

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Woodmen Hall  
other names/site number LA-AE-SO-7

### 2. Location

street & number Center and Second Streets NA  not for publication  
city, town St. Onge NA  vicinity  
state South Dakota code SD county Lawrence code 081 zip code 57779

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>          </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA      Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 9/26/91  
Signature of certifying official Date

SHPO South Dakota  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 11/14/91  
 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall

Commerce/Trade: department store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other Metal

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Woodmen Hall is a rectangular, two-story, ashlar masonry building located at the northeast corner of Center and Second Streets in the hamlet of St. Onge, northern Lawrence County. Constructed of coursed, rock-faced, pink-red sandstone native to the region, it is a typical twentieth century western commercial building with only slight references to high style design and scale. The first floor facade, which faces south, has a central entry that has been infilled with glass block and brick. Four large windows flank the entrance although they have been covered with boards (as have nearly all the other openings). A simple metal cornice spanning the Center Street facade delineates the two floors. Six windows light the second story; these are recessed into the wall, divided by wide stone pilasters, and accented by stone corbels. Another metal cornice decorates the upper portion of the facade. Above the cornice is a brick and stone parapet, with the top course of brick laid in a diamond pattern below stone coping. A stone date panel with "1910" in relief is centered at the top of the wall.

The west elevation has three windows on the right half of the ground floor, while the left half, which is covered with stucco and protected by an awning, has a recessed entrance with two doors. A metal cornice, part of which is missing, defines the top of the first floor. Six windows punctuate the second story and a metal cornice projects from the upper part of the wall. The parapet design of the facade is repeated here.

The east elevation is unbroken and covered with stucco. The rear wall, also finished with stucco, has three windows on the second story and a door on each floor.

A modern frame awning supported by round posts projects over the first floor facade and one-half of the west wall.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

Social History \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1910-1941 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

NA \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation    NA

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Under National Register Criterion A, Woodmen Hall is significant in the areas of Commerce and Social History, because for several decades it housed many important local businesses and served as the principal location of large social events, theatrical entertainment, public meetings, and a variety of other community functions. It is one of only two relatively unaltered historic commercial buildings remaining in the community of St. Onge. Under the South Dakota Historic Preservation Plan, the nominated property relates to the following historic contexts: IV. B. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement/Ethnic Enclaves (French); and V.D. Depression and Rebuilding/Social Organizational Halls.

Permanent settlement in western Dakota Territory began in the mid-1870s upon discovery of substantial quantities of gold in the Black Hills. Following the gold rush, where economic growth was primarily dependent upon mining and cattle ranching activities several towns such as Deadwood, Lead, and Sturgis were established in the northern Hills.

Pitoche St. Onge, the founder of St. Onge, was one of the 1,061 French-Canadians living in South Dakota in 1890. At the turn of the century, the French-Canadian ethnic group was numerically insignificant (by 1900 they numbered 1,128; in 1910 998; in 1920 508; and in 1930 492), but central to the state's economy. Perhaps the most noteworthy French-Canadian in South Dakota was Moses Manuel, who in 1876 discovered the Homestake Mine in Lead, which eventually became the largest gold mine in America. Many of the early St. Onge settlers were French-Canadians who probably earned their living as miners, farmers, or cattle ranchers. Of the 131 St. Onge residents enumerated in the 1900 manuscript census, 60 percent were of French-Canadian origin. A 1911-12 state business directory with seventeen entries for St. Onge listed eleven French surnames including Bessette, Chausse, Dupras, Furois, Quillian, and Turgeon. Accordingly, many of these and other French names are inscribed on gravestones in the St. Onge cemetery.

Although St. Onge was not officially platted until 1891, a post office was apparently designated there as early as 1881. In 1883 St. Onge School District

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	3	6	0	1	6	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing	

4	9	3	3	2	0	0	
Zone		Easting				Northing	

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing	

Zone		Easting				Northing	

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing	

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing	

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies Lots 4 and 5 of Block 2 of the Original Townsite of St. Onge.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title <u>Michael Koop/Preservation Consultant</u>	date <u>12 April 1991</u>
organization <u>NA</u>	telephone <u>612-623-8356</u>
street & number <u>615 Jackson St. NE</u>	state <u>MN</u> zip code <u>55413</u>
city or town <u>Minneapolis</u>	

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Woodmen Hall, Lawrence Co., SD

No. 29 was organized and about three years later its first schoolhouse (ca.1886, NRHP) was erected. In 1891 the Pioneer Townsite Company, in conjunction with the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad (which had just extended its line through St. Onge from Whitewood to Belle Fourche), platted the town. Three square blocks and two irregular-size blocks were laid out east of the railroad tracks that ran in a northwestern-southeastern direction. The town's first building, a wood frame depot (not extant), was constructed adjacent to the rail line south of Center Street. Eighteen "warehouse lots" with a frontage of over 1,700 feet parallel to the tracks were reserved by the townsite company for stockyards built in 1892 (demolished in 1956). Four outlots comprising about 120 acres completed the plat. In 1906 the Chicago & North Western Railroad (having acquired the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad) incorporated St. Onge, but soon thereafter began to bypass the town as a cattle shipping center. The St. Onge Quiet Tip, the community's only newspaper, was printed on 16 March 1910 in the nearby town of Whitewood. Among the businesses advertising in the paper were a bank, barber, grain elevator, two general merchandise stores, real estate company, restaurant, rooming house, and a saloon. Even with these merchants the town's population reached only about 50 in 1911; ten years later it increased to 125.

Like most small town multi-function buildings, over the years each floor of Woodmen Hall has served many uses. Originally located on the ground floor were the St. Onge State Bank (which closed after the Great Depression), a general store, barber shop, and butcher shop in the northwest corner. For a short time the post office also maintained quarters in the building. The second floor provided ample room for a variety of public events that were of great importance to the townspeople. In the south part of the upper level area residents joyously danced and sang to music. At other times school plays and commencements, traveling shows, and theatrical events were performed from the stage. In the north section of the second floor at least two fraternal societies, the Woodmen and Workmen, held their regular meetings. This space also was regularly occupied by the local commercial club, whose members came from the surrounding area, and for special dinners for shareholders of the Farmers Produce Company (the St. Onge creamery).

Only a few historic commercial buildings still stand in St. Onge. The most intact building, the 1902 Furois General Store, is also being considered for listing in the National Register. Despite some deterioration of the cosmetic elements of Woodmen Hall, the building retains its historic integrity and reflects the historic commercial and social life of St. Onge.

The period of significance of the nominated property extends from its date of construction in 1910 to 1941, the established 50-year cut-off date for the National Register.

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Lee, Robert, ed. Gold, Gals, Guns, Guts. N.p., 1976.

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Novick, Elisa. Draft National Register nomination for the Historic Resources of St. Onge, S.D., 1987. State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion, S.D. Photocopy.

Schell, Herbert S. History of South Dakota. 3d ed. Lincoln, NE.: University of Nebraska Press, 1975.

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South Dakota State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1921-1922, Volume XXII. St. Paul: R.L. Polk & Co., 1921.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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1.  
Woodmen Hall  
Center and Second Streets, St. Onge, Lawrence County, South Dakota  
by Michael Koop  
July 1990  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
South and east facades, camera facing northwest  
Photo No. 1

2.  
Woodmen Hall  
Center and Second Streets, St. Onge, Lawrence County, South Dakota  
by Michael Koop  
July 1990  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
South facade, camera facing north  
Photo No. 2

3.  
Woodmen Hall  
Center and Second Streets, St. Onge, Lawrence County, South Dakota  
by Michael Koop  
July 1990  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
South and west facades, camera facing northeast  
Photo No. 3

4.  
Woodmen Hall  
Center and Second Streets, St. Onge, Lawrence County, South Dakota  
by Michael Koop  
July 1990  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
North and west facades, camera facing southeast  
Photo No. 4