

**MNDOT HISTORIC ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT
STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

GD-RWC-021
CS 2513

Minn State Training School Ent. Walls

Historic Name	Minn State Training School Ent. Walls	CS #	2513
Other Name	Red Wing Correctional Facility Ent Walls	SHPO Inv #	GD-RWC-021
Location	S side of TH 61/TH 63 at TH 292	Hwy	TH 61/63
City/Township	Red Wing, City of	District	6B
County	Goodhue	Reference	88.5
Twp Rng Sec	113N 14W Sec 28	Acres	
USGS Quad	Red Wing	Rest Area Class	NA
UTM	Z15 E539670 N4934270	SP #	
Designer	Unknown	SHPO Review #	
Builder	Federal Relief, Suspected	MHS Photo #	013527.14-17
Historic Use	Entrance/ Boundary Marker	MnDOT Historic Photo Album	
Present Use	Entrance/ Boundary Marker		
Yr of Landscape Design	Ca. 1935		
Overall Site Integrity	Intact/Slightly Altered		
Review Required	Yes		
National Register Status	Not Eligible, see Statement of Significance Also member of listed NR site: Minn. State Training School		
Historic Context			
List of Standing Structures			
Feat#	Feature Type	Year Built	Fieldwork Date
01	Entrance Wall	Ca. 1935	07-10-97
			Prep by
			Gemini Research Dec. 98 G1. 96
			Prep for
			Site Development Unit Cultural Resources Unit Environmental Studies Unit
NOTE: Landscape features are not listed in this table			
Final Report	Historic Roadside Development Structures on Minnesota Trunk Highways (1998)		

■ BRIEF

The Minnesota State Training School Entrance Walls are located at the junction of T.H. 61/T.H. 63 and T.H. 292, which is the entrance road to the Minnesota State Training School (now the Red Wing Correctional Facility), within the city of Red Wing. This pair of walls marks the main entrance to the facility. They are located on the southern side of T.H. 61/T.H. 63.

■ STANDING STRUCTURES

Stone Entrance Walls. Built circa 1935, probably by federal relief labor. The site consists of a pair of stone entrance walls that mark the western (main) entrance to the Red Wing Correctional Facility. The western wall is roughly 100' long and the eastern wall is about 60' long. The walls are built of grayish-tan, random ashlar, rockfaced limestone. The upper course of stone consists of a flat stone cap that is several inches thick. The walls beneath the cap are about 4'6" tall and 1'9" thick. Piers that are about 2'8" square mark the ends of the walls.

The walls form a gateway through which T.H. 292 passes. Flanking the road are two piers (about 8' tall) that are topped by cast-iron lamps. At one time the piers supported metal gates that closed to block the roadway. These gates were apparently not original, but added after circa 1930, according to historic photos. Evidence of the metal hinges is still visible. The eastern wall segment has a pedestrian opening a few feet east of the gateway. The pedestrian opening is flanked by piers (about 5' tall).

■ OTHER LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND PLANTINGS

The walls form a gateway through which the main entrance road (T.H. 292) travels. T.H. 292 is an asphalt-paved street that has poured concrete curb and gutter. The walls run along the northern edge of the campus lawn, which abuts the southern shoulder of T.H. 61/T.H. 63. The campus is located south of the T.H. 61/T.H. 63 and the walls.

Concrete sidewalks flank T.H. 292. The eastern sidewalk runs through the pedestrian opening in the eastern wall. The western sidewalk follows a part of the length of the western wall.

The walls stand with a grass-planted lawn. They are surrounded by mature deciduous and evergreen trees. There are shrubs and flowers planted on the northern side of the walls and ivy growing on portions of the walls. The site slopes from south to north. (The campus is at a higher elevation than the highway.)

No original planting plan has been located. A photo from circa 1930 shows a grassy lawn and mature deciduous and evergreen trees near the walls.

■ SETTING

A few feet north of the entrance walls is the grassy shoulder of T.H. 61/T.H. 63 and the T.H. 61/T.H. 63 eastbound lane. The T.H. 61/T.H. 63 right-of-way stretches off to the east and west. Across T.H. 61/T.H. 63 to the north is the wooded Mississippi River flood plain.

South of the entrance walls is the campus. Downtown Red Wing is a few miles to the west.

■ **INTEGRITY**

Alterations

The metal entrance gates have been removed. With this exception, the walls appear to be intact. The site retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Notes on Condition

The walls are in good condition and appear to be well-maintained. The landscaping is neatly cared for.

■ **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Red Wing Correctional Facility, originally called the Minnesota State Training School, was built on this site in 1889-1891. Prior to moving here, the Minnesota State Training School was located in Ramsey County, where it was established by the state legislature in 1866. Because of overcrowding, a new facility was needed and, in 1889, the state selected this 450-acre site two miles southeast of downtown Red Wing. Warren B. Dunnell, Minneapolis architect, designed the original structures at the school. Many of those original buildings remain. (The dining hall and administration building were named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.) Construction superintendent was A. B. Brink of Red Wing. In August of 1889 construction began. Although not completed, the school opened in October 1891. The buildings were constructed of Red Wing limestone from the quarry owned by Andrew Danielson and Gust Lillyblad. Mankato limestone was used for the trim.

This set of entrance walls was probably added to the site in the early to mid-1930s. The current administration cannot date the walls, but they do not appear on pre-1930s photos of the site. Federal relief workers probably constructed the walls. (Federal relief workers also constructed other structures on the campus in the 1930s.)

No original plans have been located and it is not clear whether the Roadside Development Division was involved in the construction of the walls. (Because the walls were built on state-owned property adjacent to T.H. 61/T.H. 63., it is possible that the Division may have been involved, as they were involved in the construction of entrance walls at Camp Ripley, another state-owned facility.)

T.H. 292 became a trunk highway in 1951 (apparently after the Minnesota Legislature determined that all state facilities must have a trunk highway leading to them).

The Minnesota State Training School was listed on the National Register in 1973.

■ **PREVIOUS SHPO REVIEWS**

There apparently have been no previous SHPO cultural resource reviews of the property.

■ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Minnesota State Training School Entrance Walls were built circa 1935, probably by the Minnesota State Training School and possibly with federal relief labor. While it is possible that they were built in collaboration with the MHD Roadside Development Division, it is likely that they were designed merely to be a formal entrance to a state facility, and not necessarily to also serve a Roadside Development function.

This property was evaluated within the historic context "Roadside Development on Minnesota Trunk Highways, 1920-1960." It is recommended that, unless it can be shown that the Roadside Development Division was involved in their construction, it is recommended that the walls are NOT ELIGIBLE for the National Register under this historic context because they do not meet the context registration requirements.

The walls are located within the bounds of the Minnesota State Training School, a property that was listed on the National Register in 1973. The walls are a contributing element within the listed property.

■ OTHER COMMENTS

This property may require further evaluation for potential archaeological resources.

T.H. 61/T.H. 63 is a busy highway past this site.

T.H. 61/T.H. 63 at this location has been designated part of the Great River Road.

This site is within T.H. 292's control section 2517.

■ REFERENCES

Henn, Char. *The Training School: A Centennial Activity of the Minnesota Correctional Facility, Red Wing*. Red Wing: Minnesota Correctional Facility, 1989.

Miller, Dunwiddie Architects. *Historic Preservation Feasibility Study*. Minneapolis: Miller, Dunwiddie, 1974.

"The Minnesota Correctional Facility at Red Wing (Minnesota State Training School)." Unpublished pamphlet. Red Wing: Minnesota Correctional Facility, 1989.

Red Wing Daily Republican, Apr. 15, 1890; Apr. 16, 1890; May 14, 1890; and June 3, 1890.

Red Wing Journal, May 21, 1890.