

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

MAY 15 1985

date entered

JUN 19 1985

**1. Name**

historic Wheeler Hotel

and/or common Wheeler House/Hotel

**2. Location**

street & number 101 N. Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town Howard

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 46

county Miner

code 097

**3. Classification**

**Category**

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

**Ownership**

- public
  - private
  - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
  - being considered

**Status**

- occupied
  - unoccupied
  - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - no

**Present Use**

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other: (apartments)

**4. Owner of Property**

name Charles and Yvonne Leider

street & number 110 West Farmer Avenue

city, town Howard

NA vicinity of

state South Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Miner County Courthouse

city, town Howard

state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NA

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  NA federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records NA

city, town

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a corner lot in the downtown district of Howard, the Wheeler Hotel is a two-story, L-shaped frame building. Paired wood brackets support the overhanging eave of the roof. Approximately 100 feet of the western portion of the building was destroyed by a fire during the 1950s. Although now functioning as an apartment building and rooming house, the Old Wheeler Hotel still retains its neon "Hotel" sign.

Fenestration on the front (north) facade includes seven evenly spaced 2 over 2 sash rectangular windows on the 2nd floor, and three 2 over 2 sash rectangular windows and three entrances on the first floor. Six evenly spaced 2 over 2 sash rectangular windows are located on the 2nd floor of the east (side) facade as well as a picture window, one small square opening and three 2 over 2 sash rectangular windows on the first floor. A staircase leads to the second level on the south (rear) facade. There are four, 2 over 2 sash windows on each floor of the south facade. All window openings have retained their original surrounds. The west (side) facade shares a common wall with the building next door.

On the interior, the first floor is divided into three principal spaces—a large commercial area (formally the lobby and then later a liquor store), and two apartments. These spaces were renovated during the 1950s after the fire but still have retained several historic features including the original stairway and railing in the foyer; the wainscoating, original doors, doorknobs, and baseboards in the former lobby; and some of the original hardware throughout. The second floor contains twelve sleeping rooms and two bathrooms. These rooms have not been altered in recent years although they are devoid of any significant architectural features.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      C. 1880                      **Builder/Architect**      NA

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Once the focal point of downtown Howard, the Wheeler Hotel is significant in the area of commerce. The hotel was built during the early 1880s with an addition constructed about ten years later. This was destroyed by fire around 1950.

During the railroad era of the late 19th and 20th centuries, the hotel experienced particularly heavy use. Horse drawn carriages operated by the hotel met the passenger trains in Howard and the town of Vilas to encourage business. The hotel also contained a large dining room which served its guests as well as local townspeople. For many years, the Wheeler Hotel also became a community center for activities such as dances. After the Second World War, however, the building no longer functioned as a hotel. The second floor rooms were rented out, the lobby was converted into a package liquor store, and the dining and kitchen areas became apartments.

The building today with its original wood brackets and window surrounds, is still a visual reminder of the once prosperous Wheeler Hotel of Howard.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title, Fidelity Abstract & Title Co., Howard, SD  
August, 1984.  
Interviews with: Robert Clark, son of former owner; and Mrs. Ella  
Ronning, hotel keeper from 1950-80.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Howard

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	6	1	8	1	1	0	4	8	7	4	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundaries of the property are contained within the legal description: Lots 5 and 6 and the South 1 foot of Lot 7 all in Block 14 of the original plat of the City of Howard, South Dakota

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Leider, Owner (with the assistance of Melanie Betz)

organization NA date April 1, 1985

street & number 110 W. Farmer telephone 605/772-5676

city or town Howard state South Dakota

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

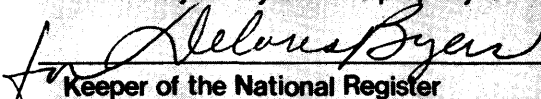
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Office of History date 4/30/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 **Entered in the National Register** date 6-19-85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration