknown in Wyoming at that time such as an indoor swimming pool. The building was essentially rectangular with an open center space or courtyard in the middle. The height of the building varies from three to four stories on the facade to a lower two or two and one-half stories on the sides and rear. The red brick on the facade contrasts with the cream-colored terra cotta that is used for ornamentation. Although the City of Casper has suffered several boom and bust periods since the construction of Natrona County High School (NCHS), the building has retained a high degree of integrity. The original portion of the building was completed in 1927 but various additions were completed from 1929 through the 1970s. The only substantial change to the facade and sides has been the in-kind replacement of windows with slightly darker glass and additions to the rear of the high school. Yet, the substantial brick edifice still communicates its early twentieth century origins. The nomination also includes a stadium, sports field, field house, vocational building, and small buildings associated with athletics.

The school's campus is located in a residential area that is close to downtown. A large open space in front of the high school includes mature landscaping, and the building's placement with a substantial setback from CY Avenue serves to distinguish this public property from the commercial and residential nature of the area. The actual placement of the building was designed to accentuate the attractive visual qualities of the building.

Natrona County High School. Contributing.

As the structure exists today, the building is essentially rectangular in shape with newer construction placed on the north side (rear) of the building. The high school itself measures approximately 321 feet by 260 feet. A vocational building, constructed as a separate structure during the 1960s and 1970s, is also located in the rear. The stadium, field house and other associated athletic structures are also located behind the main high school building.

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The facade or south side of NCHS consists of five distinctive parts (or bays) that are carefully drawn together by the design and the use of decorative elements such as terra cotta surrounds and coping. The tower visually dominates the facade with its two story bay window, battlement, and castellated appearance and is reminiscent of medieval architecture.

Access to the building is achieved via a short set of steps that leads to a flat concrete terrace. The main entry to the building, located at the base of the tower, is through three identical openings that are surmounted by terra cotta ogee arches. The original double metal doors have several lights in each door and are topped by a five-piece transom. The words 'Natrona County High School' are spelled out above the entry in a terra cotta medieval script. A mock crenelated parapet extends across the tower and surmounts the three ogee entry arches.

A six-sided "turret" is located at each of the four corners of the tower and two "turrets" flank the entry. Terra cotta quoins, a technique Garbutt, Weidner and Sweeney used in other designs, are placed at each juncture of the turret to further highlight the tower.

The second and third stories of the tower originally contained specially made leaded glass windows constructed within a two-story bay configuration. The original windows were replaced with energy saving units in 1984. The bay window consists of five windows on each floor. A terra cotta belt course separates the second from the third story. Terra cotta decorations consisting of quatrefoils, quoins, and surrounds are located above the actual windows. A smaller mock crenelated parapet tops the bay structure. Three additional windows provide light to the fourth floor music room. The top of the tower is dominated by a substantial terra cotta crenelated parapet constructed on all four sides of the tower. A terra cotta finial is located in the middle of the parapet walls. Windows with terra cotta surrounds are repeated on all four sides of the tower.

Although the tower may be the dominant feature on the facade, other parts of the design are equally important. The west edge of the facade, with two groups of windows providing sunlight for classrooms, is similar to the east and west sides of NCHS. This portion of the facade is three stories high and features terra cotta window surrounds and a terra cotta castellated parapet. Within each bay on each floor are quadruple units or four windows with three lights within each unit. The plans specify "Type 'A' Fenestra steel windows"

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for all the classroom windows and the auditorium.

To the east of the classroom portion of the facade is a substantial patterned brick area above the stage entrance. The stage entry is typical of the other entrances with terra cotta surrounds. The diaper pattern of the brickwork is achieved by using different brick colors and raked out mortar joints that emphasize the decorative aspects of the brick. The diaper pattern is carried out in three segments or bays on that portion of the facade. Above the brick work is a brick parapet wall with terra cotta finials and a small gable as part of the parapet wall. The stage entrance portion of the facade is three stories high.

The largest portion of the facade, containing seven bays, is located between the stage entrance and the tower and features five elaborate gothic style windows, which provide light for the auditorium. These round arched windows are typical gothic windows due to the use of tracery within each unit. This portion of the facade is topped by a terra cotta balustrade with finials. Each bay is separated by a truncated brick buttress. Two cartouches, located in the place of gothic windows in the other five bays, are above substantial plaques with inscriptions from Euripides, Proverbs, and the Ordinance of 1787. The auditorium portion of the facade is shorter than the rest and consists of two tall stories.

To the east of the auditorium portion is the main entrance tower which has been described.

The portion of the facade east of the tower contains windows that are typical of the fenestration for classrooms. The first floor now contains offices while the upper two stories consist of classrooms. There are three groups of windows with quadruple units or four windows in each bay on the second and third floors. The same terra cotta coping found on the rest of the castellated battlements is found here.

While the varied components of the facade offer the building a dramatic appearance, the east and west elevations are less complicated. The slopes are graded on each side of the building so the height of the structure varies from three to three and one-half stories high.

The west side has ten bays on the original building with two entry bays that are differentiated from the other "classroom" bays. The doors are recessed

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with terra cotta door and window surrounds. Terra cotta heads of students flank the doors. Quoins on the slightly advanced entry pavilions provide additional ornamentation. Windows on all three floors are grouped into fives with three lights in each unit. A terra cotta belt course separates the first and second floors. A castellated parapet wall with terra cotta coping tops the west side.

The east side of NCHS has two entry pavilions and the same groupings of windows as the west side. On the rear or northeast corner of the building a shorter addition, approximately half the height of the main high school, contains an indoor pool that was completed in 1929. The swimming pool addition was designed by Casper architect Leon Goodrich. The architect retained the same terra cotta window surrounds and belt course, but the windows themselves have been in-filled with glass block on the first floor. A gymnasium addition, placed on the rear of the building to form a rectangle, was also designed by Goodrich in 1931 and is similar to the gymnasium in height and architectural detailing.

The original north wall of NCHS has been somewhat obscured by later additions for the gymnasium, band and cafeteria. A band room addition located on the northwest corner of high school was designed by Holzinger and Schropfer in 1957. Although the band room addition is half the height of the original building, the architects used some of the decorative features such as window surrounds and coping to complement the original structure. Red bricks were used in the construction of the band room addition. A substantial gymnasium and cafeteria addition were completed in 1977. The design of the cafeteria addition used some of the same materials as the original high school but the lack of windows and other architectural elements clearly identifies it as a later addition.

The brick used on the courtyard walls, that are visible from the classrooms, are not red but are buff colored. There are few decorative elements found on the courtyard walls and the area contains grass.

The building's interior retains much of its original look and splendor. The vestibule or lobby has marble wainscoting and plaster walls with a multi-colored terrazzo floor. Two ogee arches with blind quatrefoils above are located in the small link to the south corridor. The walls that line the south, east and west corridors retain their original white, and in some parts yellow, enamelled brick. A tile water fountain in the lobby or vestibule is

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now used as a trophy case. The main offices, lobby, and auditorium occupy the south wing of the building, while classrooms occupy the east and west wings. The gymnasium and cafeteria occupy the northern wing. Originally music rooms occupied the classrooms in the tower. A substantial auditorium which seats 1600 people was one of the largest indoor spaces in Casper in 1929. Although there have been alterations to the interior over the years, frequently the use of rooms has changed, yet the overall feeling of the interior of NCHS is one of 1920s elegance.

Stadium. Contributing.

Architects Leon Goodrich and Karl Krusmark designed the stadium complex consisting of bleachers, sound system and track field in 1933. The stadium was constructed with both poured concrete and concrete block and is not covered. The structure has few decorative details with the exception of structural components that divide the wall into segments with raised vertical lines and decorative concrete block located on the stadium wall which faces South Oak Street. The entry to the stadium is on the east or Oak Street side of the structure through a recessed entrance. The seats are metal and are divided into eight sections. A metallic announcer's stand is located at the top of the stadium.

Sports Field. Contributing.

The field in front of the stadium is used for both football and track events and was constructed at the same time as the stadium in 1933.

Vocational Building. Noncontributing.

Constructed in 1959 and designed by the Holzinger and Schropfer, the vocational building does not match or complement the original high school. The building is poured concrete and has few decorative details and exhibits a utilitarian appearance. The building received an upper story addition in the mid 1970s.

Field House. Noncontributing.

A quonset hut field house was placed in the northeast corner of the stadium complex in 1950.

Garage. Noncontributing.

A concrete block garage with a gable roof was added to the sports complex during the recent past and is located south west of the stadium and adjacent to the field.

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Concrete block building. Noncontributing.
A very small concrete block is located at the northeast side of the track and is of recent construction.

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8. Significance

Natrona County High School, built between the years 1924 and 1941, is an exceptional example of Late Gothic Revival architecture, specifically the Collegiate Gothic style. This architectural style became popular for educational buildings in the United States during the 1920s. It is also a lasting legacy to Arthur M. Garbutt, the head of the prominent Casper architectural firm of Garbutt, Weidener, and Sweeney. From 1914 to 1925, during Casper's oil boom era, Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney was the dominant architectural firm in the city, responsible for designing fifteen schools and over fifty residences and commercial buildings. The physical appearance of Natrona County High School, its conception, and its growth are closely intertwined with the economic growth of Casper and the evolution of progressive ideas about education sweeping the country. The laying of its cornerstone in 1924 coincided with the emergence of the modern high school in America. For decades, it was the only high school in Casper, and it also housed Casper College from 1944-1955. Therefore, Natrona County High School is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its direct association with the growth of education in Casper and under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an outstanding example of the Collegiate Gothic style in educational buildings and as the work of a master architect, Arthur M. Garbutt.

The modern city of Casper evolved from a ferry crossing and frontier military post on the Oregon Trail. In 1847 the Mormons erected a commercial ferry and later a toll bridge to transport the emigrants and their wagons across the North Platte River. It also became the site of a stage stop, a Pony Express station, and a telegraph station along the major transcontinental link between the east and west coasts of America. In 1858, the military established Platte Bridge Sation, later known as Fort Caspar, a two-company post established to protect the Oregon Trail migration from the indigenous Native Americans who resisted the invasion of their lands. Following the Plains Indian Wars of the late 1860s and early 1870s and the negotiation of the Treaty of 1876, the region was opened to non-Indian settlement. Ranchers quickly filled the vast open ranges with large herds of cattle.

Casper was a railroad town created in 1888 when the Chicago and North Western Railroad extended its line westward from Nebraska and built up the North Platte River Valley through Douglas and Glenrock. At first the ranching-

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 oriented town grew slowly, and the census counted only a thousand people by the turn of the century. However, the commercial production of oil in the area in the 1910s and 1920s quickly changed the character of the Casper community. The great Salt Creek Oil Field, located about fifty miles north of Casper, was extensively developed after 1910. Casper was strategically located as the nearest railhead to the field, and it became the major oil shipping point. Refineries and tank farms were built at Casper, and a system of pipelines were laid connecting them to the field. The Midwest Refining Company and Standard Oil Company of Indiana invested heavily in the field and assured a bright future for Salt Creek. As a result of these developments, the city of Casper experienced an oil boom period that began in 1913-1914 and continued well into the next decade. The major oil concerns established their headquarters in Casper, providing employment and injecting capital into the local economy. The population multiplied, and prosperity accelerated community expansion and the construction of buildings. Casper experienced the typical western boom town cycle of unprecedented growth, excessive economic expansion and speculation, and inevitable decline.

The growth of Casper during the oil boom era necessitated an expansion of its school system. During the nineteenth century, all grades had been housed in one school building downtown. In 1908, a new high school was built south of the downtown area closer to the present Natrona County High School property. The original building had to be expanded to accommodate the growing student population. The following decade, two more Casper high school buildings were constructed. This construction not only reflected the population growth in Casper, but also illustrated the increasing popularity and national support of secondary education. In 1913, a building was constructed in the space that is now the center courtyard of today's Natrona County High School. This rather isolated area was then known as CY pasture and was a part of the CY Ranch. However, the presence of the school encouraged residential construction, and homes were soon built in the Ninth Street area.

By 1920, increased high school enrollment called for an additional facility. The new Vocational Building housed an auditorium, gyms, offices, and lockers, and in subsequent years survived behind the present Natrona County High School until 1976 as "the Annex." The fact that the facility was named the Vocational Building reflected the educational trends of the time rather than its actual function. Despite this additional facility, Natrona County High School's two-building campus could no longer accommodate the city's growing student population.

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Although Casper's school population had increased 700 percent in ten years (1911-1921), school enrollment in Wyoming as a whole increased 50 percent in six years (1915-1921). Katharine A. Morton, State Superintendent at this time, outlined some visionary and ambitious steps taken by the Wyoming school system in a newspaper article. These included an innovative differentiated curriculum, which included vocational training, and the building of large high school facilities in Lander, Thermopolis, Casper, Worland, Powell, Cody, Kemmerer, Riverton, Greybull, and Green River as well as plans to build others in Cheyenne, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Torrington, Laramie, and Cokeville. Morton credited this growth to (1) the increase in educational funds brought about by the oil boom, and (2) an act of the legislature that required school districts to pay the high school tuition of all students who desired to attend but in order to do so had to leave their own school districts. In addition, teachers' salaries were increasing, attracting more highly qualified individuals to the teaching ranks. Many ranchers bought town homes so that their children could attend the better city schools. They also encouraged their children to go through high school, although Wyoming state law only required school attendance through the eighth grade or to age sixteen.

The size and complexity of the new Natrona County High School building was not unique to Casper or Wyoming. The construction of such high school facilities were a leading facet of a national phenomenon. The Architectural Record and the National Education Association magazine were filled with articles and floor plans for nationwide high schools. In 1890, the American high school had been a rather minor component of the public educational effort, more closely allied with the colleges than with the public schools; however, by 1920, the high school had become the most important and progressive element of the American education. Between 1890 and 1920, American public high schools experienced a large increase in enrollment from 200,000 to nearly two million. A high school education was viewed as a guarantee to job opportunity in a declining American economy. The curriculum became less strictly academic and more vocationally oriented, training students for "the duties of life," and the development of "human capital." The new American high school offered both a vocational and an academic curriculum, allowing the pursuit of study based on life goals.

A greater concern for the social development of youth was reflected in the popularity and standardization of sports and club activities. It was believed that such activities taught students how to function in an

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increasingly complex industrial society with large scale corporations and labor unions, and in future community activities. These new ideas stemmed from twentieth century liberalism, which professed a belief in a cooperative economic system operating within large corporations and unions, rather than in individual self-interest. Each student would have a specialized education in order to contribute to a unified society. School newspapers, assemblies, and athletic games became the vehicles for non-academic training in cooperation, loyalty, spirit, and unity. The libraries, gyms, auditoriums, athletic fields, and band rooms became standard components of the modern high school.

Natrona County High School and the Casper school system were leading models of these ideas and educational trends for their rapidly growing and changing community. In 1922, the Casper Daily Tribune proudly announced that Natrona County High School had received accreditation with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Earlier that year, this organization had been established to evaluate and certify that the curriculum and the teachers at Natrona County High School were of sufficient quality to assure that all of its graduates could qualify to enter a university. It was one of sixteen accredited high schools in Wyoming.

By 1923, in the midst of economic prosperity, Casper led the state as an educational center and projected even higher enrollment in the coming years. Therefore, an ambitious project for the construction of Casper's newest high school was launched. The locally prominent architectural firm of Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney was commissioned to design the school, and they spared no expense in conceiving the plans. Many school board and community members were shocked by the idea of a high school that looked like a Gothic Castle, but the bond for the \$600,000 school was passed. The cornerstone of Natrona County High School was laid in 1924, and much of the main building was constructed the following year. However, the school was not in official operation until 1927. The "final" cost of the newest Natrona County High School was one million dollars.

Its imposing appearance set Natrona County High School apart from its contemporaries around the state. Although similar in size and complexity, high schools such as those in Thermopolis and Cody were much less elaborate, following a more traditional factory style. Other schools followed a more classical style.

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Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney were responsible for Casper's most prominent and elaborate buildings of the oil and construction boom of the 1920s, including: the Townsend Hotel, Con Roy Building, Tribune Building, the Casper Fire Station, Wyoming National Bank Building, Tripeny Building, and the Elks Building. Natrona County High School, however, is Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney's only example of public Gothic architecture. It is also a fine representative of brick and terra cotta decoration, a trademark of the architectural firm. On various occasions, the Casper Star-Tribune referred to the high school as "...an outstanding example of school architecture in the Rocky Mountain Region." Although the Natrona County High School became a source of community pride, the citizens of Casper believed it was overly extravagant and did not re-elect any of the school board members who had voted for the elaborate project.

Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney utilized English architectural styles apparent in the artistry of the Natrona County High School building. According to architect and professor Talbot Hamlin, comprehensive plans of educational institutions brought the Collegiate Gothic of Tudor and Jacobean England to the United States. Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney's combination of the traditional broad casement windows against the Gothic setting is very effective. The heritage and influence of English collegiate life is strong in this country. The campuses of the Ivy League schools and Duke University boasted the new style on their prestigious academic campuses. Many architects between the 1890s and 1920s adopted eclecticism as a way of adding originality, creativity, and flexibility to traditional architectural styles and forms. The concept of a modern high school, however, brought a new architectural challenge to "the Eclectic." Despite the highly specialized requirements of a modern 1920s high school, the Eclectic sought beauty as an expression of local pride and a vital part of the student's environment. Comparable contemporaries of Natrona County High School include the Morris High School in New York City, designed by C.B.J. Snyder, and the 1926 Evanston High School in Evanston, Illinois, designed by Perkins, Fellows, and Hamilton. According to Talbot Hamlin in his book, A Pageant of America: The American Spirit in Architecture, "It is these really lovely, human, welcoming schools which form one of America's greatest contributions to the general stream of architecture, because in them is achieved most surely the perfect balance of functional expression, simplicity, efficiency and pure beauty."

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There is little doubt that Arthur Garbutt was familiar with these Eastern trends. Born in Rochester, New York, he studied architecture in the east and practiced in Pennsylvania before coming West. After spending time in Oregon, Colorado, and Montana, Garbutt set up shop in Casper, at the time when the oil boom was stimulating population growth and construction. He was well known among building contractors and tradesmen. As a member of the American Institute of Architects, Garbutt was also prominent throughout the state and region. Natrona County High School was completed in 1927, just when the building industry stagnated with the end of the oil boom. Arthur Garbutt then left Casper, but the Garbutt family continues to be prominent in the Casper community.

The 1924 Chamber of Commerce census for Casper revealed a population increase of 180 percent. Students had to attend school half days during the construction of Natrona County High School. Although it was ready for occupancy less than three years after construction began, the loss of funds as oil companies left Casper downgraded and delayed the last additions of the high school complex (see Description, Section 7).

Nevertheless, expansion continued in the wake of educational trends. In 1929, a school enrollment of 5,000 exceeded that of any previous year and was the largest high school enrollment in the state. A modern gym and the first indoor swimming pool in Wyoming as well as an impressive athletic field were completed in the early 1930s. A full page advertisement in the Casper Tribune-Herald Wyoming Progress Edition in 1930 sang the praises of its "Bigger and Better Educational Opportunities..." The high school was praised and advertised as a superior community facility. Also in 1930, Natrona County High School's newspaper, The Gusher, reflected on its archaic structure of ten years before, and reported with pride on the new school and its progressive expansion.

A bench memorial was erected in honor of May Hamilton on the newly expanded campus in 1941. May Hamilton was one of fewer than ten teachers in the early Natrona County School system from 1898-1901. She left her lasting impression on the school system as County Superintendent from 1901-1904 and 1911-1924, overseeing all the aforementioned changes and progress in educational equality.

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In 1945, the Casper community ensured that students would have the opportunity to continue their education beyond the high school level. Colleges and community colleges were cropping up across the country as part of a general national education movement. The Natrona County High School District's Board of Trustees voted on the establishment of Casper College, a two-year institution of post-high school education to be housed in the Natrona County High School. Marvin Griffith, former Superintendent of Natrona County Schools and the first President of Casper College, chose the west wing of the third floor. Although the high school was a modern facility, it proved to be a difficult task to convince prospective students to attend college in a high school building. Despite recruiting problems, the college officially opened on September 17, 1945. Natrona County High School continued to house the college until 1955, when separate facilities were constructed at a new location. From its roots at Natrona County High School, Casper College has evolved into the state's largest junior college with 6,000 students and is a prominent force in the community.

In conclusion, Natrona County High School stands as a landmark of beauty, community pride, and Casper's early commitment to public education. The city's publication of at least two postcards featuring Natrona County High School has attested to its imposing physical presence and importance to the community. Although the high school has received additions and interior renovations to meet the changing needs of the student body and community, the edifice still retains excellent integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, association, setting, and location. Today, Natrona County High School continues to function as a fully modern high school, maintaining its progressive and competitive excellence. Students and the entire Casper community maintain pride and spirit in both the building and the institution.

United States Department of the Interior
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UTM reference points continued:

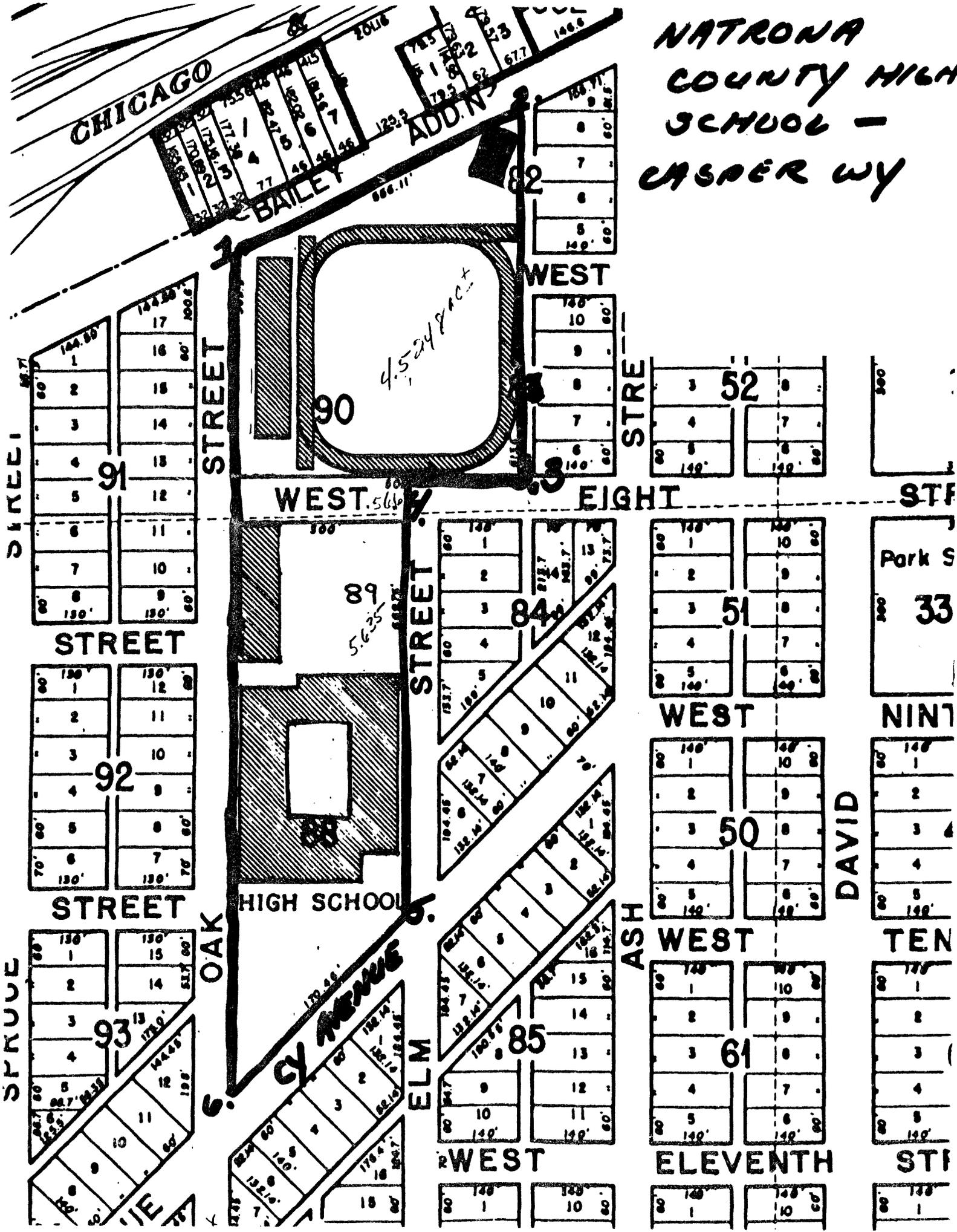
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6 13 391323 4743664

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Verbal Boundaries- According to the County Assessor's Map and office, the legal boundaries of Natrona County High School include all of Blocks 88 and 89, with the Stadium including Block 90 and the western halves of Blocks 82 and 83. The property is framed north/south by the curb line of Collins Drive and CY Avenue, Oak on the East, Elm on the West and the Alley between Oak and Elm on the east side of Blocks 82 and 83.

Boundary Justification- The boundaries are determined by the surrounding street curb lines of the Natrona County High School campus property upon its completion as of 1941. Begun in 1924, the final campus was finished with the 1940-41 extension of the front campus yard which extends to CY Avenue and includes a contributing stone bench monument. CY Avenue cuts diagonally across the triangular yard on a northeast-southwest axis. Additionally, it provides the school with a complementary segue to the surrounding residences. Although the school does own some surrounding land, the newer properties of the parking lots east of Elm and west of Oak were not part of the campus as of 1942 and do not contribute to the context, setting or significance, architecturally or historically of the property. Their inclusion may bring legal problems as well as parking is a growing concern in the community. The stadium is included as a contributing site because it is a significant component to the overall 1920s concept of the modern high school along with the gym and auditorium. It not only provides atmosphere and context, but a natural buffer for the property from commercial Collins Drive. The stadium's athletic field frames the main building to the north as the front campus yard does to the south.

NATRONA
COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL -
CASPER WY



CHICAGO

BAILEY

ADDN

WEST

OAK STREET

91

90

WEST STREET

52

WEST

EIGHT

ST

Park S

33

STREET

89

84

WEST

NINT

92

88

50

DAVID

STREET

HIGH SCHOOL

WEST

TEN

SPRUCE

93

OAK

ELM

STREET

ELM

ASH

85

61

WEST

ELEVENTH

ST