

PH0670472

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 9 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**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 Western Union Building  
AND/OR COMMON  
Dacotah Prairie Museum

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 21-23 South Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Aberdeen VICINITY OF  
STATE South Dakota CODE 046 COUNTY Brown CODE 013  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT No. 1

**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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Offices

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME County of Brown, State of South Dakota  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Aberdeen VICINITY OF STATE South Dakota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, BROWN COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
STREET & NUMBER Main Street  
CITY, TOWN Aberdeen STATE South Dakota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE South Dakota Historic Sites Survey  
DATE 1974  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center, USD Alumni House  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Western Union Building is a landmark on the Main Street of Aberdeen, South Dakota. Since its construction in 1888-90 by the Northwestern National Bank, it has housed a grocery store, gas company and professional offices; until recently, it became the Dacotah Prairie Museum.

The three story pressed brick structure has a cut stone foundation, pressed brick walls in the running bond pattern with thin bread and butter joints and a flat roof. Pilasters extend to the top of the building. The front (south) entrances are covered by large Romanesque arches with a canvas awning over the main entrance. The first floor windows have segmental arches with four rows of radiating voussoirs and a single row of bricks for lugsills. The second story windows have segmental arches with radiating voussoirs covering double hung windows with transoms in sets of two between pilasters. A single row of bricks form the lugsills here also. Roundheaded arches with triple rows of radiating voussoirs encase the third story windows, which are double hung with round headed transoms. The building was constructed on lots 7 and 8, block 8 of the original plat of Aberdeen. In spite of renovations on the interior, the exterior of the building has changed very little over the years.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1888-90

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Western Union Building, a landmark on Aberdeen's Main Street, is one of the few remaining second generation commercial buildings in town. It served as a bank during most of the 1890's until the company folded. In 1906 it became the Hoggarty Building and again was used as a bank. A year later Western Union took over occupancy and the building received its present title. Although typical of many area buildings in its choice of construction materials and architectural style used in the 1880s, the Western Union building is the only extant example of an nineteenth century bank building in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, Ellsworth, "The Dakota Prairie Museum," an unpublished manuscript.  
February, 1973.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

14	540060	510344610
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edith French

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

1974

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605/677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

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

*John J. Little*

TITLE

Director/Historical Preservation Center

DATE

9/3/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*12/12/96*

DATE

*12-6-76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER