

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

OCT 1 1986
1986

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

1. Name

historic Nick's Hamburger Shop

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 427 Main Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Brookings

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 26

county Brookings

code 011

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Duane Larson

street & number 527 20th Avenue

city, town Brookings

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Brookings County Courthouse

street & number 314 Sixth Avenue

city, town Brookings

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Downtown Brookings Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion

state South Dakota

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Nick's Hamburger Shop is a flat-roofed, single-story building which shows strong Spanish Colonial Revival influence in the curvilinear gable and use of stucco. Red tile that had once been located above the doors was replaced with plate glass in the 1980's. The overall color is white which adds to the appearance of adobe walls. The top edge of the wall, the windows, and the doors are accented in dark blue trim.

The original building dimensions were twenty-five by forty feet. In 1962, an eighteen by twenty-five foot addition was added to the rear for the kitchen area. The building is divided along its east-west dimension into two long, narrow store fronts. Nick's occupies the north of the building and the Main Barbershop occupies the south half. There are five windows on the north side of the building. The windows are inset and have wooden frames with stucco covered sills. An abbreviated string course of bricks is placed under the sill. Both Nick's and the Main Barbershop have a large window on Main Avenue.

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 checked="" 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 1932 **Builder/Architect** Fred Carlsen, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significant in the area of commerce, Nick's Hamburger Shop has been an institution in Brookings for almost 55 years. Numerous publications have documented its popularity, and many people identify it as a local landmark. Nick's Hamburger Shop is also architecturally significant as an intact vernacular version of Spanish Revival architecture.

Fred Carlsen built the structure for Gus Dixon, Flandreau. Dixon, with his partners J.C. Chimbouris and George Angeleson, leased the lot from the Maddens on July 20, 1932. Construction of the building began on August 5, 1932. Dixon started the Lincoln Cafe here that fall. According to H.F. Niklason, Jr., Nick Dixon went out of business within six weeks.¹ While the building remained vacant, H.F. and Gladys Niklason were building a brisk hamburger business, established in 1929 in the current Reynolds building. Niklasons came to Brookings in 1929 "with an old chevrolet, a white gas stove and little else to open a hamburger stand. They had seen relatives prosper with restaurants and were willing to try their luck in Brookings."² The Niklasons opened Nick's Hamburger Shop in the building in February, 1933. They purchased the building for \$2,000 from Dixon in 1935. In 1937, they purchased the lot from the Maddens for \$10,000. NOTE: According to Nick, the hamburgers were popular because they used such high quality beef. They owned their own feedlot and at the height of the business, an average of three steers were butchered every twelve working days.

The Niklasons sold their interest in the property to Duane Larson in 1975. Nick's burgers were listed in the Washington Post as one of the "82 Great Hamburgers" in a survey of all-time favorite hamburgers conducted by public radio host Noah Adams on "All Things Considered."³ The business was again the feature of national interest in the summer of 1985 when owner Duane Larson refused to sell "New Coke", and was quoted in the June 1985 Newsweek.⁴

A vacation to California influenced Fred Carlsen to utilize the Spanish style for his "Nick's Hamburger Shop" building. According to a 1930's news account:

The building will be a one story, Spanish type, twenty-five by forty feet, and trimmed in a novel manner which will make it attractive and an asset to Main Avenue. Many buildings of this type dot the business sections of California towns, Mr. Carlsen said this morning.⁵

Characterized by its curvilinear parapet, stucco exterior walls and accent red tile, Nick's Hamburger Shop is a vernacular interpretation of the Spanish Colonial Revival style that was popular between 1915 and 1940 - especially in the Southwest and Florida. It is the only commercial building in Brookings that exemplifies this style, the building stands out next to its Victorian style neighbors.

Nick's Hamburger Shop relates to South Dakota Historic Context VI. The Great Depression (1929-1941).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less Than One Acre

Quadrangle name Brookings

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	7	15	5	16	10	4	19	0	18	4	15	10
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:
The East 65' of Lot 14, Block 6, Original Plat Addition.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherry DeBoer, Consultant (technical assistance: Melanie Betz, State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion, SD 57069)

organization Brookings Historic Preservation Commission date July 18, 1986

street & number City Hall, Box 270 telephone 605/692-6629

city or town Brookings 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 9-26-86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 11-6-86


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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- ¹H.F. Niklason, Jr., Original Family Owner, Personal Interview, July, 1986.
- ²Hugh O'Gara, "Burger Fame Spreads by Word of Mouth," Sioux Falls Argus Leader, 23 July, 1978, Sec. B, p. 1B.
- ³Paula Schiller, "A Great American Hamburger Debate: From the Tables Down at Louis' to Winstead's and Cassell's...", The Washington Post, 13 July, 1978, Sect. E, p. E6.
- ⁴Tom Morganthau et al., "Saying 'No' to New Coke," Newsweek, 24 June, 1985.
- ⁵"Work Starts on New Building at Corner of Main & Fifth," Brookings Weekly Register, 4 Aug., 1932, p. 1.

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Morganthau, Tom et al., "Saying 'No' to New Coke," Newsweek, 24 June, 1985.

O'Gara, Hugh, "Burger Fame Spreads by Word of Mouth," Sioux Falls Argus Leader,
23 July, 1978, Sec. B, p. 1B.

Personal Interview, Duane Larson, Current Owner, July 1986.

Personal Interview, H.F. Niklason, Jr., Original Family Owner, July 1986.

Schiller, Paula, "The Great American Hamburger Debate: From the Tables Down at
Louis' to Winstead's and Cassell's...", The Washington Post, 13 July, 1978,
Sec. E, p. E6.

Walsh, Matt, "Nick's Hamburgers Listed Among Top 82," Brookings Daily Register,
18 July, 1978, p. 1.

"Work Starts on New Building at Corner of Main and Fifth," Brookings Weekly Register,
4 Aug., 1932.