

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fiksdal, Lars J. House

Other names/site number: Fiksdal Apartment House

2. Location

Street & number: 619 West First St

not for publication

City or town: Webster

vicinity

State: South Dakota Code: SD County: Day Code: 037 Zip code: 57274

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

[Signature] SHPO (acting)
Signature and title of certifying official

2-8-95
Date

SD STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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 the Keeper

Date of Action

State or Federal agency and bureau

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]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action
3/23/95

Fiksdal, Lars J. House
Name of Property

Day County, SD
County and 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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		1
		_____ sites
		_____ structures
		_____ objects
		_____ 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 Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

LATE VICTORIAN

OTHER: Eclectic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Fiksdal, Lars J. House
Name of Property

Day County, SD
County and 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

Period of Significance

1881

1899

Significant Dates

1881

1899

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

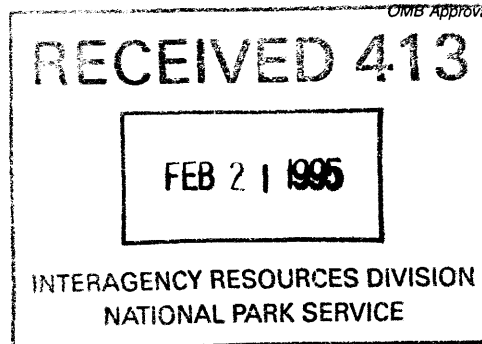
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Narrative Description:

The Lars J. Fiksdal House is an excellent example of an eclectic combination of many stylistic features spanning two periods of American architectural history. The house itself has representative elements from the Italianate, Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, and Queen Anne periods of construction. This property retains a high degree of historic integrity and also depicts the commonalities of combining building styles through the evolution of this property. Many buildings across the state were constructed using a mish-mash of architectural detailing and the Lars J. Fiksdal home is an excellent extant example illustrating this combination.

The house resides on a large corner lot is surrounded by shrubbery and a large lush lawn. Rising from a stone foundation the blonde brick 2 1/2 story house has an irregular footprint and large Colonial Revival style wraparound porch with 15 bowed Tuscan columns. Asphalt shingles sheath the complex and irregular gable roof that is occasionally pierced with gable roofed dormers. The house was constructed in two phases. The oldest section is the south portion located on the third of three lots. This portion was built in 1881 and by 1899 the house was completed to its present appearance. Overall, the building has irregular Queen Anne massing. One constant around the entire periphery of the cornice line are Italianate brackets with larger overhanging eaves with cornices.

Fenestration is consistent with single pane double hung sashes throughout the property. The north and south facade windows are paired. In the gable ends ornamental windows, like two small Gothic arches and a circular window are present. A verticle runner course of bricks caps each window. The house retains its original Classical Revival front door. Other Classical Revival elements are echoed in the heavy soffits and returns on the gable ends. In 1937 the house was renovated to house six apartments. One of these was occupied by the owners. Great care was taken, even at this early date, to retain many of the original features of the house. The main interior stairway with its newel post and spindles were retained and the historic kitchen and bathrooms were incorporated into the new plan.

The house remains in excellent condition and retains its appearance from the 1930's renovation. A new asphalt roof replaced the deteriorating wood shingles and with the recent renovations of the apartments many interior features were improved. The porch and porch columns were stabilized and some of the bases were replaced.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The incorporation of details from many styles in this property and the high degree of history integrity it retains makes it an excellent surviving example of this type of turn-of-the-century building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Lars J. Fiksdal House in Webster, South Dakota is an excellent example of a common occurrence in the evolution of South Dakota architectural styles and periods of construction. The building embodies ornamental features from the Late Victorian and Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival periods. These details represent the Queen Anne, Italianate, Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival. Begun in 1881 and completed by 1899 the house typifies the evolution and incorporation of various popular architectural styles made available primarily through the early railroad route through the town of Webster. The Fiksdal House is significant under criterion C as typifying a combination of architectural styles and as representing common local and statewide building patterns.

The span from 1878 to 1887 is typically considered the Dakota Boom period in South Dakota history. This is when the territory was opened to homesteading and a large influx of immigrants arrived seeking to take advantage of the wide open expanses of land. The boom in Day County began in 1880 when the Hastings and Dakota Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad extended its line from Ortonville, Minnesota to Aberdeen, South Dakota running directly through Day County. This resulted in the establishment of towns along the line such as Webster.

Early Day County consisted mostly of Norwegian immigrants taking advantage of homesteading legislation in the area. Their early homes were primarily dugouts, soddies, and frame claim shacks. Soddies were the most prevalent because breaking the sod was necessary to begin farming and lumber was high priced. With the arrival of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul a commercial center began forming in Webster. This made the area even more attractive to settlers.

Lars Fiksdal was one of the Norwegian immigrants who came to Webster to homestead and start businesses. Lars was born in Norway in 1875 and upon his arrival he established a business with his brothers called the Fiksdal Brothers Store. With the prosperity of his store and his growing family, the Fiksdals focused their attention on building a family home. Prominent residential buildings at the time were primarily frame construction and some pattern book, although this was a time when stylistic changes were coming into vogue. The "Victorian" period was coming to an end and with the popularity of the "White

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

City" of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago a return to revival styles became popular.

In 1895 the Fiksdals purchased a house built in 1881 and opted to expand and modernize it. Architectural designs were beginning to move back to the classical and symmetrical, but were not totally abandoning the detailed and ornamental styles of the period. Many influences were taken from the White City of the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 where the primary focus was on Classical Revival and expanding on the Greek temple and colonial properties of early America.

Fiksdal incorporated these architectural changes in his house. Expanding on the original section of the blonde brick building dating from 1881 with the same materials, the house more than doubled in size. The one constant ornamental feature on the entire building was the continuation of the Italianate style brackets around the roofline of both the new and the old portions. A large Colonial Revival style wraparound porch encompasses the two main facades of the building on a corner lot with 15 truncated bowed Tuscan columns. Smaller, yet very distinct features, such as a Gothic arched window in one gable end, a circular Colonial Revival window in another gable end and groups of paired windows on the north and south facades are present. All fenestration consists of double hung single pane glass with vertical brick window caps. The Classical Revival style door on the main entrance echoes other features of that style like the cornice returns with heavy soffits. The overall massing of the property is reflective of Queen Anne styling. The footprint is irregular with very little symmetry. The multi-gableroofline is pierced with gable dormers, and also accented with the brackets throughout the rest of the building.

Upon its completion, the house was one of the largest and most impressive in the town of Webster. The population and growth of Day County peaked in 1920 with the census reporting a population of 15,194. The 1980 census records the population as 8,106. With strained financial circumstances during the Great Depression and the death of Lars Fiksdal, the house was converted into six apartments in 1937. Mrs. Fiksdal continued to occupy one apartment in the house. The house remains in the hands of the Fiksdal heirs, has been renovated, and continues its capacity with the same six apartments from the 1937 renovation.

With statewide significance under criterion C the property typifies the evolution of architectural styles and building construction during transitional phases around the state. The house retains a high degree of historic integrity with virtually no alterations on the exterior

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

from the completion of the property by 1899 and on the interior from the 1937 apartment renovation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6

Bibliography:

History of Day County. Day County Historical Research Committee, North Plains Press, Aberdeen, 1981.

"Mrs. Lars J. Fiksdal Relates Her Impressions as Young Girl Of Her Arrival Here In 1884" The Reporter and Farmer, Webster, SD. 1956 Diamond Jubilee Edition.

Olson John. "History of Day County", Masters Thesis, 1918.

Oschenreiter, L.G. History of Day County From 1873 to 1926, Educator Supply Company, Mitchell, SD, 1926.

Roth, Leland M. A Concise History of American Architecture, Icon Editions, Harper and Row, Publishers. New York, 1979.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Lars J. Fiksdal house resides on Webster original town lots 1, 2, 3 of block 11.

Boundary Justification:

The legal boundary description above is the lot historically associated with the property and that the house presently resides.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number photos

Page 1

The following applies to all photos listed:

Lars J. Fiksdal House

Day County, South Dakota

by: Melissa A. Dirr

November 1994

State Historical Preservation Center

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1.
view of east camera facing west | 11.
view of interior light |
| 2.
view of northeast, camera facing southwest | 12.
detail view of front door |
| 3.
view of northeast, camera facing southwest | |
| 4.
view of north, camera facing south | |
| 5.
view of southeast, camera facing northwest | |
| 6.
view of north, camera facing south | |
| 7.
view of southwest, camera facing northeast | |
| 8.
view of west, camera facing east | |
| 9.
detail of Gothic arched window | |
| 10.
detail view of roofline | |