

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **SEP 23 1980**  
DATE ENTERED **DEC 4 1980**

**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

Farr House

AND/OR COMMON

Governor Peter Norbeck House - Downes Apartments

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

106 East Wynoka *St.*

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pierre

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

CODE

46

COUNTY

Hughes

CODE

065

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Albert Downes

STREET & NUMBER

106 East Wynoka

CITY, TOWN

Pierre

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

South Dakota <sup>STATE</sup> 57501

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Hughes County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Pierre

<sup>STATE</sup> South Dakota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

<sup>STATE</sup>

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Colonel E. P. Farr House was originally a single family house when constructed in 1904 and was divided into multiple units in 1946. The architect was E. J. Donahue of St. Paul, Minnesota. The house is a frame structure covered with narrow horizontal boarding. It is a two-story cube with projecting bays on each side and a slightly smaller two-story service wing to the rear. The principal facade is divided into three bays. The central bay projects beyond the front wall plane and its pediment is raised above the main cornice. Both the second and third stories of the central bay have Palladian windows. The floor plan is adapted from the Georgian central hall, double-pile plan. A truncated hip roof covers the main block of the house and the flat central section of the hip is surrounded by a balustrade. There is a second chimney in the center of the rear wing. The principal facade has a porch which crosses the entire length and is supported by Ionic columns. A rear porch has been removed. Ornament is focused on the front facade. The Ionic columns of the porch repeat the two-story ionic pilasters on the front corners and two-and-one-half story pilasters on the central bay. Above the pilasters is an architrave decorated with dentils and a projecting cornice supported by modillions. The interior is still in good condition, and includes the original oak woodwork and a three-foot high hand-painted mural by Y. Edward Soderberg, which forms a frieze in the dining room. The living room has a fireplace fronted with "Rose Quartz Glass Tile" and the dining room has an oak mantel with a bevel-edged plated glass mirror overmantel and, across the room, a built-in china cabinet of oak with leaded bevel-edged glass in the doors. Another feature of the house are the original electric fixtures in the main rooms of the first floor. Alterations were made when the second story was converted to apartments in 1946, but the interiors of the principal rooms have been carefully preserved.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) feminist history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1904      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      G.J, Donahue

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Farr House is significant in the area of architecture and politics, and is an example of the Georgian Revival as it appeared in South Dakota. This style became popular in the first years of the twentieth century and was inspired by the frame Georgian houses of New England. The Farr House was one of the only houses of this style built in Pierre and is distinguished by the quality of workmanship throughout. The house is also significant for its historical associations. Colonel Farr was a Civil War veteran and came to Pierre to assume the Vice-Presidency of the National Bank of Commerce. His wife, Dr. Mary Noyes-Farr was a pioneer physician and was the first women doctor in Pierre, The house was one of the capital's leading social centers during its early years. The house is also significant as the home of Governor Peter Norbeck from 1917 to 1921. Following the tenancy by the Norbecks, the house served as the residence of Governor Gunderson for a brief period.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

South Dakota Board of Realtors, "A Driving Tour of Some Historic Buildings in Pierre, South Dakota." 1976.  
Architect's drawing, 1904, G. J. Donahue, St. Paul, Minnesota

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Pierre

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 392530 4913800  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The lot lines of the property form the boundaries of the site. The lots include the west 28.5 feet of Lot 4, all of Lots 5 and 6, the east 2 feet of Lot 7 of Block 1 of the Hilgers Addition to the City of Pierre.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Torma, technical editing

ORGANIZATION

Francis Downes

John Burrows, architectural historian

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

106 East Wynoka

(Historical preservation Center)

5 June 80

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

(University of South Dakota)

(605 677 5317)

STATE

Pierre

(Vermillion)

South Dakota (57069)

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

*James R. Fisher*

TITLE Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

DATE 9 Sept 80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/4/80

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE