

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

### 1. Name of Property

historic name: Hebard Public School

other names/site number: Hebard Elementary School/48LA2798

### 2. Location

street & number: 413 Seymour Avenue

city or town: Cheyenne

state: Wyoming

code: 56

county: Laramie

code: 021

not for publication: N/A

vicinity: N/A

zip code: 82001

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Claudia Nissly  
Signature of certifying official

5/1/05  
Date

SAPD  
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

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Sandra McCluskey*                      8/22/05  
Signature of Keeper                      Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in Cheyenne, Wyoming, from 1911 to 1954

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education Sub: school

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Other

Sub: Modern

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete

roof : metal deck on steel joists covered with tar and gravel

walls: concrete block, tile, face brick

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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 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)

Cat. Education

Period of Significance: 1945-1954

Significant Dates: 1945 (building date)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder: Porter and Bradley, architects/Jacob Weber, builder

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: City of Cheyenne Planning Office, Cheyenne, WY.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: 3.88

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>13</u>	<u>516814</u>	<u>4552513</u>

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

All that portion of Block 682 (Original City of Cheyenne) lying west of the line between the NW-1/4 and the NE-1/4 of Section 5, T13N-R66W, in South Cheyenne so-called, as said Block is laid down and described on the plat on file and of record in the office of the County Clerk at Page 87 of Book 1 of Plats, in the office of the County Clerk and Ex-Officio Register of Deeds in and for said Laramie County, State of Wyoming.

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

The boundary is the block which the property occupies and includes the main structure, landscaping, playing fields/playgrounds, and any parking areas.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian

organization: Rosenberg Historical Consultants

street & number: 739 Crow Creek Road

city or town: Cheyenne

state: WY

date: 8/31/2004; revised 12/31/2004

telephone: (307)-632-1144

zip code: 82009

**Property Owner**

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

name: Laramie County School District No. 1

street & number: 2801 House Avenue

city or town: Cheyenne

state: WY zip code: 82001

telephone: (307)771-2100

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

---

### 7. Description

Hebard School is located at 413 Seymour Avenue in a residential neighborhood on the south side of the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming. The facade or west side of the building fronts on Seymour Avenue but has multiple secondary entrances. The school property occupies what appears to be two blocks (although the legal description specifies Block 682). The school is situated on the north half of the parcel, and a playground area and parking lots are located on the south half. There is minimal lawn and trees on the west and north sides of the building. The building was constructed in 1945 with additions in 1948 and 1951. It is currently used as an elementary school.

This is a one-story common bond red brick building (222' E-W x 250' N-S) with a flat roof resting on a poured concrete foundation without a basement. The roof is covered with built-up tar and gravel. There are two tall rectangular brick chimneys protruding from the interior of the west building component. The original building was rectangular, but additions in 1948 and 1951 created a roughly U-shaped plan with the open end facing east. The building has simple plain lines with few architectural embellishments. It has a low brick parapet capped with concrete or terra cotta and a decorative brick pattern directly below on some elevations. A wide decorative brick band with a geometric pattern surmounts the window lintels around the building. A narrow contrasting concrete band encircles the building at window sill level. The majority of the exterior walls are divided by regularly-spaced brick pilasters capped with concrete. The west and north walls consist of alternately equal segments of brick wall and triple windows with aluminum frames. There is a light-colored solid panel above each window. A few of the window bays have been altered or filled in. The west side contains the main entrance, which consists of a recessed twin-leaf steel one-light door with a multi-light transom and a steel rail-lined concrete sidewalk. The name "Hebard School" is spelled out in aluminum letters above the entrance. There is a foyer with colored tile on the floor and an interior set of twin-leaf nine-light wooden doors with multi-light transoms. The same interior doors are also placed at the north and east entrances to the building. An entrance on the north side near the west end of the building contains a recessed twin-leaf steel door and a concrete stoop. The entry is accented by a thick brick pilaster on either side. The east end of the building has a similar entry with concrete stoop with brick halfwalls. The transom has been filled with an opaque white panel, and there is decorative geometric brickwork above the door. A secondary single pedestrian door has been filled in with a window and brick, but the concrete stoop remains. There is also a functioning single pedestrian entry on the south side of the east wing.

In 1948, a one-story brick north wing was added to the original building, extending eastward parallel to East 5<sup>th</sup> Street. It consisted of seven classrooms, kindergarten facilities, and auxiliary rooms. In 1951, a south wing was added that is parallel to the 1948 north wing. It consisted of three classrooms, lunchroom facilities, an auditorium, and auxiliary rooms. It contains regularly-spaced wide brick pilasters and windows

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

---

set high in the south wall. The additions are brick, but the overall proportions and style are not wholly consistent with the original building.

The interior of the building consists of three main hallways with classrooms and offices on both sides in the original portion and the two wings. The lower two-thirds of the walls are clad with dark beige tile, which is curved at the junction of floor and wall. The upper third of the walls are plastered and painted. The ceilings consist of acoustic tile, but they appear early or original rather than the more modern dropped or suspended ceilings. Light fixtures are original or old elongated fluorescent units suspended from the ceilings. Most of the interior wood doors and hardware are original, and there is very little wood trim or molding. There are twin porcelain water fountains placed in arched recessed alcoves in the hallways. The auditorium at the east end of the south wing has an arched roof and is also used as a gymnasium and cafeteria. The same tile pattern lines the walls. There is a wooden stage area at the east end. At an unknown date, a separate and parallel enclosed handicapped entrance and hallway were added to the south side of this wing granting access to the auditorium.

The building retains fair to good physical integrity, both inside and outside, with the principal exterior changes being the 1948 and 1951 additions, both of which are over fifty years old. It appears that the windows have been upgraded and a few have been filled in. The additions are not wholly in keeping with the original architecture but are composed of similar materials and do not hide the majority of the original component. In general, the building retains fair to good integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

---

### 8. Significance

Hebard Elementary School (formerly Hebard Public School), constructed in 1945, is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places Under Criterion A for its direct association with the growth of education in Cheyenne. Schools represented the widespread belief in the value of universal education. The formation of school districts and the building of schools reflected how Cheyenne's citizens felt about the permanency of their community and their faith in its future. Hebard School reflects Cheyenne's post-war city expansion on the South Side, a traditional working class neighborhood. This school is also used for public assemblies and civic celebrations, a place for the community to come together. The building is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as it represents a harbinger of school architecture in the 1950s and 1960s and represents the work of a master architect, Frederick Hutchinson Porter.

#### Historic background

Public education was a primary concern of Cheyenne's citizens from its beginnings in 1867-68 as a "track town" along the first transcontinental railroad, the Union Pacific. The Territory of Wyoming was created in 1868, and Cheyenne was designated the temporary territorial capital. Cheyenne had the largest population of any city in the territory, and once designated as the seat of government, this position was vehemently defended by its residents. From about 1875 to 1887, Cheyenne enjoyed a boom period based largely on cattle ranching. Spectacular profits were made during the 1880s, and by 1884, the population of Cheyenne had soared to 7,000. It had evolved from a rough-hewn railroad town to a modern city. Cheyenne became the state capital when Wyoming won statehood in 1890.

As early as October 1867, the local paper encouraged the development of a school for the 120 to 125 school-age children residing in Cheyenne. The City Council appointed a committee to arrange for a school building, and the first public school in Wyoming was constructed in late 1867. School District No. 1 was organized in November 1868, and covered an area of 270 square miles and included six rural schools. By 1874, the Cheyenne school had an enrollment of 131.

The post-World War I years saw the construction of some of Cheyenne's finest remaining schools. Architect William Dubois designed several schools at this time, including the new Cheyenne High School and Gibson Clark School in about 1921, located at 2810 and 2710 House Avenue. Frederick Hutchinson Porter designed the Park Addition School, which was constructed in northwest Cheyenne, also in 1921. Dubois designed the Johnson Public School on the South Side in 1923 and, in collaboration with Porter, the elegant Lulu McCormick Junior High School in 1929, located about four blocks south of the Capitol.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

Cheyenne, like the rest of America, sank into the Great Depression in the late 1920s. A series of droughts in the 1930s affected the livestock industry and resulted in crop failures. The oil and coal industries also suffered, and the Union Pacific laid off workers. Many of Cheyenne's banks also failed. Only two schools were constructed during this era. The Corlett School, designed by William Dubois, was built in 1940 on the west side of Cheyenne, and the Mabel Fincher School, designed by Frederick Hutchinson Porter, was also built in 1940 in what was then the northeast part of town.

World War II and the resulting war buildup rescued the American economy from the Great Depression. Fort D.A. Russell (renamed Fort Francis E. Warren) was chosen as the location of a Quartermaster Replacement Center, which had a tremendous positive impact on Cheyenne's economy. Although school construction was suspended during the war years, building resumed in the mid-1940s.

Cheyenne's South Side was a cohesive working class neighborhood that first developed in the late nineteenth century as an area of modest wood frame homes where Union Pacific railroad workers resided. The neighborhood was physically separated from downtown Cheyenne and the other residential neighborhoods by the Union Pacific tracks and freight yards. This physical isolation from the remainder of the city had its inconveniences, but it also served to give the South Side a distinct flavor, cohesiveness and independence that remains to the present. The South Side began to expand rapidly after the Union Pacific Division machine shops were constructed in Cheyenne in 1890. Then, in January, 1923, the Union Pacific established a major freight terminal as a distribution point for Wyoming and adjoining states. As a result, the existing yards were expanded and a new freight terminal was built, and a new steel and concrete viaduct was built over the complex of tracks connecting the South Side to downtown Cheyenne. Construction of new housing followed for the increased work force. Although the north part of the South Side neighborhood that bordered the freight yards was demolished to make room for the new facilities, over three hundred new dwellings were constructed as the neighborhood expanded to the south and east. The South Side population consisted of a rich mix of ethnic backgrounds including a Russian-German enclave, Italians, Greeks, and Slavic nationalities.

The Frontier Oil Refinery was established in that neighborhood in 1940. The size of the refinery expanded in 1943, when it was chosen as the site for a government-built plant for producing aviation fuel. An 825-man work force was needed to construct and operate the plant and necessitated the building of low-cost workers' housing adjacent to the refinery. The need for a good neighborhood school followed.

The Hebard Elementary School was constructed in 1945 at a cost of \$97,262.00. It was designed by Cheyenne architects Porter and Bradley and was constructed by Jacob Weber. The design is quite similar

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

---

to that of the Rossman School, which was designed by the same firm. The site of the building was originally owned by Barnard and Bessie Rayor, who sold 3.88 acres to the district for \$3,300 on September 1, 1945.

Frederick H. Porter was born on July 9, 1890, in Salem, Massachusetts. Although his formal education did not continue past eighth grade, he did attend the Wentworth Institute, a technical institute in Boston. He also attended the Architectural Club Ateliers in Saint Louis and Boston. He practiced architecture from October 1906 to about 1965.

In 1906, "Bunk" Porter began an apprenticeship in the Denver Architect's Office. He came to Cheyenne in 1911 as an inspector for the construction of the Boyd Building (at that time the Citizen's National Bank). He established the architectural firm of Baerresen and Porter in about 1920; within two years he had set up an independent practice. In 1944, he went into partnership with Walter Bradley, a collaboration that lasted until about 1954, when Bradley retired. In 1956, Porter went into partnership with his son, Fred Porter, Jr. and practiced as Porter and Porter. F.H. Porter retired in 1965.

For over forty years, Porter designed buildings that helped establish the tone of Cheyenne's architecture. His buildings included schools, churches, and public buildings. His first building in Cheyenne was the First Presbyterian Church (considered by him to be the "best job" he ever did), and the last was the O'Mahoney Federal Center. In between, he designed dozens of buildings throughout Wyoming and on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He also designed several public schools around the state and in Cheyenne. Porter's evolution of architectural styles is evident in his design of schools through the years. His first in Cheyenne was the Park Addition School, a simple one and one-half story side-gabled brick symmetrical building with a centered full-height advance pavilion. The style is unique among the remaining Cheyenne schools. His next school was a collaboration in 1929 with William Dubois in the design of McCormick Junior High School, a richly decorative and elaborate example of Collegiate Gothic. In the 1940s, Porter's designs evolved to keep up with the "Modern" movement. In 1940 and 1945, Porter designed the Mable Fincher and Deming Elementary Schools, both of which featured Art Deco and International elements, with clean sweeping lines and simple detailing.

The Hebard School (1945) and Rossman School (1946), designed by the partnership of Porter and Bradley, also reflected the evolution of post-World War II architecture and featured Modern and International elements. Porter and Bradley also designed the Storey Gymnasium, built in 1950; although a much larger building than the above-mentioned schools, it also featured many similar Modern and International design elements.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 12

**HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING**

---

Porter was a preservationist who fought for the preservation of the Union Pacific Depot, and the old Post Office and the Carnegie Library; however, of those buildings, only the Depot still stands. He died in Cheyenne on July 7, 1976.

The population of the South Side continued to grow in the post-World War II years, and in 1948, Hebard School received an addition which was designed by Sam Hutchings and constructed by Jacob Weber at a cost of \$141,235. The 1951 addition was also designed by Sam Hutchings and constructed by a Mr. Snedaker. In conclusion, Hebard School has served as an educational facility to the Cheyenne community and specifically the South Side neighborhood for sixty years. It was the first school in Cheyenne to be named after a classroom teacher, Miss Alice M. Hebard, who was the first grade teacher at the old Johnson School for over thirty years. There is a plaque commemorating Miss Hebard located in the foyer of the west entrance to the school. Although the school has received additions and interior renovations to meet the changing needs of the student body and community, the building still retains good integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials and therefore feeling and association. Both the students and the South Side community maintain pride and spirit in the building and the institution it represents.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 13

HEBARD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

---

### Section 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Adams, Judith. *Cheyenne: City of Blue Sky*. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1967.
- Centennial Historical Committee. *The Magic City of the Plains: Cheyenne 1867-1967*. Published by the Centennial Historical Committee, 1967.
- Cheyenne City Directories, 1920-1950.
- Gulliford, Andrew. *America's Country Schools*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.
- Haley, John Paul, Jr. *A History of Laramie County School District No. 1, Cheyenne, Wyoming*. Master's Thesis Prepared for the Department of Education, University of South Dakota, 1956.
- Jones, Gladys Powelson. *"Cheyenne, Cheyenne..." Our Blue-Collar Heritage*. Cheyenne: Frontier Printing, Inc., 1983.
- Laramie County School District No. 1. Planning and Construction Office Files. Laramie County School District No. 1 Administration Building, 2810 House Avenue, Cheyenne.
- Rosenberg, Robert G. *Report of Historic Intensive Survey for the Norris Viaduct Cheyenne, Wyoming*. Report prepared for and on file at the Cheyenne Area Transportation Planning Process (ChAtPP), 1996.
- Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the City of Cheyenne*, 1959. New York, New York: Sanborn Map Company.
- Starr, Eileen. *Architecture in the Cowboy State, 1849-1940*. Glendo, Wyoming: High Plains Press, 1992.