

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY: MINNEHAHA
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 5 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
SIoux FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **4 blocks and east 1/2 of 6 blocks, bounded by West 4th Street, Spring Avenue, Prairie Avenue, Summit Avenue and West 10th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Sioux Falls** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **No. 1**

STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46** COUNTY: **Minnehaha** CODE: **099**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Several**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Sioux Falls** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **City Assessor**

STREET AND NUMBER: **City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **Sioux Falls** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **South Dakota Historic Sites Survey**

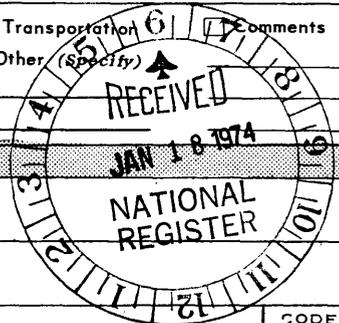
DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Historical Preservation Center**

STREET AND NUMBER: **W.H. Over Museum - University of South Dakota**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sioux Falls historic district consists of fourteen blocks and six half blocks which are divided by alleyways. The blocks themselves are rectangular in shape and average about thirteen structures per block. About three-fourths of the district sits upon a hill that overlooks the downtown area to the southeast. The district slopes to the east and levels off at the eastern boundary, or Spring Avenue. The entire district is lined with elm, oak and pine trees, which form an important aesthetic element. The trees have grown up with the district because when the early pioneers came, there were few--if any--trees in the area. The entire district has sidewalks and an excellent rounded curb system.

The general styles that dominate the area are: Mediterranean, twenty-three percent of the houses; Queen Anne, twenty-three percent of the houses; Queen Anne cottages, fifteen percent of the houses. The Queen Anne and Queen Anne cottage styles were built mostly before 1900, while the Mediterranean styles were built in the early years of the Twentieth Century. There are fourteen other types of architectural styles, excluding non-descript and modern structures.

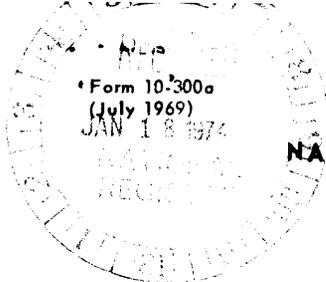
The years of construction in the district range from 1872 to 1972. From 1872 to 1900, one hundred four of the two hundred twenty-three structures were built, or forty-six percent of the district. From 1901 to 1910, fifty-one houses were built, or twenty-three percent of the district. From 1911 to 1920, thirty-five houses were built, or sixteen percent of the district. These dates reveal the chronological unity of the district.

The unity or integrity of the neighborhood has been maintained over the years. Only twenty-seven structures have been built since 1925 and of these, just eleven since 1950. There have been additions and removals from some of the houses; but the quality of the district remains generally intact. Intrusions in the district are few and occur mostly on the southern boundary, or Tenth Street. These consist of modern apartment houses or commercial buildings.

The continuity of certain areas of the district are quite noticeable. For example, in the five-hundred block on North Summit Avenue, all the houses are of Queen Anne cottage style and all were built within eight years of each other (1904-1916). Another example is the four-hundred block of North Spring Avenue. These houses are all of Queen Anne style and all were built within six years of each other. A final example is the one-hundred block on North Duluth. All but one of these houses are large Queen Anne styles and were built within three years of each other. It is a feature of the district that each side of the street has similar styles or were built about the same time--or both.

There are many buildings in the district that warrant individual, detailed, architectural descriptions. A statistical summary based

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)
JAN 18 1974

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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on a grading system will indicate the strength of the district. Every structure has been assigned a grade of A, B, C, D or F. Three criteria were considered in assigning a grade. The first was the architectural integrity of the building. The second was its relationship to the other structures in the district. The third criteria was based on the alterations or additions to each building. The results are as follows: thirty-five buildings, or sixteen percent, were graded A; one hundred three buildings, or forty-six percent, were graded B; fifty-one buildings, or twenty-three percent, were graded C; twenty-one houses, or ten percent, were graded D; and thirteen structures, or five percent, were graded F.

A few of the most significant buildings architecturally are:

209 North Duluth. The L.T. Dunning home is a large 1887 stick-style house of two and one-half stories. The main window openings are flat with plain moulding and the method of dividing the windows is a sash with sidelights. The main door opening is segmental of the single-leaf type with flush side panels. The roof is gable type of various pitches, creating a complex roof plan with an irregular silhouette. The eaves project outward and are supported by brackets. The framing in the gable end is exposed. The house also has some diagonal stick work; but most of the walls are horizontal boards. The structure also incorporates some horizontal and diagonal clapboards that are supposed to symbolize the structure's frame. The interior trim is oak with maple and pine, while the floors are basically pine. On the south side of the home there is an enclosed porch and on the north side there is a patio.

305 North Duluth (1880). The Joe Kirby home is a two-and-one-half-story structure of impure Richardsonian Romanesque style. All of the building's exterior walls are of Sioux Falls granite, or red jasper. The main windows are flat with solid rock lintels and most of the windows are two-sash with stone transoms. The windows on the upper story are flat and are divided by stone mullions. There is also one large semi-circular window on the north side surrounded by a round Roman arch. The roof type is an irregular gable with several triangular pediments which are decorated by dentils. A polygon-shaped tower with a conical roof and spire is located at the north-west corner of the house. The windows in the tower are flat and divided by stone mullions. The entrance is surrounded by a porch with a small conical roof covered by metal. The floors are oak and pine, as in the trim. The house has 48,800 cubic feet and is in good condition.

103 South Summit (1900). The Cyrus Walts home is a two-and-one-half story frame structure that typifies the Queen Anne style of architecture. The irregularity of the plan, two types of wall

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covering (shingles and wood), upper stories slightly projecting over the lower, small windows in the upper stories, use of bay windows, a gable roof, the round turret and also a large porch characterize this house and style. The main windows are flat with plain moulding surrounds. The foundation is stone and the interior walls are plaster. The trim is oak and young pine, while the floors are mostly pine. The house has 53,000 cubic feet and the condition is good.

303 North Summit (1893). The William Beach home is a two-and-one-half-story, shingle-style house. The upper two-thirds of the house are shingle, while the other one-third is horizontal siding. The windows are flat with lintels and slipsill surrounds. The structure also features a small "oeil de boeuf" window on its north side. The roof is irregular gable with triangular pediments on all sides, and all incorporate dentils. The upper portion of the façade has a unique twisted-stick design. Balustrades support a portion of the porch area and the main roof slopes down to cover this part of the porch. The other part of the porch is enclosed and lined with flat window openings. The foundation is stone and the interior walls are plaster. The trim is pine and oak, as are the floors. It is a large structure and is in excellent condition.

301 North Prairie (1891). The William A. Wilkes home is a two-and-one-half-story, Neo-Classical structure, although not a pure form. The house features three bay windows which detract from its architectural type. The main windows of the structure are flat with a two-sash division with lintels and slipsills for surrounds. There is also a half-round window on the upper portion of the house which is placed inside a triangular pediment. The main door opening is semi-elliptical with a lintel surround and a two-sash division. Also above the door is a semi-elliptical window. The roof is hipped with two dormers and large dentils along the eaves. The foundation of the building is stone and the exterior walls are horizontal siding. The interior walls are plaster and the trim is oak and pine, while the floors are of oak and maple. The house has 49,000 cubic feet and is in good condition. There are two-square-shaped columns with Ionic capitals and also open balustrades supporting an open porch.

103 South Prairie (1889). The Henry Avery home is a two-story Richardsonian Romanesque. Almost the entire building is made of Sioux Falls granite. There are many different types of windows in the structure, but most of them are flat-shaped with solid stone lintel surrounds. The building possesses a string course under the second-story windows. The windows of this type vary in length and width and the divisions are usually double-sash with some transoms and mullions. A large semi-elliptical window appears on the lower portion of the façade and directly above the window is a decorated surround with an "oeil de boeuf" window and the entire window is sur-

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rounded by a rounded arch. Another window on the north side is a slender, semi-circular shape and is tall. It is surrounded by a half-arch and string course. There are three large dormers of wood with several ribbon windows and topped by a dome. The depth of the windows give the structure a sense of massiveness and stability. The roof is hipped and irregular with slate shingles. A polygonal turret is crowned by a conical roof. The foundation is brick and stone and the house is in excellent condition. The interior walls are plaster with oak, fir, birch, mahogany and pine trim. The floors are maple and pine. The cubic footage of the structure is 53,3000.

503 North Duluth (1916). St. Joseph's Cathedral is a Romanesque church with several rounded arches around the doors and windows. The church features an apse-and-transept plan of Ottonian origins. Two large towers on the main facade are topped with conical roofs. The main windows are semi-circular of the romanesque type. There are minor buttresses along the walls and a decorated string course is employed throughout the structure. The church has tree front entrances, one to the nave and one each to the aisles. The central door is encased in a semi-circular arch resting on a Corinthian order. There are several examples throughout the building of carved reliefs. The arches are bracketed by circular medallions with carved figureheads of Renaissance style. At the center of the main facade is a large circular window with roundheaded arches. The circular feature also appears at transept ends. The Cathedral's western towers are distinctly German, while the tower details are found on French Romanesque examples.

A list of early residents in the district would include the following names:

R.F. Pettigrew was one of the first two United States Senators from South Dakota, as well as a member of the House of Representatives. One state history called him "the foremost citizen of the state." Pettigrew's law practice involved him in many important business and civic matters in Sioux Falls. He resided at two homes in the district: 215 North Duluth and 135 North Duluth. He donated the latter building to the city along with many items from his personal collections. The home today serves as the municipal museum which is named for Pettigrew.

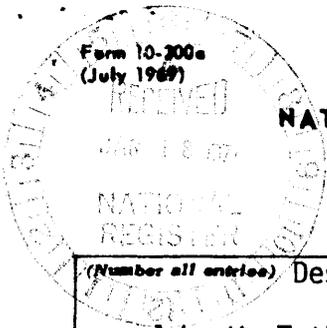
Hiram W. Ross, a leading lumberman in South Dakota and Minnesota, resided at 335 North Duluth. He was elected mayor in 1885, but is best known as a prominent businessman.

Charles H. Ross, son of Hiram, became an even more important lumberman nationally. He was president of the Northwestern Lumbermen's Association, vice-president of a bank and director of Minnehaha Springs. The Minnehaha Springs Building is also located in the district at 535 North Spring. Ross increased his father's business and also resided at 335 North Duluth.

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John W. Tuthill, another leading lumberman who owned thirty-two lumberyards in South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota, built one of the loveliest homes in Sioux Falls at 433 North Duluth. He also speculated in urban and farm lands. Tuthill's family donated a municipal park--which remains the largest park in Sioux Falls.

William T. Doolittle was a railroad engineer who played an important role in the city's politics and history. He was an alderman, president of the city council and mayor in 1908. He is credited with bringing the first train into Sioux Falls. He lived at 133 South Prairie.

George B. Sammons was one of the city's earliest, leading merchants. He was the town's first treasurer and helped organize the city charter. Sammons made his home at 317 North Spring.

Homer H. Keith was an important lawyer, a district court judge, a city attorney, a state legislator and Speaker of the House of South Dakota. He was also important in city affairs and represented many important clients. He resided at 415 North Duluth.

Porter P. Peck was a leading businessman and pioneer in the transportation business in Sioux Falls. When he came to the city, he began one of the first livery businesses and later brought the first omnibus and landau to the city. He was president of the Minnehaha National Bank and organized another bank. In city politics, he was an alderman, city treasurer and a two-term mayor beginning in 1908. He lived at 309 North Duluth.

Joseph M. Baily lived at 350 North Duluth and was an important lawyer, businessman and speculator in Sioux Falls. He helped organize many banks and was president of one. Baily was a territorial treasurer and delegate to the Republican conventions of 1884 and 1888. Because of his loyalty to the Republican party, he was appointed commissioner to examine the United States mints.

Charles E. McKinney was a president of a bank and a lawyer. His Sioux Falls National Bank was one of the earliest such institutions in Dakota Territory. He was also appointed to various state and national positions. He lived at 315 North Prairie.

Jonas H. Lien was an alderman and mayor of the city in 1898. He also was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of the state. He made his home at 115 North Duluth.

Charles O. Baily lived at 309 North Duluth and was a leading lawyer and realtor in the city. He was a nationally-recognized attorney when he practiced before the United States Supreme Court. He had the largest law library in the state and one of the largest such private collections in the United States.

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Cyrus Walts was one of the earliest settlers of Sioux Falls. He came as a surveyor in 1869 and in 1872 was clerk of the U.S. District Court in the area. He held several important city positions, including President of the Board of Education, County Superintendent of Schools; and later, Justice of the Peace. He is commemorated by Sioux Falls for his outstanding civic-mindedness by naming a street after him. His wife was the first public school teacher in the city. They resided at 103 South Summit.

Rollin J. Wells was involved in many important local enterprises. He practiced before the United States Supreme Court. Wells also received national recognition for his three-act poem entitled, "Hagar." He made his home at 731 West Ninth.

Alonzo J. Edgerton was a leading citizen of the states of Minnesota and South Dakota. He was a military commander during the Indian troubles of 1862 and 63; he also commanded the troops that put down the riots in New Orleans in 1867. He was a member of the first Minnesota state legislature, a railroad commissioner and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Dakota Territory in 1881. He also briefly filled the vacancy of United States Senator from Minnesota. He also was a district judge and president of the two-state constitutional conventions in 1885 and 1887. He lived at 350 North Duluth.

L.T. Dunning lived at 209 North Duluth and was founder and president of the L.T. Dunning Drug Company. Dunning was the second president of the municipality of Sioux Falls before it employed the mayor system of city government.

Frank R. Aikens lived at 632 West Ninth. Aikens was an early lawyer for the Dakotas. He was an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Dakota Territory and a judge of the Second District Court. He was also a state legislator.

Charles Fantle began the largest department store and chain in the Dakotas which still exists today in Sioux Falls and Yankton. He and his brother were leading merchants that filled the needs of many South Dakotans. He occupied several homes in the district.

C.C. Carpenter owned the largest hotel in Sioux Falls and was treasurer of the Sioux Falls Stockyards. He was a leading citizen of the town and involved in many other business matters that helped Sioux Falls to grow. He lived at 103 South Duluth.

The Sioux Falls Historic District reflects several themes apparent in South Dakota history. Primary, of course, is the Urban Growth and Development process that was of vital importance to the state. Secondly, Commercial and Industrial Expansion are implied in this district, since so many of the men who built these homes engaged in oc-

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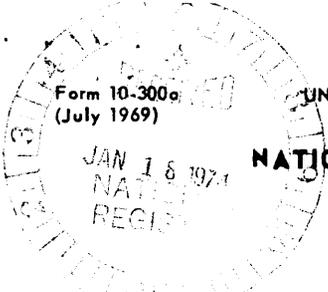
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cupations and professions related to these themes. Implicit also are the important Transportation and Religious themes. The advent of the railroad really provided the basis for Sioux Falls' dominant economic position. The presence of the Catholic Diocesan Cathedral in the district reflects the spread of Catholic influence in South Dakota.

PRINCIPLE BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT

1. 535 North Spring is a two-story, stone-faced, Gothic structure built in 1881; was then used as the Minnehaha Springs building and was the source of water for Sioux Falls residents.
2. 103 South Spring is a Queen Anne, two-story, frame house. It employs horizontal siding and a gable roof. Timothy Fosdick, a leading clothier, lived in this house built in 1881.
3. 503 North Duluth is an German Romanesque church built in 1916. Covered in detail in "Description."
4. 433 North Duluth is a two-story Queen Anne with stone foundation. It employs many types of windows and other features of Queen Annes. John W. Tuthill lived here. He was a prominent lumberman. (See "Significance.")
5. 415-17 North Duluth was built in 1889 and is another example of Queen Anne architecture. Homer Keith, prominent lawyer, lived here. (See "Significance.")
6. 350 North Duluth. This structure is a two-and-one-half story Richardsonian Romanesque built in 1888. (For a more detailed description see "Description.")
7. 315 North Duluth is another Queen Anne built in 1890. It has a stone foundation and horizontal siding. It is called the Malloney home.
8. 215 North Duluth is a Gothic-styled house of two stories. It is of the English medieval type with high-pitched roof.
9. 209 North Duluth is a stick-style home built in 1887 and owned at that time by L.T. Dunning. (Explained in detail under "Description.")
10. 135 North Duluth was built in 1889 and is a Queen Anne. A portion of the house was an addition. It is a two-and-one-half-story structure with brick exterior walls. The building was bought by Senator R.F. Pettigrew and today is the Pettigrew Museum.
11. 117 North Duluth is an excellent example of a Queen Anne style of two and one-half stories. The building employs horizontal siding, a gable roof of various pitches, a tower and many different-sized windows. It belonged to Bernard McCrossan in 1894, he was a leading merchant of early Sioux Falls.



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12. 115 North Duluth was built in 1886 and is a two-and-one-half-story house of the Queen Anne style. It has a hipped roof, bay windows, a cupola, and its foundation is stone. This is the Jonas Lien home.
13. 109 North Duluth is a two-story Italianate home and has brick and horizontal siding. It was built in 1887 and is known as the Peter Peck home. (See "Significance" for more on Mr. Peck.)
14. 103 South Duluth is a large Queen Anne of two stories. A brick veneer home with bay windows, gable, hipped roof and stone foundation. The C.C. Carpenter home.
15. 116 South Duluth is a Mediterranean-styled home with a large dormer and a front and balcony porch. It employs horizontal siding and a stone foundation. It is a good example of a Mediterranean built in 1907.
16. 123 South Duluth was built in 1893 and is another good example of a Queen Anne. It was built by W.C. Hollister, a leading businessman. It is a two-story frame home with shingles and horizontal siding employed on the outside walls. It has a gabled roof and many different types of windows.
17. 127 South Duluth was built in 1893 and is a Shingle-style home. The exterior features are mostly shingles with some siding and a gabled roof with dormers. The interior walls are plaster with painted murals and a beamed ceiling. W.C. Hollister built it, but is known as the Waldo Z. Sharp home. It is still owned today by his granddaughter, Mrs. Betty Best.
18. 305 North Summit was built in 1903. It is a Neo-Classic home that today is used as the Knights of Columbus meeting hall. It is a two-story house with half-siding and shingles.
19. 303 North Summit is a two-story shingle home. It is described in detail in "Description."
20. 231 North Summit was built in 1900 and is a two-story, frame house of the Mediterranean type. It has bay windows, a hipped roof with dormers and a stone foundation and its walls are horizontal siding.
21. 219 North Summit is an excellent example of a large Mediterranean with a Classic porch. The roof is hipped with several dormers (1900).
22. 215 North Summit is another excellent example of what can be done with a Mediterranean home. It was built in 1903 and employs a Classic porch and other Classic effects.
23. 107 North Summit was built in 1904 and is a Greek Revival structure. It is known as the George Egan home; Mr. Egan was a prominent lawyer in Sioux Falls.

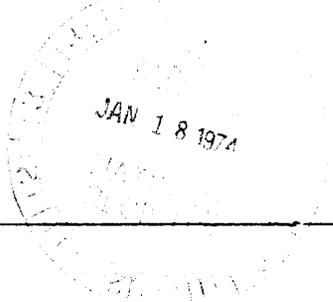
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24. 103 South Summit is a large two-and-one-half-story Queen Anne. The Cyrus Walts home is described in detail in "Description."
25. 315 North Prairie was built in 1885 and is another Queen Anne; it is a two-story frame house with horizontal siding. It has a gabled roof with dormers. It also employs many different types of windows, including bays. It is the Charles McKinney home; he was a prominent banker in early Sioux Falls.
26. 301 North Prairie built in 1891 is a Neo-Classical type of home. Described in detail in "Description."
27. 201 North Prairie was built in 1911 and is a Neo-Dutch Colonial. It has five dormers and several bay windows. It is a three-story, shingle home with a gabled roof. This is the Esenback home.
28. 101 North Prairie is a large late Queen Anne built in 1907. It has several large triangular pediments and dormers. It has an enclosed porch with Classic effects. It has an irregular gabled and hipped roof. Hubert Loonan, a lumberman, lived in the home in 1910. He was a prominent businessman.
29. 103 South Prairie is a two-story Richardsonian Romanesque. The Henry Avery home is described in detail in "Description."
30. 133-35 South Prairie is a large, two-story, Gothic-type home. It is a frame house with a mansard roof. It employs horizontal siding and a stone foundation. William T. Doolittle home, built in 1890.
31. 623 West Eighth is a two-story frame Italianate home. It has one large dormer and one small dormer with a hipped roof. The building uses horizontal siding and a stone foundation. It was built in 1872.
32. 624 West Eighth is a large Queen Anne built in 1900. It has horizontal siding and large pediments. It conforms with the district.
33. 618 West Ninth is a large Mediterranean built in 1903. It is a two-story home with bay windows, a hipped roof with dormers. A horizontal siding is used to cover the exterior and a stone foundation. It is owned by the Rollinger family.
34. 629 West Ninth was built in 1912 and is a Tudor type of home. It is a two-story, brick-faced house with many windows, a large chimney and three fireplaces.
35. 632 West Ninth was built in 1885 and is a large Queen Anne. A two-story frame home with horizontal siding, a gabled roof with triangular pediments. The foundation is stone. Frank R. Aikens, a prominent lawyer, lived in this home.



51107

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The significance of the Sioux Falls historic district requires a brief history of the city's beginnings. The Western Town Company of Dubuque, Iowa, founded Sioux Falls in the autumn of 1856, laying the basis for the later claim that it was the first townsite in Dakota. The Sioux Uprising of the early 1860's stymied development and forced all settlers in the area to evacuate to Yankton. The abandoned settlement was destroyed by Santee raiders.

The establishment of Fort Dakota in 1865 enabled new settlement in Sioux Falls. Beginning in the 1870's, thousands of pioneers migrated to the area and established a permanent community. In 1876, the village was incorporated and the first city elections were held the following year. By 1900, Sioux Falls became the largest city in the state--a position it has never relinquished.

Newcomers came to Sioux Falls for many reasons--mostly economic. A favorable location on the falls of the Big Sioux River provided a reliable water and power supply. The famous Dakota Land Boom in the 1870's and 80's drew thousands of settlers who needed an urban trade and commercial center. At the same time, Sioux Falls promoters persuaded several railroads to focus on their town. The first train arrived in 1878; and by 1890, six additional lines came to Sioux Falls. The commercial and cultural advantages stemming from the railroads established Sioux Falls as the dominant urban center in eastern Dakota.

The principle economic enterprises related to local supply and exchange activities. Implement dealers, lumberyards, creameries and breweries were important elements in the Sioux Falls economy. Most important, however, was the stockyard and meatpacking industry. John Morrell and Company located in Sioux Falls and insured the city as a major market for cattle, sheep and hogs. At the same time, professional people found Sioux Falls a place of opportunity and many established businesses and practices.

The Sioux Falls historic district is the area where many of the early leaders of the community built their homes. The area partly sits on a hill overlooking the present southeast business district. Because its inhabitants were financially successful and their residences reflected

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that status, the area became known as "Nob Hill." As the wealthy moved into the district, they displayed their monetary success with elaborate homes. The Queen Anne style was pervasively utilized. This style allowed individual expression and variation which precluded an appearance of mass-produced similarity. The large Queen Annes constituted some of the outstanding residential structures in Sioux Falls during the late Nineteenth Century. Richardsonian Romanesque, Mediterranean, and Colonial designs also gave the area a distinct sense of architectural quality. St. Joseph's Cathedral is the architectural center of the district because of its size and design. Situated on a prominent hill, this romanesque structure's twin steeples dominate the skyline and district. It is the outstanding example of church architecture in the area, and one of the best in the state.

Many of the outstanding homes were built in the 1880's. The depression of the 1890's slowed construction, which resumed in the new century. Although the wealthy continued to build in the area, families of moderate means--small businessmen, usually--also began to occupy the neighborhood. Consequently, many Twentieth-Century structures are less ostentatious than the earlier homes.

The continuity of these styles, with their fine sense of proportion and rhythm create a definite impact on the visitor. That impact is enhanced by the topography and mature trees which add a sense of stability. There is little doubt that this neighborhood was once the home of Sioux Falls' prominent citizens.

