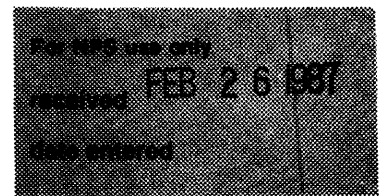


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SITE PE-2

NAME The Sorum Hotel

LOCATION East side of the main street in Sorum,
Perkins County (105), South Dakota (046)

OWNER Leona Loftsgaard
1245 10th Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

CLASSIFICATION Building, private, NA acquisition,
unoccupied, restricted access, vacant

DESCRIPTION Very good, unaltered, original site

Located in the abandoned town of Sorum on the grassy flats of nearby Rabbit Creek, the Sorum Hotel is a large wood-frame structure. Surrounded by mature trees the white clapboard structure is picturesque in its setting.

The hotel is a wood-frame rectangular building with a gable roof. The core of the hotel has a one-story shed roof extension on the north and a one-story gable roof extension on the south. All roof sections are clad with black composition shingles with the exception of the tower and rear entry which are covered with wood shingles. Fenestration includes eleven two-over-two light double hung windows with window surrounds. Both the front and rear doors three paned side lights on either side. An entry to the basement is located off the east facade south of the rear door.

A pyramidal bell tower is centered at the front of the ridgeline of the core of the hotel. A red brick chimney rises through the center of the ridgeline.

A shed roof wood-frame outhouse (contributing) is located northeast of the hotel. It is painted white.

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SIGNIFICANCE 1900-present, architecture, commerce, education, religion

DATE 1910

BUILDER Al Currington

The Sorum Hotel is architecturally significant to the community of Sorum as an unusual vernacular example of a commercial structure. In its long history the structure served many community needs, first as a hotel, then as a school and as a Lutheran church.

The Sorum vicinity was settled around 1900 when the large cattle outfits such as the Turkey Track and the L 7 ran their cattle in the area to graze. Several ranchers settled along Rabbit Creek and Gap Creek shortly thereafter establishing their own ranches.

In 1907 and 1908 a large influx of homesteaders moved into the region to stake claims on their 160 acres under the provisions of the Homestead Act. Later, in 1909 another wave of homesteaders moved into the region from the east.

One of the early homesteaders in the vicinity, Chris Sorum, petitioned to establish a post office and in 1910 became the postmaster of the new community which was named Sorum, in his honor. Later that year several businesses were established in town and included: a general store, bank, blacksmith shop, poolhall, restaurant, barbershop, and lumberyard.

Built in October 1910 by Al Currington, the hotel provided meals and lodging. The hotel was managed by several couples over the years until it became the Sorum High School. For many years it served the educational needs of the residents of the Sorum vicinity. The school was unusual in that it allowed the students who lived far away to board in the upstairs which was used as a dormitory. Other buildings in town were also used by the school as dormitories and the basement of the Sorum Cooperative Store across the street from the school was used as a dining hall.

After the school in Sorum closed, the building was purchased by the Lutheran Church. It served as a church for a number of years. At the present time the building is vacant, except during

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fall when it is used as a hunting lodge by out-of-towners.

The structure is very well maintained and in excellent condition. It has a long and varied history of community service, and at the present time is the oldest building in Sorum.

QUADRANGLE NAME Sorum, SD UTM 13/661550/5035190
QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE Less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are considered to be an imaginary line that lies ten feet from the east exterior wall of the outhouse. Thence to the southern boundary, an imaginary line that lies ten feet from the south wall of the structure which connects to the western boundary, an imaginary line that lies ten feet from the west exterior wall of the structure. The site is located in the SW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 10 East in Perkins County, South Dakota.

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