

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

1215

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 Nora Store

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 30705 475th Avenue [] not for publication

city or town Alcester [x] vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Union code 127 zip code 57001

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.)

Jay D. Voigt State Historic Preservation Officer 09-19-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- [] 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.

Four horizontal lines for signature and date.

Nora Store
Name of Property

Union County, South Dakota
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Department Store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Field Stone
walls Narrow Clapboard
roof Asphalt Shingles
other

Narrative Description

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

Nora Store
Name of Property

Union 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

Periods of Significance

1907, 1919

Significant Dates

1907

1919

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Constructed by local people with I. Morgan Asjeld as the lead Carpenter.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Nora Store
Name of Property

Union 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. 14 687098 4756520
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 Mike Vogel Date April 20, 2007
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-6056
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 Mike Pedersen
street & number 30707 475th Avenue telephone 605-253-2650
city or town Alcester state SD zip code 57001

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**Nora Store
Union County, South DakotaSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The Nora Store is located at 30705 475th Avenue on the west side of the highway in the Alcester, South Dakota vicinity. The building was constructed in 1907 by I. Morgan Asjbeld, the lead carpenter, with assistance from many of the local people in the community. The façade of the building faces east toward the highway. The building is located on the east end of a gradual slanting small hill from the west in a very small community that includes a handful of houses but no other commercial type property.

The Nora Store is a gabled one and a half story building of no particular architectural style. The façade features a false front and a large wood awning flat roof supported by four square stucco brick pillars that cover the main entrance to the building. The entrance under the awning has a concrete floor. On the south end of the building a flat, open three stall lean-to addition with six more stucco brick pillars was added in 1919. The addition covers one third of the south elevation. The stalls were constructed for the purpose of servicing automobiles. The main entrance has a wooden door with single pane glass, sidelights and a leaded glass transom window. Flanking both sides of the front door are two large picture windows with vertical muntins dividing each and a smaller rectangular leaded glass section on top of both. A shed roof addition was added to the north side in 1919 also. This addition covers the entire depth of the building and features a large, wooden, double swinging door opening on the façade. Paired two over two double hung windows are located in the gable centered in the false front.

The south elevation west of the open stalls, from left to right, features two small rectangular windows divided by a vertical muntin. To the right is a double hung twelve over two window. The upper half of the window is a Queen Anne style large pane surrounded by smaller panes. Above the two small rectangular windows, is another window of the same size and style.

The west elevation from left to right features a large wooden double swinging door similar to the one on the façade. To the right are two four over four double hung windows and small enclosed entryway addition with the door opening on the south end. The door is wooden with a small single pane window in the upper half. Centered in the gable on the second floor is another four over four double hung window.

The north elevation of the Nora Store has no openings.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Nora Store
Union County, South DakotaSection number 8 Page 2**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Nora Store near Alcester, South Dakota is significant for its vernacular architecture that was prevalent in many small communities in eastern South Dakota during the early 20th century. This style, lacking hardly any ornamentation, frequently presented itself in early South Dakota history and is certainly historic and representative of early commercial structures in rural communities. These false front buildings were built to emulate the profile of buildings in larger cities and to promote a sense of prosperity. Many of these false-front commercial buildings no longer remain. If the town was successful, these false front buildings were replaced by more permanent brick commercial buildings. If the town wasn't successful, these false-front buildings were often razed and their lumber taken elsewhere, or they were left to deteriorate and fall down. Very few remain with integrity. Often the rural country stores survived as they were the only center of trade in a surrounding area. These stores often existed at cross-roads and were know as four corner stops. For these reasons the Nora Store is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The territory that Union County occupies today was inhabited by Sioux Indians prior to 1859. A treaty between the Federal Government and the Yankton Sioux moved them to the reservation further west toward the Missouri River. Immediately following this move, white immigration the area began.¹

Union County was first created and organized as Cole County in honor of a territorial legislator, Austin Cole in 1862. January 7, 1864 the legislature rearranged the boundaries of Cole and Lincoln counties and the name Cole was changed to Union. This name was probably chosen because of the strong sentiment existing at the time of the Civil War.²

The community of Nora was settled in 1871 by Norwegians who had migrated first to Michigan to work in the mines and then later moved west as homesteaders. A few years later additional Norwegian settlers came to Nora from Wisconsin as well.³ One of the earliest settlers in Nora was I.M. Asbjeld who was responsible for naming the community "Nora". He claimed that "Nora" was short for Norway.⁴

Chris Stenholt owned the first store in Nora in 1898, where the present Nora store is today. The store was later sold to Mr. Wells and Carl Oden and after a fire destroyed it, the new Nora Store was built in 1907. A few years later Carl Oden bought out Wells⁵

¹ Edward Elliot Collins, *A History of Union County, South Dakota to 1880*, (Department of History, University of South Dakota, 1937)

² Alcester Centennial Committee, *Alcester, South Dakota*, 1979 p.8

³ Janice Hansen, Personal Correspondence, 2007

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Mike Pedersen, Personal Correspondence, 2007

**National Register of Historic Places
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The Nora Store served as a general store for the community as well as an automobile repair shop up until the 1950's. Although it hasn't operated as any type of retail store for several decades, the building still serves as a gathering center for many of the local people who come on special occasions to listen to pipe organ music and simply reminisce about old times in Nora.⁶

The Nora Store is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because it is a good representation of the types of early commercial buildings that were built in the rural communities of southeast South Dakota in the late 19th and early 20th century. These types of buildings were usually made of wood before commercial buildings of brick, in these very small rural communities, came onto the scene. Most of these vernacular type structures were not constructed by professional building companies but were constructed by one or two semi-professional carpenters with a lot of help from local general laborers.

⁶ Ibid

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National Park Service**Nora Store
Union County, South DakotaSection number 9 Page 4

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Collins, Edward Elliot, *A History of Union County, South Dakota to 1880*, (Department of History, University of South Dakota, 1937)

Alcester Centennial Committee, *Alcester, South Dakota* 1979 p. 8

Hansen, Janice, *Personal Correspondence*, 2007

Pedersen, Mike, *Personal Correspondence*, 2007

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National Park Service**Nora Store
Union County, South DakotaSection number 10 Page 5

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the Nora Store is an imaginary line encompassing only the store itself. The line starts at a point ten feet northwest of the northwest corner of the store. The line then runs east to a point ten feet northeast of the northeast corner of the store. The line then runs south to a point ten feet southeast of the southeast corner of the lean-to garage. The line then runs west to a point ten feet southwest of the southwest corner of the store and then straight north to the original starting point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes only the store. There are no other buildings on the property.