



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fowler Hotel
other names/site number Hann Hotel

2. Location

street & number 103 First Street [] not for publication
city or town Buffalo [] vicinity
state South Dakota code SD county Harding code 063 zip code 57720

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Jay D. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 07-25-2008
South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
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 certifying official/Title
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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
[] See continuation sheet.
[] other, explain
[] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper: Wilson K. Beall
Date of Action: 9.12.08

Fowler Hotel
Name of Property

Harding County, South Dakota
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mixed – Commercial/Craftsman

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Wood shingle
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Fowler Hotel
Name of Property

Harding County, South Dakota
County/State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Periods of Significance

1936-1958

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Fowler Hotel
Name of Property

Harding County, South Dakota
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 613419 5048599
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chris Nelson

organization SD State Historic Preservation Office

date 3 May 2008

street & number 800 Governors Drive

telephone 605-773-3103

city or town Pierre

state SD

zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Darrel Schaff

street & number 1314 Spearfish Mountain Lane

telephone 605-722-4269

city or town Spearfish

state SD

zip code 57783

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 7 Page 1Harding County, South Dakota

DESCRIPTION

The Fowler Hotel is located in the town of Buffalo in Harding County. It is located on U.S. Highway 85, the main road running through the town, on a corner lot. It is a two story L-shaped building with a concrete foundation, brick walls, and a hipped roof with wood shingles. There are dormers on the east and west elevations, two chimneys, and the roof line has exposed rafter ends. The windows have stone sills. All the windows and doors are wood unless otherwise noted.

The façade (east elevation) has been partially infilled on the first floor. From the south to north the first bay has been infilled with wood and a Chicago style window. The recessed entry retains its historic configuration; the sidelights remain, the transoms have been covered with wood, and a central door has been replaced. The next bay over has been infilled with wood, brick, and two two-pane sliding windows. The last bay retains its original windows and configuration; the door has been replaced. The second floor has five one-over-one double hung windows. There is a pedimented dormer on the roof.

The south elevation from west to east has on the first floor two one-over-one double hung windows, a door with a three-pane window, a one-over-one double hung window, a door with a three-pane window, and a window opening infilled with wood. The second floor has seven one-over-one double hung windows.

The west and north elevations have a single story brick addition in the crook of the L-shape built at the same time as the rest of building; there is also a smaller brick addition toward the northeast corner. The west elevation of the addition has a wood pediment over the entry and three one-over-one double hung windows. The north elevation of the addition has a two one-over-one double hung windows and an entry. To the east of the addition is smaller new addition with two single pane windows and a door.

The protruding portion of the west elevation has three one-over-one double hung windows on the first floor and two one-over-one double hung windows on the second floor. The recessed portion has the addition attached at the first floor level and two one-over-one double hung windows on the second floor.

The north elevation has the addition attached to the first floor level and three one-over-one double hung windows on the second story. The recessed portion has part of the addition attached to the first floor; to the west of the first floor are three one-over-one double hung windows. The second floor has two one-over-one double hung windows, a door, a small single pane window, and a one-over-one double hung window.

There is a concrete block wall that runs from the protruding portion of the west elevation north; it then angles 90 degrees and runs east to the protruding portion of the north elevation.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 2Harding County, South Dakota

SIGNIFICANCE

The Fowler Hotel is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an example of Commercial/Craftsman style architecture in small town South Dakota. It is also eligible under Criterion A for the role it played in the development of commerce in Buffalo.

Historical Background

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.

Harding County was organized in 1909 when it was separated from neighboring Butte County. The main economic activity in the county historically and today is livestock production. Harding County is one of the largest and least populated counties in South Dakota. The population density of the rural county is .5 people per square mile.

The town of Buffalo was founded at the end of 1908 in anticipation of becoming the county seat of the soon to be organized Harding County. Buffalo was chosen as the temporary county seat due to its central location, good water, and proximity to coal deposits. When the courthouse was constructed there in 1911, Buffalo officially became the seat of county government.¹

Between 1908 and 1911 several commercial businesses were built in Buffalo of wood construction. Devastating fires in 1912 and 1935 destroyed several of these commercial businesses. After the 1935 fire, many of the businesses were rebuilt in brick to lessen the threat of fire. Many of the commercial buildings in Buffalo are of post 1935 construction.

Distinctive features of the Commercial Style in South Dakota included multiple stories, masonry construction, multiple bays, large storefront windows, and entryways with glass sidelights and/or transom windows. The majority of Commercial Style buildings in South Dakota have had the first floor altered, both interior and exterior. The storefronts and interior areas have been altered as attempts at modernization or changes in use have occurred over the years.

Many Commercial Style buildings have had bays infilled or downsized. It is also common to have entryways relocated or closed off. In many cases the actual size of windows and entry openings has not been changed but has seen the removal or covering of their historic materials. Generally, if the first story has been altered, particularly the storefront or bays, the remaining stories must remain intact for the building to retain architectural integrity. Other factors used in determining eligibility include whether or not a particular Commercial Style building is the best remaining example of this style in a given setting and whether the building is being nominated under Criteria other than, or in addition to, Criterion C.

¹ Marjorie Evenson Catron. *Buffalo Diamond Jubilee: 1909-1984*. (Buffalo, SD: First State Bank of Buffalo, 1984) 3.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 3Harding County, South Dakota

History and Significance of the Fowler Hotel

George and Minnie Fowler built the Fowler Hotel in 1936. The Fowlers had owned similar businesses in Buffalo and sometimes referred to the hotel as the "New" Fowler Hotel. A devastating fire in 1935 destroyed several buildings in the business district of Buffalo. After the fire, the Fowlers built their new hotel on the corner lot where the gas station had been located.

A 12 June 1936 advertisement in the *Buffalo Times-Herald* announced the completion of the new Fowler Hotel. The hotel offered modern traveling conveniences including 22 rooms and both tub and shower bath accommodations. Also located in the building were a coffee shop, meat market, and dining room that served both travelers and townspeople.

George and Minnie managed the hotel up until 1944, at which time Mr. and Mrs. Art Denzien took over management until 1946. In 1946 M.A. Magstadt and John Burnfin became managers. In 1951 Mr. and Mrs. M.A. Mulliner became the managers of the hotel. The hotel was sold to Matt and Etta Hann in 1956, at which time the name was changed to the Hann Hotel. In 1972 the hotel was sold to Darrel and Joan Schaff.² The building is currently not in use.

The Commercial style in South Dakota is identified generally by multiple stories. Most are constructed of masonry and have multiple bays with large storefront windows and an entryway. Most Commercial style buildings in South Dakota have been altered, particularly the storefronts and interior areas. The Fowler Hotel fits into the Commercial style trends of South Dakota.

Craftsman Style architecture is primarily found on residential structures. It was the dominant style for smaller scale houses built nationwide between 1905 and 1920, although the style continued to be popular in South Dakota up through the 1930s. About ten percent of the craftsman houses nationwide are the hipped-roof subtype.³ Although the Craftsman style was primarily used in residential structures, some elements of the style were also used on commercial buildings. Hotels, tourist camps, and gas stations often borrowed influences from this style.

The Fowler Hotel is a Commercial Style building with Craftsman elements. The hipped roof, exposed rafters, and gabled dormers also with exposed rafters are identifying features of the Craftsman Style found on the hotel. The masonry construction, multiple bays, large windows, and storefront configuration are identifying features of the Commercial Style found on the hotel. The mixed architectural features found on the Fowler Hotel represent the enhancement of the Commercial Style with popular Craftsman features.

Conclusion

The Fowler Hotel is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A for the role it played in the development of commerce in Buffalo after the 1935 fire. Its

² Marjorie Evenson Catron. *Buffalo Diamond Jubilee: 1909-1984*. (Buffalo, SD: First State Bank of Buffalo, 1984) 17.

³ Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. (New York: NY, Alfred A. Knopf, 2002), 397.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 8 Page 4Harding County, South Dakota

operation for several years as a hotel, meat market, restaurant, and coffee shop played an important role in the economic development and sustainability of the small, rural community. It is also eligible under Criterion C as an example of Commercial Style architecture with Craftsman elements in a small town South Dakota setting.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 9 Page 5Harding County, South Dakota

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Catron, Marjorie Evenson. *Buffalo Diamond Jubilee: 1909-1984*. First State Bank of Buffalo, Buffalo: SD, 1984.

McAlester, Lee and Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf Inc, New York: NY, 1984.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Section number 10 Page 6

Harding County, South Dakota

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South 81.6', Block 1, Original Addition

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses only the area of the Fowler Hotel.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Section number 10 Page 7Harding County, South Dakota

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-2 except as noted:

Photographer: Chris B. Nelson
Date of Photographs: 1 April 2008
Negatives: SD SHPO

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
0001	FowlerHotel_HardingCounty_SD_0001 Northeast
0002	FowlerHotel_HardingCounty_SD_0002 West