

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Deming School

other names/site number: Deming Elementary School/48LA1287/48LA2109

2. Location

street & number: 715 West Fifth 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not for publication: N/A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 Nisef
Signature of certifying official

5/1/05
Date

SHPO
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): _____

Spencer McClelland 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: Modern Movement
Sub: Art Deco/International

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete
roof : tar and gravel
walls: 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

Cat. Architecture

Period of Significance: 1945-1954

Significant Dates: 1945 (building date)

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

Architect/Builder: Frederick Hutchinson Porter/Jacob Weber

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: ca. 1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>13</u>	<u>514364</u>	<u>4555241</u>

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

Lots 1-8, All of Block 1038, Capitol Heights Addition

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

The boundary is the lots which the property occupies in Block 1038, Capitol Heights Addition 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

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DEMING SCHOOL
LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

7. Description

Deming School is located at 715 West Fifth Street in a residential area in the northwestern portion of the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming. It is a one-story, flat-roofed common bond tan brick building that occupies all of a triangular-shaped block. The facade or north side of the building fronts on West Fifth Avenue with a secondary entrance on the east side fronting on Bent Avenue. There is minimal landscaping on the north, west and east sides of the building. Fenced playground facilities occupy the south half of the block. The building was constructed in 1945 as an elementary school and currently retains the same function, housing grades K-4, while its sister school, Miller Elementary, houses grades 5-6.

The building is roughly rectangular in shape (280 feet east-west by 57 feet north-south) with a flat roof and rests on a poured concrete foundation without a basement. The roof is covered with built-up tar and gravel. The building has a brick parapet capped with cast stone. There is a tall rectangular brick chimney protruding from the roof line near the north side. The building has simple plain lines with architectural embellishments limited to fluted cast stone capping the parapet and a distinctive geometric decorative brick band that runs above the windows around the building. In addition, there is a narrow contrasting cast stone or concrete band running completely around the building at window sill level. The brick below this level are of a slightly lighter shade. The north side or facade contains the main entrance, which is accented with brick pilasters on either side, a raised parapet, and geometric designs above the entrance. The entrance contains two-light twin-leaf steel doors. The words "Deming School A.D. 1945" are written in raised stone letters on a signboard above the entrance. The north wall is divided by regularly-spaced brick pilasters capped with concrete. The windows have been replaced and consist of banks of narrow two-light hinged units with aluminum frames and large opaque panels above. There are also alternating glass block windows on the north side. The south side of the original component contains twin-leaf steel doors that open onto the playground area. Many of the windows on the south side have been filled in and some have metal awnings.

In 1952, brick additions (85 feet north-south by 25 feet east-west) were added to the east and west ends of the original building component, forming a capital I-shaped plan. These additions repeat the original building theme and architectural embellishments and have similar entrances facing east and west with concrete stoops. They also contain banks of similar windows flanking the entrances and extending the width of the building components. A gymnasium/auditorium with a rounded brick south wall was added to the building in 1948. It also blends in architecturally with the original building component.

The interior consists of a main east-west hallway with classrooms on either side. Inside the main entrance on the north side as well as the east and west entrances, there were originally inner and outer sets of twin-leaf doors, but the inside doors have been removed, leaving the wooden trim and door jambs in place

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LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING**

with multi-light transoms. The intervening alcove area has colored square tile floors. The hallway walls are finished in dark beige tile, which is curved where it meets the floor with white plaster walls above. The ceiling is clad with acoustic tiles and has fluorescent lighting units. There are arched, shallow, recessed water fountains in the hallway. The floor of the hallway is carpeted, and there are steam radiators still in place. Most of the interior wood doors, wood trim and hardware appear to be original, but the transoms have been filled with opaque panels. There is an all purpose gymnasium/cafeteria/auditorium located across the hall from the main north entrance that has a vaulted acoustic tile ceiling and a linoleum tile floor. Classrooms have dropped acoustic tile ceilings and linoleum tile floors. The original blackboards have been covered with white boards, but they retain their original wood trim and eraser trays. The 1952 east and west wings differ slightly from the original portion in that the walls feature larger tiles with a lighter shade of beige.

The building retains fair to good physical integrity, inside and outside, with the principal exterior changes being the two additions in 1948 and 1951, both of which are over fifty years old. It appears that the windows have been upgraded and some have been filled in. Both additions are in keeping with the original architecture and use similar materials, proportions, and architectural embellishments. In general, the building retains fair to good integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING

8. Significance

Deming Elementary School, constructed in 1945, is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places Under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A for its direct association with the growth of education in Cheyenne. It reflects the primary importance the Cheyenne community attached to the education of its youth from its inception as a railroad town in 1867. Education was one of the first critical issues dealt with by Cheyenne's first citizens and by the first Wyoming territorial legislature. 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. Deming School is a substantial brick masonry structure built with community pride and permanency in mind, and which incorporates the standard designs advocated by early twentieth century educational reformers. The building is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of Art Deco architecture with elements of the International style in an educational building and as 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. Teachers were paid about \$50 per month, and school terms lasted four to five months a year. A law was passed by the Wyoming Legislature in 1869 making school attendance compulsory, although it was difficult to enforce.

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, and Frederick Hutchinson Porter designed the Park Addition School, also

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in 1921. Dubois designed the Johnson Junior High School on the South Side in 1923 and, in collaboration with Porter, the elegant Lulu McCormick Junior High School in 1929

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 Dubois in 1940, and the Mabel Fincher School designed by Porter, also in 1940.

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.

Schools constructed during the post-World War II expansion program utilized modern architectural styles that abandoned traditional form and detail. The low clean lines, flat roofs, and banks of windows were somewhat reminiscent of elements of the earlier Streamline Moderne and International styles. Utility and cost were the two dominant factors in terms of design. As a result, the schools built between 1945 and 1950 are similar in appearance and are harbingers of school architecture in the 1950s and 1960s. They included Deming School, and Hebard and Rossman Schools. The Storey Gymnasium was built adjacent to Cheyenne High School in 1950, completing the construction of the historic school buildings of Cheyenne.

The Deming School was constructed in 1945 at a cost of \$111,098.60. It was designed by Cheyenne architect Frederick Hutchinson Porter and was constructed by the Jacob Weber Construction Company. The site of the building was originally owned by Roger P. Meyers, who sold 1.24 acres to the school district for \$1,000 on September 18, 1925. The school was named after William C. Deming, a publisher and philanthropist. The original building component consisted of eight classrooms, office facilities, and auxiliary rooms. Due to building delays, the school did not open for classes until September 3, 1946, with Leah Bain as principal.

The location of Deming School reflected the growth of the City northward beyond Pershing Boulevard in the Capitol Heights Addition (1923), Moore Haven Heights Addition (1926), and Pershing Heights Addition (1918, 1923). This northward growth intensified after World War II necessitating the building of this neighborhood elementary school.

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While Deming School was still in the planning stages, William C. Deming donated \$25,000 toward the construction of a small auditorium, which was also designed by Frederick Hutchinson Porter and built by a Mr. Christensen. It was completed by the fall of 1948 at a total cost of \$38,238.44. Fourth and fifth grades were also added at that time. By 1951, the school population had grown to the point where another addition to the school was needed. Four more classrooms were added in two small additions located at the east and west ends of the building, and were completed during the 1952-53 school year. This set of additions was designed by Porter and Bradley and constructed by a Mr. Hatcher.

By 1956, Deming School consisted of twelve classrooms, kindergarten and office facilities, an auditorium, and auxiliary rooms. The remainder of the block was taken up with playground facilities. In 1970 Kindergarten was no longer offered, but returned in 1976. In September 1981, Deming and Miller Schools were combined with Kindergarten through fourth grades at the Deming Building and 5th and 6th grades at the Miller Building. Deming celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on October 13, 1996, with alumni coming from all over the United States. U.S. District Court Judge Alan Johnson gave the keynote speech. Eight of the twelve principals who ran the school were also in attendance. Former school teacher Carolyn Shickley, who taught second grade at Deming from 1946 until 1973, was also honored at the celebration. One of the purposes of the celebration was to help current students learn about the history and tradition of their school.

The architect, 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. He designed several public schools around the state and in Cheyenne. Those included in this nomination (pre-dating 1954) were the Park Addition School, the Mabel Fincher School, and Deming Elementary School. In partnership with Bradley, he also designed Rossman and Hebard Elementary Schools, and the Storey Gymnasium. He collaborated with William Dubois in the design of McCormick Junior High (now the Emerson State Office Building).

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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. Porter also designed the 1949 hipped-roofed addition to the building. His next school was a collaboration in 1929 with the established 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 Deming School has simple plain lines with embellishments limited to fluted cast stone capping the parapet and a distinctive geometric brick band above the windows.

The Hebard and Rossman Schools were designed by the partnership of Porter and Bradley in the mid-1940s and reflected the evolution of post-World War II architecture and featured Modern and International elements. Porter and Bradley's most recent building in the nomination is 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.

In conclusion, Deming School has served the northwest neighborhoods of Cheyenne as an educational institution for over sixty years. The fifty year celebration was an indication of the pride the community has maintained in both the building and the institution through the generations of students who have attended there. Although it has received additions and interior renovations to meet the changing needs of the student body and community, the additions are over fifty years of age, and the edifice still retains good integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

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Section 9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Bahmer, Steve. "Alumni Come Home to Deming for Anniversary." *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 14 October 1996.
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- Cheyenne City Directories, 1920-1950.
- Gulliford, Andrew. *America's Country Schools*. The Preservation Press, Washington, D.C., 1984.
- Haley, John Paul Jr. *A History of Laramie County School District No. 1, Cheyenne, Wyoming*. Master's Thesis for the Department of Education, University of South Dakota, 1956.
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- Laramie County School District No. 1. Planning and Construction Office Files. Laramie County School District No. 1 Administration Building, 2810 House Avenue, Cheyenne.
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- Starr, Eileen. *Architecture in the Cowboy State, 1849-1940*. Glendo, Wyoming: High Plains Press, 1992.