

**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



**1. Name**

historic Brookings City Hall

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 4th Street N/A not for publication

city, town Brookings N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Brookings code 011

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> 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 City of Brookings

street & number 4th Street, City Hall

city, town Brookings N/A vicinity of state South Dakota 57006

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds Office

street & number Brookings County Courthouse

city, town Brookings state South Dakota 57006

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historical 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**

Rectangular in shape and two stories in height, the City Hall is a brick-faced, frame building resting on a half-story basement. Although the structure is sited in mid-block, it has a diagonal corner entrance. Some of the decorative details are derived from two styles which were extremely popular for public buildings. The Beaux Arts Classicism and Renaissance Revival details in this building include: the articulated quoins, the banding around the doors, above the first story windows and on the corners, the bedford limestone sills and water table, and the articulation of the pilasters as columns. City halls were often far less elaborate buildings than courthouses which are often a more fully developed example of a formal style. In contrast city buildings are more simply ornamented and possess unexpected details, used in a free manner. This structure has four bays on the north, street and rear facades and eight bays on the side, alley facade. Most of the windows are double hung with plain wooden surrounds and cutstone lintels. However an impressive picture window with a leaded glass top decorates the first floor of the north facade. An entablature runs across the top of both the north and east walls. Egg and dart molding decorate the architrave, but the frieze is unadorned. Dentils, modillions and brackets support a cornice made of galvanized iron.

The City Hall cost \$21,000 to build. Iron spot brick imported from Des Moines, Iowa was used for the facades which were trimmed with Bedford stone. All three entrances have multi-colored tile floors. Other interior details include tiled hallways, maple woodwork and stair ways with slate treads and iron balusters.

Few changes have been made to the exterior of the building. A clock tower once stood on the northeast corner. Merely a decorative detail, it was removed in the 1930s.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1912      **Builder/Architect** architect: Issenhuth, Huron, SD  
 contractor: Wold & Johnson, Brookings, SD

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Brookings City Hall is significant in the areas of architecture and politics/government. Civic buildings are among the most susceptible to change and replacement. This relatively rare, intact, surviving example of an early city hall is also an interesting, vernacular adaptation of Beaux Arts Classicism and Renaissance Revival style.

Designed by the Issenhuth architectural firm of Huron, the city hall was built in 1912 by contractors, Wold & Johnson of Brookings. Since the town's founding in 1879 this lot has been associated with the government. The city actually was incorporated in 1883 and served as a trading center, county seat and home of South Dakota State College (later University). The present city hall replaced an earlier city building and was considered something of an extravagance at the time it was constructed. With its leaded glass windows, imported brick, and bold detailing, the structure lends an urban quality to downtown Brookings.

The City Hall was built to house the city offices and fire and police departments. On the second floor in addition to the mayor's office and council chambers is a large assembly room which houses 250 people and has been used as a band practice room. The Commercial Club, an organization founded by businessmen devoted to the promotion of the city, moved into the second floor in 1912. Furnished with Mission Style furniture, the Commercial Club included reading, smoking, card and game, and billiards rooms as well as a library and secretary's office.

It is unusual for a city hall of this age to have changed so little. The building is an excellent example of its period and is an interesting architectural addition to the downtown business district.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

ALWAYS NOT VERIFIED  
 ALWAYS NOT VERIFIED

Brookings Register January 25, 1912, February 1, 1912, May 25, 1911, July 20, 1911, February 8, 1912.  
 Brookings Centennial, 1879-1979 Commemorative Book. p. 49.  
 Brookings: The Educational Center of South Dakota. p. 9.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Brookings

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	4	6	7	15	5	4	0	4	9	0	8	3	1	2	1	0
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 78 feet of Lots 15, 16 and 17, Block 3 of the Original Plat of Brookings.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edie French technical editing: Carolyn Torma  
Historical Preservation Center  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
 organization Agricultural Heritage Museum date 28 Aug 81 (605-677-5313)  
 street & number South Dakota State University telephone  
 city or town Brookings state South Dakota 57006

# 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 James R. Tisdeman  
 title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date May 3, 1982

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the National Register date 6/17/82  
 for Adrian Byers  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: date  
 Chief of Registration