

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

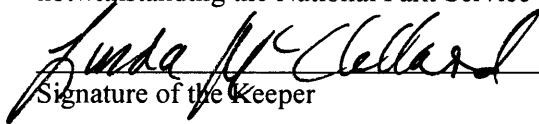
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 09000043

Property Name: Hermosa Masonic Lodge

County: Custer State: South Dakota

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

February 17, 2009

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3 Certification

The action being requested in the State certification block is, hereby, completed to indicate that the property is being nominated to the National Register. This information is consistent with the State's cover letter of 05 January 2009.

The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

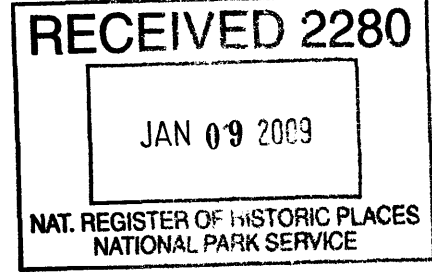
DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

043



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 any 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 Hermosa Masonic Lodge
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number W side of 2nd Street between Folsom Street not for publication
and Hwy 40
city or town Hermosa Vicinity _____
state South Code SD county Custer code 033 zip code 57330

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt 01-05-2009
Signature of certifying official Date

South Dakota SHPO
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 commenting or other official Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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.
- other,
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Linda McClard 2/17/09

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Education	Sub: School
Social	Meeting Hall
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and Culture	Sub: Museum
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

False Front

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	Cement
Roof	Metal
Walls	Wood/Stucco
Other	_____

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

See Continuation Sheets

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.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History _____

Period of Significance

1929-1958 _____

Hermosa Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Custer County, South Dakota
County and State

Significant Dates 1929

Significant Person n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Hermosa Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Custer County, South Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>645399</u>	<u>4855705</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chris B. Nelson
organization SD SHPO date 1 November 2008
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-3103
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)

Hermosa Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Custer County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Hermosa History and Arts Association
street & number PO Box 175 telephone _____
city or town Hermosa state SD zip code 57744

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page # 1

The Hermosa Masonic Lodge is a false front, two-story rectangular building located in Hermosa, Custer County, South Dakota. It has a cement foundation, wood frame covered in stucco, and gabled metal roof that is behind a false front. There is a centerline chimney to the rear of the building. All of the windows on the building, excluding transoms, are the original two-over-two double hung wood windows. There is also an original, yet simple, wood cornice.

The façade (east elevation) of the Hermosa Masonic Lodge has a stepped parapet that creates a false front. There is a central door with transom on the first floor flanked by paired windows; the door is not used. There are two equidistance windows on the second story. In the central rise of the parapet is a ghost sign of the Masonic symbol.

The south elevation has a central entrance with a gable roof over a small landing. Flanking the entrance on both stories are two sets of paired windows.

The west elevation has a small, one-story addition with a gabled roof and cement block foundation. There are three windows on the elevation above and the north of the addition

The north elevation has no window openings. There is a historic door and steps leading from the a second floor entrance.

The interior retains the original floors and some of the original baseboards, moldings, and window trims. Some of the rooms on the second floor have been enlarged.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 2

Introduction

The Hermosa Masonic Lodge is eligible under Criterion A under Social History for the role the Masons have played in the history of Hermosa. Hermosa is located in Custer County, directly south of Rapid City on Highway 79. The period of significance is from 1929 to 1958, the period from which the lodge was established up to the fifty year significance period.

Historical Background

The largest groups of American Indians present in South Dakota directly before white settlement were the Nakota, Dakota, and Lakota, known collectively as the Sioux. Anthropologists believe that the Sioux were pushed out of Minnesota onto the plains where they became the dominant group by the mid to late 1700s, although tribal creation stories tell of the Sioux inhabiting the area since time immemorial. The Dakota and Nakota lived primarily east of the Missouri River while the Lakota roamed the western half of the state. The Sioux were eventually forced onto reservations through a series of questionable treaties that opened up land for white settlement.

Hermosa was founded in 1886 when a railroad survey crew reached the area. The chief engineer for the Pioneer Townsite Company is credited with naming the town, and there was enthusiasm over the natural beauty of the Black Hills and rolling grasslands surrounding the town. Hermosa meant "beautiful" in Spanish and was considered a suitable name for the site.¹

After its first year in existence, Hermosa is reported to have had a population of 1,000. As the town grew quickly, business developed to meet the demand of the influx of settlers. Three hotels were constructed in the first year along with a drug store, sawmill, lumberyard, saloons, and other businesses. Hermosa was known as a wide open town in its early days where cowboys let off steam and street bawls were not uncommon. As more settlers moved in and agriculture and livestock production became more defined, things began to settle down.²

History and Significance of the Hermosa Masonic Lodge

The Hermosa Masonic Lodge began in 1889 as the Hermosa School. In 1926, the school building was condemned and offered up for sale. The Masonic Lodge purchased the building under the

¹ Douglas Hesnard, editor. *Hermosa 1886-1986: Railroads, Cowboys, and Memories* (Hermosa: SD, Hermosa Centennial Committee, 1986), 2.

² Ibid, 4-6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 3

condition that they move the building to make room for the new school to be constructed on the same spot. The purchase was made and plans were made to move the building a few blocks away.

The school originally had a brick veneer, bell tower, and a gable over the entrance. In order to move the building, the Masons had to remove the veneer, bell tower, and gable. The building was then relocated a few blocks away to its new location where it was remodeled as a Masonic Lodge. The building was rebuilt using the shell of the old school building.

The first Masonic activity in what would become South Dakota occurred in 1862 when the Grand Lodge of Iowa was petitioned for a Dispensation for Dakota Lodge #1 at Fort Randall in Dakota Territory, although a charter was never issued.³ This first charter granted in Dakota Territory came in 1863 with the formation of St. John's Lodge #166 in the territorial capital at Yankton.⁴ The Grand Lodge of Dakota was formed in 1875 after a number of lodges had formed in the territory through dispensations from Iowa and Minnesota.⁵ In 1889, Dakota Territory became North Dakota and South Dakota. At this time, Grand Lodges were formed for each state.

The first meeting of the Battle River Lodge #92 AF & AM met in Hermosa in 1866. Meetings were held on the second floor of the Stengler building until the new lodge was ready to become the official meeting place in 1929. Lots 5 and 6 of Block 3, Hermosa, were purchased by the lodge for \$100.00. The building cost \$250.00 and another \$2,550.00 was spent to move and remodel the lodge. In 1930, the Hermosa Chapter #10 of the Order of Eastern Star also made the lodge their meeting place. From that time on there has always been good cooperation between the two organizations in both financial and social events.

Both the Masons and Order of the Eastern Star have been important charitable organizations in the history of Hermosa. Over the years the organizations have raised money for China Relief, March of Dimes, Community Christmas Tree, Camp Wanzer, Polio Fund, Crippled Children's Home in Sioux Falls, and the school lunch program. During World War II, the organizations also prepared Red Cross care packages for the soldiers overseas, including POWs. Both organizations also held local fundraising events in the building to support various causes over the years.

³ Harold L. Tisher, editor. *The First 100 Years of the Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of South Dakota 1875-1975*. (Vermillion: SD, Centennial Committee, 1974), 9.

⁴ Ibid, 11

⁵ Ibid, 11

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 4

The building has also served as a social center for the community. Over the years, the downstairs portion of the building was used to host banquets, card parties, talents shows, and dances. It was also used to host large dinners on special occasions such as fairs and town celebrations. When large numbers of cattle shipper were in town, the lodge was used as a dining hall since the small town's restaurant could not accommodate everyone.

The lodge does not look the same today as it did when it was the Hermosa School. Its significance begins in 1929 when the Masons purchased the building, moved it to its current location, and remodeled the building over a couple of years. The building has changed little since it was moved to its current location and remodeled as a Masonic Lodge. The only changes are a small addition to the rear and the application of a metal roof in the 1960s that covered wood shingles.

The removal of the brick veneer, bell tower, and gabled entrance in 1929 essentially left the building a shell. This shell was moved two blocks in town to its current location, where it was stuccoed. A false front was also added to the building to improve its looks. The Masons wanted the building, and the town, to look as prosperous as possible, so they added the popular false-front or "boom town" parapet to the building.

The false-front building form was popular in West River South Dakota towns, many of which were established at the beginning of the 1900s. The form was most popular between 1905 and 1915 for first generation buildings in newly established towns. False-front buildings were usually one or two story structures whose false-front or "boom town" appearance reflected the relatively thin population density of western South Dakota. False-front buildings declined in popularity as more significant second generation buildings replaced them. Consequently, few false front buildings with integrity remain.⁶

The interior has the original lathe and plaster, though some of the rooms have drop ceilings. The upstairs was where the Masonic meeting took place, so the majority of this floor was remodeled into one large room when the building was moved to its current site. The first floor now houses museum and storage space.

⁶ David Erpsted and David Wood. *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the States Architecture to 1945*. (Pierre: SD, South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 140-141.

Hermosa Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Custer County, South Dakota
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page # 5

All of the original two-over-two double hung windows remain in place although some have been covered with wood to protect them. The building retains integrity from the date of its remodel in 1929; the inner shell of the old school building essentially became a new building post-1929. The only changes made to the lodge since it was completed in the 1920s are a small addition on the rear and the application of a metal roof in the 1960s.

The Hermosa Masonic Lodge is eligible under Criterion A under Social History for the role the Masons have played in the history of Hermosa. Hermosa is located in Custer County, directly south of Rapid City on Highway 79. The period of significance is from 1929 to 1958, the period from which the lodge was established up to the fifty year significance period.

Hermosa Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Custer County, South Dakota
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page # 6

Bibliography

Eastern Custer County Historical Society. *Our Yesterdays*. Eastern Custer County Historical Society, 1970.

Erpestad, David and David Wood. *Building South Dakota*. South Dakota State Historical Society Press, Pierre: SD, 1997.

Hesnard, Douglas B., editor. *Hermosa 1886-1986: Railroads, Cowboys, and Memories*. Hermosa Centennial Committee, Hermosa: SD, 1986.

Tisher, Harold L., editor. *The First 100 Years of the Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of South Dakota 1875-1975*. Centennial Committee, Vermillion: SD, 1974

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes Lot 5 Block 3 Hermosa.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the area encompassing the building.

Hermosa Masonic Lodge
Name of Property

Custer County, South Dakota
County and State

NPS FORM 10-900-A
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page # 7

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-2 except as noted:

Photographer: Chris B. Nelson
Date of Photographs: 1 January 2008
Negatives: SD SHPO

Photo No.	Photographic Information
0001	HermosaMasonicLodge_CusterCounty_SD_0001 North
0002	HermosaMasonicLodge_CusterCounty_SD_0002 Northwest