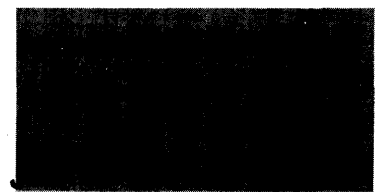


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 E. H. Willey House

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 104 Court Street N/A not for publication

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

state South Dakota code 46 county Clay code 027

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private    | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 James and Judith Krueger

street & number 26 Forest Avenue

city, town Vermillion N/A vicinity of state South Dakota 57069

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clay County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Vermillion state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The E. H. Willey House is a large, cubical, frame mass dominated by a hip roof and crowned by a central chimney. On the west facade a broad gable which nearly extends the width of the house is flush with the roofline of the main roof on the north side leaving an asymmetrical impression. Smaller gables, with their east sides also flush with the eastern face of the hip roof, rise on the north and south sides, the southern gable projecting over an extended bay. The west facade, facing Court Street, is the primary entrance facade. Remodeling has changed the placement of openings on the first floor, but the present owners plan eventually to restore the original appearance, and the porches and upper story openings are all in their original positions. The entrance as built was slightly to the left of center and opened into a square stair hall. A large square window with a stained glass transom to the right, lit the front parlor. To accommodate the present apartments, a door was cut into the front parlor on the far right side of the porch. The original door was removed and replaced by a window, while the door was moved to the left side of the porch and now enters directly onto the stairway.

The porch has a shed roof supported by five posts randomly spaced and is decorated by ornamental brackets and balusters. The porch stairs which are slightly left of center, leading to the original entrance, are framed by posts which support a small pediment. Over the entrance on the second floor is a smaller screen porch trimmed in the same manner as the lower porch. The shed roof has a shallower pitch than the roof below, and instead of ballusters, the lower portion is covered with fish scale shingles. These shingles also fill the pediment and the gables. One door, which is not centered either on the main door below or the windows in the gable above, opens onto the second floor porch. Single windows flank the porch. The south facade is plain with one double-hung window on each floor on the western half and on each floor of the projecting bay. Extremely narrow windows mark the west face of this bay. Facing Kidder Street, the north facade is more animated. There are two double hung windows, one above the other, on the far western corner; one in the center of the second floor, just under one side of the north gable, which now has a door under it at ground level; and near the eastern corner, a single window above and a pair below, both off center to the gable. Midway between floors and slightly to the right of the center window is a large stained glass window on the stairway landing. The north side has a one-story wing which appears on early photographs, and which now has a porch on its north side. This wing, the back half of the downstairs and the southeast corner of the second floor, comprises one apartment with arches and finishing details typical of the Mission period. Plans are to retain this as a living unit. The front parlor and half the original stair hall comprise the second apartment; the remaining second floor comprises the third. The owners plan to restore these rooms and reopen the stairhall in order to convert the structure into a law office.

# 8. Significance

|   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Period</b>                                 | <b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b> |   |   |   |
| <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/                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                         | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                    | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications              | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation             |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
|   |  |   |   | association w/ newspaperman                         |
| <b>Specific dates</b>                         | 1895   | <b>Builder/Architect</b>                        | Andrew Pickett, builder                         |   |

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

Hans Becklin, stone mason

The E. H. Willey House is significant in the area of architecture and is notable for the role its owner played in the newspaper and political life of Vermillion and South Dakota. The house is locally significant as a vernacular version of Queen Anne design and it is one of the primary examples of the style outside the two historic districts in the city.

Built for E. H. Willey in 1895, the house was constructed by Andrew Pickett, builder of the landmark, Austin-Whittemore House (listed on NR). This is one of the few remaining examples of Pickett's work. In April of 1895 Willey commissioned Pickett to draw plans for the house and engaged Hans Becklin to build the granite foundation. Becklin had also worked on the W. L. Dow designed First Baptist Church of Vermillion (pending NR site).

E. H. Willey (in some references listed as E. M. Willey) was the editor and owner of the Dakota Republican for twenty years, from approximately 1883 to 1903. A leading Republican paper, the newspaper was the conservative voice in regional and state politics. Willey was its outspoken and influential editorial writer. Willey's work commented on everything from the accidents on Main Street to factional wars within the university. However, he is remembered best as a political commentator whose opinions were read throughout the state.

This house dates from the period in Vermillion's history, when its town's people were among the most influential leaders in state affairs.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The University of South Dakota, Cummins, Cedric; Dakota Press 1975, pp. 32, 47.  
History of Dakota Territory, George W. Kingsbury; S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. 1915.  
Plain Talk, Sept. 2, 1898, July 18, 1957.  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader, August, 1922.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one  
Quadrangle name Vermillion Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

|   |           |             |             |            |            |            |           |      |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | <u>14</u> | <u>6619</u> | <u>1910</u> | <u>417</u> | <u>318</u> | <u>014</u> | <u>10</u> | B    |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | Zone      | Easting     | Northing    | Zone       | Easting    | Northing   |           | Zone | Easting | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |
| C |           |             |             |            |            |            |           | D    |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |
| E |           |             |             |            |            |            |           | F    |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |
| G |           |             |             |            |            |            |           | H    |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The building is sited on the N 1/2 of Lot 12, and all of Lots 13 and 14, in Block 24 of the Original Townsite of Vermillion, except East 57 feet of Lots 14, 13 and N 1/2 of Lot 12, Block 24, Original Townsite of Vermillion, Clay County, South Dakota. The lot lines of the property form the boundary.

### 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 Judith Kreuger Technical editing: John Burrows; Carolyn Torma

organization Historical Preservation Center date 5 June 81

street & number University of South Dakota telephone 605-677-5313

city or town Vermillion state South Dakota 57069

# 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 Junius R. Fishburne

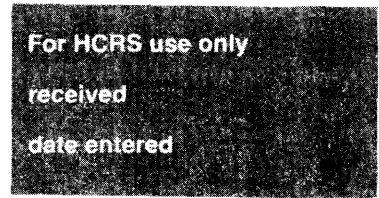
title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date May 3, 1982

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| For HCRS use only  |                     |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | Entered in the      |
| <u>Albous Byers</u>  | National Register   |
| Keeper of the National Register  | date <u>6/17/82</u> |
| Attest:  | date                |
| Chief of Registration  |                     |

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

E. H. Willey House



**Continuation sheet**

**Item number** nine

**Page** one

Dakota Republican, April 12, 1895, May 3, 1895, July 27, 1922.

Herbert S. Schell, History of Clay County, South Dakota. Vermillion: Broadcaster Press, 1976. pp. 39, 56, 66, 91, 123, 181, 194, 211.