

**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 Shakespeare Garden and Shay House

and/or common Shakespeare Garden and Anne Hathaway House

2. Location

street & number off S.D. 34 _____ not for publication

city, town Wessington Springs _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

state South Dakota code 046 county Jerauld code 073

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted (Garden)	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no (House)	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Daryle Balster

street & number _____

city, town Gann Valley _____ vicinity of _____ state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jerauld County Courthouse - Register of Deeds

street & number _____

city, town Wessington Springs _____ state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

South Dakota Historic
title Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1976 _____ 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

The Shakespeare Garden and Shay House resembles the type of small enclosed garden and cottage that were found in England during the sixteenth century. In fact the dwelling is a duplicate of a portion of "Shottery" Ann Hathaway's house in Stradford-on-Avon with asphalt shingles instead of a thatched roof and cream color stucco instead of an earth facing. However, the basic design with a steep pitched gable roof, two shed wall dormers on the front, and arrangement of openings is the same. All of these elements recall Tudor design.

Some of the more specific features of the house are strapwork, a high basement, and nine over nine sash, double-hung windows. The dwelling sits on a slight incline which rises to the west; trees and shrubs surround the structure. The only noticeable change is a small clapboard, flat top addition to the rear (date unknown). A single stack chimney is offset to the left.

The Shakespeare Garden at the north side of the house has characteristics of both formal and informal landscape planning. Two runs of 4-foot shaped logs form steps to the covered frame gate and picket fence which form the eastern boundary of the garden parallel to the street. A flagstone walk runs east-west through rectangular, stone edged beds to the lattice summerhouse to the west. Lilacs and evergreens enclose the area on the north and south sides. Intermingled with beds of honeysuckles, tulips, geraniums, wandering jew, morning glories, daisies, lillies, wild irises, and cosmos, picturesque embowered benches punctuate the grassy slope. The back regions of the garden to the west are less formally planned (in the English manner) and contain an assortment of ground covers, lillies-of-the-valley, crabapple and birch trees, and a variety of filled stone and concrete urns. Two oval concrete-lined pools fill the shadows of the denser lilac plantings, one near the gate to the east, the second near the back edge to the west. A stone and concrete bench overlooks the former. Other pleasantries include a birdbath-fountain, pedestal for a sundial, and a grape arbour covering the summerhouse.

The Shakespeare Garden is presently in rather poor condition due to the long term effects of drought in this area of South Dakota.

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

Specific dates Garden (1927), 1932 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shakespeare Garden and Shay House are significant for two reasons: the formal garden is the only known example of this type in the state. Few planned gardens of the nineteenth century are still evident in the state, and a twentieth century example is even more rare. The combination of plantings with picturesque furnishings is especially pleasant and unique in this climate. Second, the house provides a good example of a pseudo sixteenth-century Tudor cottage. The dwelling illustrates the carry-over of medieval styles in architecture that became popular in this country during the first half of the twentieth century, translated into a very particular and personal site.

Both the structure and garden are a result of Mrs. Emma Shay's affection for Shakespeare and his times. Mrs. Shay's idea for the garden came from the National Shakespeare Association and from her visit to England in 1926. The garden project began one year later, and the Shay house came about two years later; this dwelling is a partial replica of "Shottery," Anne Hathaway's house.

One of the most notable figures in Wessington Spring's history, Emma Abigail Freeland Shay was born on April 30, 1862 in Linderville, New York. She graduated from Evansville Seminary, Wisconsin and attended Wellesley College. At age fifty-eight she obtained a degree from Greenville College and four years later got her M.A. from Michigan State. She married Clark W. Shay in 1895 and shortly after both began teaching at Wessington Springs College in Wessington Springs, South Dakota. This college began in 1887 as a Methodist Seminary but because of lack of enrollment closed in 1960. Mrs. Shay was an English teacher here until she died in 1945.

Emma Shay's great love of England and that country's authors led her to create this garden. A quotation from Shakespeare seen on a sign by the gate by all who enter reads: "A touch of nature makes the whole world king." Mrs. Shay attempted to include many flowers common to the sixteenth century; the resulting beauty is more amazing when you consider the adverse growing conditions imposed by weather in this part of the country.

Wessington Springs College maintained the garden until 1960 when a private organization took over the project. However, interest has gradually dwindled and several years of drought have caused great deterioration in the garden. Perhaps recognition of the garden and house will lead to renewed interest and revitalization.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abrahamson, Grace, Mrs. Shay Did It! Wessington Springs: Wessington Springs Independent, 1976, xi, 134 pp. map.
 Bonney, Faith and Anne Kellum, ed., "Shakespeare Garden" unpublished local paper, Wessington Springs, April, 1942.
 Kludt, August, personal interview, August, 1976, with Scott Gerloff.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References None Available

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Longitude 98° 44' 49"
 Latitude 44° 44' 59"

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Gerloff - Survey Coordinator

organization Historical Preservation Center date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date <u>11-14-79</u>
<u>Carol D. Stuel</u> Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>William H. Abraham</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>11.8.79</u>