

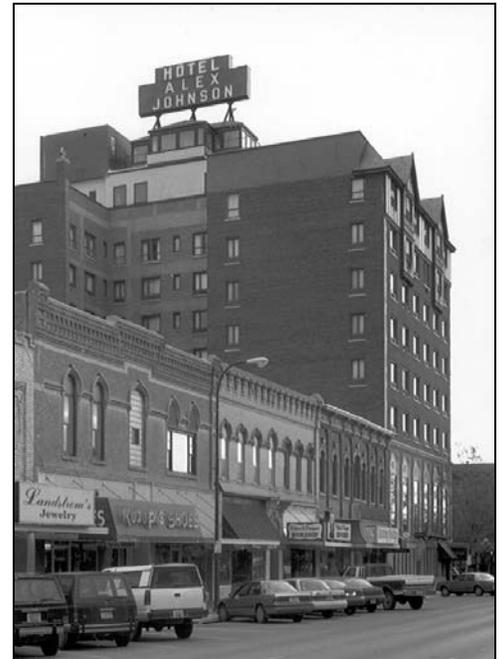
## National Register Criterion A

Criterion A represents an important period, movement, or trend in local, state, or national history. An example of an eligible property is a 1920s high school significant for its role in Education. Another example is a commercial building on Main Street that played a critical role in Commerce and development of downtown business district.

A good South Dakota example of this criterion is the Rapid City Commercial Historic District.

The Rapid City Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the commercial, governmental, industrial, and recreational development of Rapid City. As the hub of the commercial district, the downtown area developed a diversity of businesses, financial institutions, and civic buildings that helped Rapid City grow into the largest community in the Black Hills.

The period of significance for the district begins with the founding of the city in 1876 and runs up until 1948. Many of the buildings date to the 1880s when the town experienced a period of rapid growth. Several civic buildings, such as the original City Hall and Rapid City Fire Hall, were constructed in the first few decades of the 1900s. The development of both businesses and local government in the downtown area influenced the future growth and expansion of Rapid City.



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