1. **Name of Property**
   - Historic Name: Pap Madison Cabin
   - Other Name/ Site Number: PN00100761

2. **Location**
   - Street and Number: 222 New York Street
   - Town, County, State, and Zip Code: Rapid City, Pennington, SD, 57701
   - Phone Number: 605-394-9300

3. **Property Owner**
   - Name: City of Rapid City
   - Street and Number: 300 6th Street
   - Town, County, State, and Zip Code: Rapid City, Pennington, SD, 57701
   - Phone Number: 605-394-9300

4. **Form Prepared By**
   - Name: CB Nelson
   - Street and Number: 900 Governors Drive
   - Town, County, State, and Zip Code: Pierre, Hughes, SD, 57501
   - Phone Number: 605-773-3458
   - Date: 10 Oct 2017
5. State Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this / x / nomination / / request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in State Register of Historic Places and meets the necessary procedural and professional requirements. In my opinion, the property / x / meets / / does not meet the State Register criteria.

_________________________________________  ____________________________
Signature of Certifying Official            Date

State Agency or Bureau

6. Classification

Ownership of Property: / / private           / / public-state
/ x / public-local           / / public-federal

Category of Property: / x / building(s)     / / district
/ / site           / / structure

Number of Resources within Property:
Contributing Noncontributing
/ 1 /
/ / buildings
/ / sites
/ / structures

Number of contributing resources previously listed on the State Register: / 0 /

7. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Dwelling    Current Functions: Interpretive
8. Description
   Architectural Classification: Log Cabin

   Materials:
   Roof = Wood
   Walls = Wood (Log)
   Foundation = Concrete pad
   Other =

9. Significance
   / x / Regional / / Statewide / / Local

   Applicable State Register Criteria:
   / x /A(history) / /B(person) / x /C(architecture) / /D(archaeology)

   Criteria Considerations: Moved

   Area(s) of Significance: Architecture, Exploration and Settlement

   Period of Significance: 1876-1926

   Significant Dates: 1876

   Significant Person(s):

   Cultural Affiliation:

   Architect/ Builder: Pap Madison, builder
10. **Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: less than one

Boundary Description: The boundary is the footprint of the cabin. The surrounding area does not have integrity and does not contribute to the cabin’s significance.

11. **Photographic Documentation**

SD_PenningtonCounty_PapMadisonCabin_0001
SD_PenningtonCounty_PapMadisonCabin_0002
SD_PenningtonCounty_PapMadisonCabin_0003
SD_PenningtonCounty_PapMadisonCabin_0004
SD_PenningtonCounty_PapMadisonCabin_0005
SD_PenningtonCounty_PapMadisonCabin_0006
12. Bibliographical References:


Riner, Reed. Personal Correspondence.


The Pap Madison Cabin is located in a wide boulevard directly west of the Journey Museum near downtown Rapid City. A parking lot sits to the east and a road to the west. The area around the Journey Museum contains open spaces and is not densely built up.

The Pap Madison Cabin is a hand-hewn, square-notched log structure with a gable roof covered in wood shingles. An exterior stone chimney is centered on the west elevation. The cabin was moved from Halley Park in 2012. At this time, a concrete foundation was poured at the current site, the logs were rechinked and stained, and transparent panels were added to the door and two window openings. This was done to allow visitors to view the interior of the cabin, which has been decorated with antiques from the late nineteenth century. The entrance is on the east elevation; single window openings punctuate the north and south elevations.
STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Use additional pages if necessary)

Statement of Significance

The Pap Madison Cabin is significant under Architecture and Exploration/Settlement. It was built in 1876 and is the earliest extant building in Rapid City. It represents the earliest period of Euro-American settlement in the Black Hills, particularly the founding of Rapid City.

Historical Background

The Black Hills of South Dakota started to rise 62 million years ago and achieved their present size and appearance around 37 million years ago.¹ The uplift forms a dome shape roughly 120 by 60 miles in western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming. This unusual geological formation exposed several areas rich in mineral deposits. The concentration of accessible minerals in the area led to a mining boom that began in the last quarter of the 19th century.

The largest groups of American Indians present in South Dakota directly before white settlement were the Nakota, Dakota, and Lakota, known collectively as the Sioux. Anthropologists believe that the Sioux were pushed out of Minnesota onto the plains where they became the dominant group by the mid to late 1700s, although tribal creation stories tell of the Sioux inhabiting the area since time immemorial. The Dakota and Nakota lived primarily east of the Missouri River while the Lakota roamed the western half of the state. The Sioux were eventually forced onto reservations through a series of questionable treaties that opened up land for white settlement.

Rumors that gold existed in the Black Hills circulated for years before it was confirmed by an expedition led by General George Custer in 1874.² The discovery was soon sensationalized in the press generating an influx of prospectors into the region. The Black Hills had been promised to the Sioux in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, however, the United States Army was unable and unwilling to remove the thousands of prospectors who poured into the hills following the discovery. As a result, the Sioux ceded the Black Hills in another questionable agreement ratified in February of 1877.³

³ Ibid, 140.
John Brennan and Samuel Scott, along with a small party of men, came to the area in February 1876. They camped in what is now known as Cleghorn Springs, did some exploring, and decided to lay out the site of present-day Rapid City. A square mile was measured off and the six blocks in the center were designated as a business section. Committees were appointed to bring in prospective merchants and their families to the new settlement.4

**History of the Pap Madison Cabin**

Rufus “Pap” Madison built the cabin in 1876 at the corner of Fifth and Rapid Streets, which was the center of the original six-block town. Madison came to the hills in late 1875 or early 1876 and was present when Rapid City was laid out on 25 February 1876.5

During the summer of 1876, the Lakota regularly raided the settlement in an attempt to push the settlers out of the Black Hills. During one of the raids Madison’s dog was killed and his wagon destroyed. By August the raids had increased, causing all but 19 of the 200 settlers to head for the protection of Fort Pierre along the Missouri River. Madison and the other 18 settlers who stayed built a blockhouse for protection just west of Madison’s cabin.6

After tensions settled down with the Lakota’s cessation of the Black Hills, Madison began farming 160 acres southwest of the original town. Madison sold the farm in 1889 and moved to Everett, Washington in 1892. John Brennan acquired Madison’s cabin and the lot it sat on, which he eventually passed on to his wife.7

The Fortnightly Club obtained permission from the city to move the cabin to Halley Park in 1926 after encouraging Mrs. John Brennan to donate it to the city as a reminder of the “old days.” The Lions Club had the cabin moved to Halley Park and hired an old timer who understood log construction techniques to rehabilitate it. The exterior chimney was added at this time. The cabin was used as a museum for many years until vandalism forced the removal of its contents. The contents of the cabin are now part of the Minnilusa Collection on display at the Journey Museum. The Boy Scouts of America Troop 55 rehabilitated the cabin in 1990 with material support from the Rapid City Parks Department.8 In 2012, the cabin was relocated to the Journey Museum campus.

The Pap Madison Cabin is significant for being the oldest building in Rapid City and for its hand-hewn log construction. The construction techniques and

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5 Personal Correspondence, Reid Riner.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
materials present on the cabin are from a building tradition representing the earliest white settlement in the Black Hills. Buildings like the Pap Madison Cabin were the first structures the pioneers built upon enter the Black Hills. The period in which the majority of log structures were built in the Black Hills is relatively short. The mining boom accelerated the importation of technology into the region and by late 1876 there were already four sawmills operating in the Black Hills capable of supplying dimensional lumber.9 Also, the railroad reached Rapid City in 1886, supplying the region with a variety of building supplies. The result of these developments was that by 1900, the vast majority of log structures being constructed in the Black Hills were in park and resort settings which valued their rustic appeal in the emerging tourism industry.10 Log construction for dwellings, barns, schools, and businesses faded away in the twentieth century.

There is no precise data on the number of extant log structures remaining in the state. Examples are found primarily in the Black Hills, on the homesteads of some of the western counties, and on American Indian reservations. The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Plan identifies “claim era resources” as endangered properties due to the majority of them having poor architectural integrity and for functional obsolescence. The Pap Madison has integrity and is still functioning as an educational tool in the community.

The periods of significance for the Pap Madison Cabin are 1876-1889 and 1889-1926. The first set of dates corresponds with the building and residency of Pap Madison, who lived in the cabin until 1889. In 1889, John Brennan, the founder of Rapid City, purchased the cabin. In 1926, Mrs. John Brennan donated the cabin to the city.

Log Cabins in South Dakota

The log cabin cherished in American memory is not original to the North American continent. Though several American Indian peoples used wood to construct buildings and structures over thousands of years, the horizontally-laid, chinked log cabin was an Old-World invention brought by northern European settlers.

The origin of these structures is uncertain. It is probable that the form began in northern Europe sometime in the Bronze Age (c.3500 B.C.E.)11 By the time Europeans began colonizing the Americas, the log cabin tradition was already

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10 Ibid, 20
established in Scandinavia, Germany, and northern Russia where vast stands of timber were the main building material.\textsuperscript{12}

Finnish and Swedish settlers are credited with first introducing horizontal log construction to America at the colony of New Sweden on the shores of the Upper Delaware Bay in 1638.\textsuperscript{13} Some trace the introduction back further to emigrants from the provinces of Dalarna and Värmland in Sweden.\textsuperscript{14} In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, other German colonists from east and central Europe, including Swiss and Germans, brought and dispersed their own techniques of log construction.\textsuperscript{15} These techniques were eventually passed on to the Scotch Irish in Pennsylvania.\textsuperscript{16} Log construction also entered North America from the west as Russian immigrants settled in Alaska and parts of Canada.\textsuperscript{17} Log construction continued to spread into the interior of the continent as settlers expanded across the frontier.

These pioneers adapted and improvised construction methods by building log dwellings, stables for animals, and schools.\textsuperscript{18} Much like folk songs or speech, common people created log structures to suit their own needs.\textsuperscript{19} Soon, no other architectural form more invoked the image of the pioneer and American ideals as the simple log cabin – a fact that wasn’t lost on the politicians of the time.

In 1840, presidential candidate William Henry Harrison stated he’d be content to live in a log cabin with a jug of hard cider – the White House being too good for him.\textsuperscript{20} His party, the Whigs, realized that such rhetoric resonated with many Americans and ran with it. Log cabin badges were passed out, pioneer songs sung, and plenty of hard cider was consumed during the campaign, which resulted in Harrison’s election and the elevation of the log cabin as a valuable political asset for the rest of the century.\textsuperscript{21} This appeal would not be lost on another future candidate, Abraham Lincoln.

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{14} Russel Versace. \textit{Roots of Home: Our Journey to a New Old House.} (Newtown: CT, Taunton Press, 2008), 196.
\textsuperscript{15} Department of the Interior, 286.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid, 286.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid, 316.
\textsuperscript{19} Ibid, 317.
\textsuperscript{21} Ibid.
Log cabins remained popular as America's frontier pressed inwardly from both east and west. Simple to construct where trees were available, single-room log cabins often served as the first permanent dwelling on a homestead. Cabins were also adopted for commercial businesses like dry goods stores and institution such as churches.

French, British, and Spanish fur traders built the first log cabins in the area that became South Dakota. Jean Baptiste Trudeau built a post in 1794 to overwinter in what would become Charles Mix County.22 Registre Loisel's post built in 1796 near the big bend in the Missouri River consisted of a large timber house with four rooms.23 Joseph LaFramboise built his post, which was a cabin of dead trees pulled from the Missouri River, in 1817, establishing the Fort Pierre plain as the longest continually occupied place of white settlement in the state.24

As the fur trade era came to a close in South Dakota during the 1860s, settlement began. The rivers, streams, and lakes of the eastern part of the state offered settlers native trees, though many species, such as cottonwood, would prove unsuitable for long term stability. When the Black Hills were removed from the Great Sioux Reservation in 1877, miners and settlers flooded into the hills which contained many tree species suitable for log construction. The western pine (now called Ponderosa Pine) predominated in the Black Hills and was a popular construction choice.25

Log cabins were primarily built up through the settlement period in South Dakota, which ended circa 1910. Though some cabins were built later, particularly in the Black Hills and on American Indian reservations, the proliferation of sawmills, housing pre-fabrication, and the extension of railroads fundamentally changed the building stock in the state. Dimensional lumber and balloon-framing techniques made log construction obsolete, both functionally and economically.

Log cabins were built and occupied on the reservations well into the 20th century. A 1956 housing survey indicated that between 60-62% of all houses on the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, and Standing Rock reservations were log constructed.26 While this is atypical compared to the rest of South Dakota, it demonstrates the different social, economic, and political conditions on the reservation during this period. These were some of the last “true” log cabins built in South Dakota.

23 Ibid, 105.
24 Ibid, 32.
26 Godfrey, 44, 60, 60, 69.