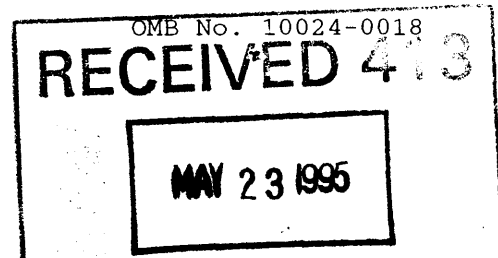


United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



775

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Modern Woodmen of America Hall

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

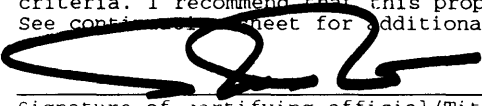
street & number NW corner of Main and Second street N/A not for publication

city or town Mansfield, Warner Township N/A vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Brown code 013 zip code 57460

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

 - SHPO

5-16-95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

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 certifying official/Title

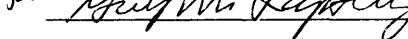
Date

State of 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.
- See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

7/7/95

Entered in the National Register

Modern Woodmen of America Hall  
Name of Property

Brown, South Dakota  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Rural Architectural and Historical Resources of Brown County, SD

0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>SOCIAL/Meeting Hall</u>	<u>OTHER/Storage</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS</u>	<u>foundation stone</u>
<u>OTHER:False Front</u>	<u>walls weatherboard</u>
	<u>roof asphalt shingles</u>
	<u>other _____</u>

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	<u>Social History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.	Period of Significance
<input type="checkbox"/> D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	<u>1899-1945</u>
	Significant Dates
	<u>1899</u>
	_____
	_____

Modern Woodmen of America Hall  
Name of Property

Brown, South Dakota  
County and State

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

- 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 achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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):   | Primary location of additional data:                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested | <input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other State Agency                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark  | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____                         | <input type="checkbox"/> University                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other                   |
|   | Name of repository:   |
|   | <u>Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, SD</u>                 |

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <u>1/4</u> <u>5/3/4/3/0/5</u> <u>5/0/0/9/8/3/5</u>  | 3 <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> |
| Zone Easting Northing   | Zone Easting Northing   |
| 2 <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> | 4 <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> <u>/</u> |
| Zone Easting Northing   | Zone Easting Northing   |
|   | <u>see continuation sheet</u>   |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Christina Slattery and Barbara M. Kooiman  
organization U.S. West Research, Inc. date 10 February 1995  
street & number 421 Main Street, Suite 306 telephone 608/782-3338  
city or town La Crosse state Wisconsin zip code 54601

Modern Woodmen of America Hall  
Name of Property

Brown, South Dakota  
County and State

**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)

**Property Owner**

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

name Daryl Wiltfang  
street & number P.O. Box 19 telephone 605/887-3122  
city or town Mansfield state South Dakota zip code 57460

**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.).

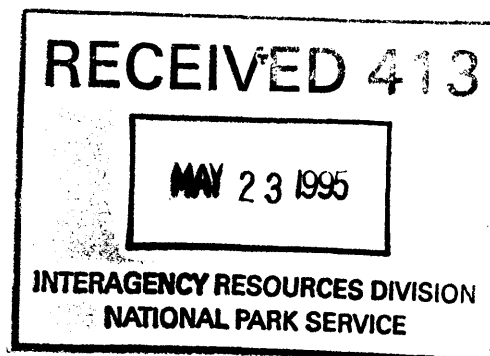
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this 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 Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(Rev. 8-86)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format  
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota



**Section 7: Description**

The Modern Woodmen of America Hall is located on the northwest corner of Main and Second streets in downtown Mansfield, Warner Township, Brown County, South Dakota. The one-story vernacular form building was constructed in 1899 to serve as a meeting hall for the Modern Woodmen of America chapter in Mansfield. The frame building, with a front gable roof, has a rectangular floor plan, a stone foundation, weatherboard walls, and an asphalt shingle roof. The building has no basement, but an attic is used for storage. All four elevations exhibit horizontal weatherboard siding, painted white, corner boards, and an outlined roofline (frieze board). A concrete sidewalk is located on the south and east sides of the building, which is situated close to the road.

The main (south) facade has a false front that reaches about two-thirds of the height of the roof and exposes the peak of the gable. The main facade features a centered double entrance with double five-panel wood doors, and tall and narrow windows with wood sills, currently boarded up, are located on either side of the main entrance. Above the entrance there are two painted wooden signs; the smaller sign immediately above the entrance reads "MWA HALL," and the larger sign above that reads, "Lawrence Welk Played Here."

The east elevation of the building displays three tall narrow windows evenly spaced across the elevation, which are also currently boarded up, although the original sashes are visible in the interior. On the northern end of the elevation there is a five-panel wood door that is set-in slightly from the building and reached by a concrete step. The southern end of the elevation exhibits a painted wooden sign reading, "Welcome to Mansfield, The Friendly Community, 1882-1982."

The rear (north) elevation has no fenestration openings. The west elevation displays three tall, narrow windows evenly spaced across the elevation, which are currently boarded up. Behind the building there is a small town park, including a basketball net with half-court, a buried time capsule, and a picnic table.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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The interior of the Modern Woodmen Hall of America is one large open space which features a wood floor with boards about three inches wide and wainscoting on the lower three feet of the walls, with the upper portion covered in modern paneling. The original plaster ceiling is covered by modern acoustic tile. The windows are one-over-one sash with wood frames and display bull's-eye millwork detailing.

The Modern Woodmen of America Hall has been used for storage since 1967. The interior was slightly damaged by a leaking roof which has since been repaired. Overall the condition of the building is good and it retains a high degree of integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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**Section 8: Statement of Significance**

The Modern Woodmen of America Hall in Mansfield, Warner Township, Brown County, South Dakota was constructed in 1899 to serve as the meeting hall for Sylvan Lodge #3615. The Modern Woodmen of America Hall is locally significant under Criterion A: History, as the building stands as a testament to the important role fraternal organizations played in the social history of the area. The Modern Woodmen of America Hall can be placed in the historic context "Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929): Social Organizational Halls" as defined in *Historic Contexts for Historic and Architectural Resources in South Dakota* by the South Dakota State Historical Preservation Center. The Modern Woodmen of America Hall also can be placed in the context of the Multiple Property Document "Rural Architectural and Historical Resources of Brown County, South Dakota."

History of the Area

Mansfield, located in Warner Township on the Brown-Spink county line, was platted in 1882 along the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad line. The town received its name from Irish immigrant John Mansfield, who had donated the land for the platting of the first town. By 1892, the town included a post office, several homes, two stores, depot, blacksmith shop and a saloon all on the Brown County side. The first grain elevator appeared in Mansfield in 1900 and during the first decade of the twentieth century two additional elevators were constructed, as well as a broom factory, and a nursery (1906). The population of Mansfield was reported in the 1900 census as twenty-five, but by 1906 the number of residents had grown to two hundred ("Mansfield File" Dacotah Prairie Museum). With increased development, Mansfield spilled over Main Street in 1904 (the county line) and began southward into neighboring Spink County. A fire in 1910 destroyed many businesses and residential buildings in downtown Mansfield (Brown County Museum and Historical Society 42,59; Sneve, 78).

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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The population of Warner Township and Mansfield continued to grow with the population of Warner Township reaching 808 in 1930, but by 1945 the growth was diminishing as the population had decreased to 515 (*Sixth Census of the State of South Dakota 1945, 18*). In 1950 about 200 people and ten businesses were still located in Mansfield. Mansfield has undergone very little growth over more recent years and today (1995) Mansfield remains home to a bank, post office, three grain elevators, garage, repair shop, bar, church, and the old Modern Woodmen of America Hall.

Modern Woodmen of America

The Modern Woodmen of America (MWA) was organized as a fraternal assessment society on January 5, 1883 by Joseph Cullen Root. Root first formed the society in Lyons, Iowa, with the intentions to "clear away problems of financial security for the members' families" (Schmidt, 218-219). Ironically, Root was expelled from the society because of a feud with the order's head physician. The society's motto is *Esto Perpetua* and the emblem consisted of an axe, beetle (mallet), wedge, five stars, and branches of palm (Schmidt, 219). The society originally restricted membership to low-risk members and therefore excluded those living in large urban centers and those in the following professions, "railroad brakemen, firemen, engineers, switchmen, miners, employees in gun powder factories, wholesalers and manufacturers of liquor, saloon keepers, bartenders, balloonists, sailors on lakes and seas, plow grinders, brass workers, and professional baseball players" (Schmidt, 219). The society originally also banned women, but in 1895 a womens group was organized, Royal Neighbors of America.

Although the Modern Woodmen of America society first began discussing a reserve fund in 1897, one was never established. The society participated in a number of benevolent activities, largely on a local level and as part of the insurance scheme included an orphan benefit program which provided monthly income and scholarships to young MWA members.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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Today the Modern Woodmen of America serves as a fraternal life insurance society. The national headquarters are located in Rock Island, Illinois and in 1979 there were approximately 500,000 members (Schmidt 219).

Modern Woodmen of American Hall in Mansfield

In 1899 the Modern Woodmen of America organized Sylvan Lodge #3615 in Mansfield. Washington Holmes and his son, George, took an active role in organizing and building the hall. The one-story, vernacular form, frame hall had a stage with a hand-painted stage curtain, painted by Roy Muir of Northville, South Dakota (Dacotah Prairie Museum Files "Brown County Towns"). The MWA Hall was used as a meeting place, as well as for many social activities in the town over the years including church bazaars, school graduations, boxing matches, traveling shows, movies, dances, parties, plays, and socials (Mansfield Centennial Committee, 20). The hall also served as the temporary location for the Remde Store in 1910, when their building burned down in the fire that destroyed many businesses in town (Dacotah Prairie Museum Files, "Brown County Towns").

The Modern Woodmen of America Hall also has an interesting history as the temporary meeting place of the Klu Klux Klan from 1918-1919 during its brief existence in Mansfield. Perhaps the MWA Hall is best known for the event which it advertises on its front facade as a location where the young Lawrence Welk performed. The singer/entertainer, from North Dakota, played in the area with two or three-piece bands during his early career (Brown County Museum and Historical Society 140-141).

In 1954, the American Legion leased the hall, at which time the original stage and a painted stage curtain were removed for the remodelling which added a kitchen to the building. The American Legion continued to use the hall for meetings, parties, dances, and opened it for roller skating for the local children (Mansfield Centennial Committee, 20). The Wiltfang brothers, Daryl and Walter, of Mansfield purchased the building in 1967 and have used it for storage ever since.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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In conclusion, the Modern Woodmen of America Hall in Mansfield represents an excellent example of a surviving building of an early fraternal organization in Brown County. The Modern Woodmen of America Hall's period of significance extends from its construction in 1899 through the historic period to 1945, which is the fifty year cut-off for National Register properties. The hall, nominated under Criterion A for its historical significance, served not only as the meeting place of the Modern Woodmen, but also as a social center of activities for the entire community of Mansfield and its surrounding area. The vernacular building is in good condition and represents the importance fraternal organizations played in a small rural town/area at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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**Section 9: Bibliography**

- Brown County Territorial Pioneer Committee. *Early History of Brown County, South Dakota*. Aberdeen, SD: North Plains Press, 1970.
- Dacotah Prairie Museum. Brown County Towns File. Located in the collection of the Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, South Dakota.
- History Committee of Brown County Museum and Historical Society. *Brown County History*. Aberdeen, SD: North Plains Press, 1980.
- Mansfield Centennial Committee. *100 Years on the Prairie: Mansfield Community History 1882-1982*. 1982. Located in collection of the Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, South Dakota.
- Schmidt, Alvin J. *Fraternal Organizations*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1980.
- Sixth Census of the State of South Dakota*. 1945. Located at I.D. Weeks Library, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota.
- Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. *South Dakota Geographic Names*. Sioux Falls, South Dakota: South Dakota Department of Agriculture. ca. 1950s.
- South Dakota Historical Preservation Center. *Historic Contexts for Historic and Architectural Resources in South Dakota*. Vermillion, South Dakota: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center. 1989.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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**Section 10: Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Modern Woodmen of America Hall includes Lots 1 and 2 of Block 4 of Original Town in the village of Mansfield.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Modern Woodmen of America Hall building and the property that was historically associated with it.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photos Page 1 Modern Woodmen of America Hall, Mansfield, Warner  
Township, Brown County, South Dakota

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**Photographs**

The following information applies to all photographs.

Modern Woodmen of America Hall  
Mansfield, Warner Township  
Brown County, South Dakota

Photographer: Barbara M. Kooiman, U.S. West Research, Inc.  
Date: July 1994  
Negatives: Located at the State Historical Preservation Office,  
Vermillion, South Dakota.

Photo #1 of 5  
Exterior, South elevation  
Photographer facing north

Photo #2 of 5  
Exterior, south and east elevations  
Photographer facing northwest

Photo #3 of 5  
Exterior, east and north elevations  
Photographer facing southwest

Photo #4 of 5  
Exterior, north and west elevations  
Photographer facing southeast

Photo #5 of 5  
Exterior, west and south elevations  
Photographer facing northeast