

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service



National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

APR 25 1988

1. Name

historic Arthur C. Ellerman House

and/or common Cement Log House

2. Location

street & number 708 West Fifth Street ^{5th} not for publication

city, town Yankton vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Yankton code 135

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Wayne E. and Violas Kreun

street & number 708 West Fifth Street

city, town Yankton vicinity of _____ state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yankton County Courthouse

street & number Broadway and West Third Streets

city, town Yankton state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Arthur Ellerman House is a square-shaped dwelling, constructed of concrete, molded in the shape of round logs, which are painted on the ends to resemble wood. Arranged in three bays, the front facade has a central doorway flanked by small windows. These windows, like the side panes of the front picture windows, have diamond panes, a feature common in vernacular revival buildings of the time. The south, side facade is two bays and the north, three. The rear is also three bays. One-and-one-half stories in height, the structure has windows in the gables of the sides and front porch. Additions to the main block of the house include a front porch, which is built approximately three feet above ground level. A three foot wall of concrete logs encloses the porch deck, which is covered over with a gable end roof supported by four wooden pillars. A recent frame addition has been built on the rear, covering the center bay. No structural changes were made and the small addition blends unobtrusively. The original sections of the house are covered in red roofing tile. In the backyard is a poured concrete terrace used for storing screen and storm windows. The interior plan of the house is basically central passage, with the hallway displaced away from the living room, which is the largest room. Double pile, the plan has three rear rooms, which are divided between dining and bedroom areas with a central kitchen, placed behind the hall. The house retains the majority of its original furnishings including the stone and cement aggregate plant urns on the front porch. This material was used in the foundation as well.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Erected in 1912, the Arthur C. Ellerman House is significant in the area of architecture. One of the popular suburban building styles of the first quarter of the twentieth century was the vernacular revival. These dwellings drew their inspiration from English thatch cottages, alpine farm houses, and historic American structures. American log building has gone through repeated rediscoveries, and in 1912 it was an extremely popular material for resort and recreational buildings. The Ellerman House has many features of early twentieth century suburban architecture, such as the elegant "Spanish vernacular" roofing tiles, the "English vernacular" diamond pane windows, and the "American vernacular" log construction. While all the details emphasize a hand-crafted quality, the materials create an interesting contrast by the use of a servicable, and largley industrial material like concrete. The Ellerman House both disguises the fact that it is made of concrete by heightening the "log like" characteristics, and at the same time excentuates the fact by revealing the extreme plasticity of the building material. Other houses were being built of concrete at the time; most were poured rectangular slabs or pre-cast block structures. In complete contrast, the Ellerman House is a bold and witty statement on just how well-made and hand-crafted a manmade product can be. This delightful house is a rare example of trompe-l'oeil architecture in South Dakota.

Arthur Ellerman was the sewer and water engineer for the City of Yankton, and his family lived in this house until 1980, when it passed to its present owners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Radford, William A. Cement Houses and How to Build Them, New York and Chicago: The Radford Architectural Co. 1909.
Oral interview with Mrs. Arthur Ellerman, May 1980.
Deed Abstract, filed September 14, 1870, Page 523, Book C, Yankton County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Gavins Point Dam

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	3	0	5	1	0	4	7	4	7	7	1	5
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 lot lines of the property form the boundaries of the site, which is located in the east one-half of Lot 8, and all of Lot 9 and the vacated alley adjacent thereto of Block 44, John Nobles' Addition to the City of Yankton

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wayne and Viola Kreun; technical editing: Carolyn Torma

organization Historical Preservation Center date 5 Nov 80

street & number University of South Dakota telephone 605-677-5313

city or town Vermillion state South Dakota 57069

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jimmie O. Fishbein date 1/27/82

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date

For HCRS use only

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

for Delores Byers 3/5/82
Keeper of the National Register Entered in the National Register date

Attest: _____ date
Chief of Registration