### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 2 8 1979

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SEEI	NSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW T</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES (			i
1 NAME  HISTORIC HOTEl Charl  AND/OR COMMON	Sturry, who	eve <sub>ne</sub> ude		
2 LOCATION	I			
				ł
STREET & NUMBER	anital S			
Third and C	apriar		NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	ICT .
Yankton		VICINITY OF	No. 1	,
STATE	-	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
South Dakot	.a	046	Yankton	053
3 CLASSIFIC				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	DDEE	ENT USE
DISTRICT	_XPUBLIC	X-OCCUPIED		
X_BUILDING(S)	_APOBLIC PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE _XCOMMERCIAL	MUSEUM
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME				
Mr. and Mrs.	Elza Anderson			
STREET & NUMBER	N			
Hotel Charles	Gurney			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Yankton		VICINITY OF	South Dakota	
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE,	FTC			
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	Yankton County	Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY TOWN	Third and Broa	dway	OT 4 TC	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
A D == D == 0 == -	Yankton	NIO OTINITATIO	South Dake	)ta
6 KEPKESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SUKVEYS		
TÎTLE				
South	Dakota Historic Site	s Survey		
DATE				
		FEDERAL X_S	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR				
SURVEY RECORDS	Historical Preservat	ion Center		
CITY, TOWN	Vermillion		STATE South Dakota	
			SUULII DAKULA	

#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED

DATE\_\_\_\_

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

The Hotel Charles Gurney stands today on the site of the St. Charles Hotel. The latter building, constructed by J.W.C. Morrison in 1870, was a three story cottonwood structure, which served as a social gathering place in Yankton. By 1872, three-story wing extensions had been added, expanding the corner-sited hotel along both Capital and Third Streets.

The present Richardsonian Romanesque hotel was constructed during 1890 and 1891. Designed by St. Paul architect J.H. Coxhead, the three-story design was executed in red St. Louis pressed brick and ashlar, above a high, "rusticated" basement of Sioux Falls granite. The 60' x 80' rectangle was erected on the corner of Capital and Third streets between the pre-existing brick wings of the demolished St. Charles Hotel.

Bold, projecting arched portals, which marked the original entrances on both the east and south facades, support the slight projection of the wall surface in the upper stories. Corbelled brick "machiolations" line the underside of the cornice and pierced-brick parapet. Colossal voussoirs and paired or single polished granite columns accent the entries. Oversize stone lintels top the first-story corner windows, while scaled down versions and matching stone courses contain the second and third-story openings; stone arch arcading encloses first-story windows on the north end of the Capitol Street facade. Grouped singly or in twos and threes, most windows are 2/2 double-hung sash; because of extensive alteration of the basement and first stories, it is difficult to specify what may have pre-dated the existing 1940's glass brick or 1960's casement infills. The north and west facades, normally unseen by the public, are free of all decorative treatment found on the south and east. With its original large dining area-ballroom, with sixteen-foot ceiling supported by Sioux Falls stone pillars, the Hotel Pierce, as named for its original owner, was one of the most impressive hotels in the area.

Significant changes in the building's external and internal appearance were effected during the 1940's by then-owners Charles and Nancy Gurney. The Third Street entrance was closed off; an additional entrance with metal canopy was added at the ground level on Capital Street; the west wing on Third street was rebuilt; a western theme was utilized when the first-floor liquor store and barber shop were replaced with a coffee shop, dining room, and lounge. Displays of merchants' wares could still be found in the sample rooms on the first floor as late as the early 1970's attesting to continued use of the hotel by local businessmen.

#### **PERIOD**

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	X_commerce	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1 <b>9</b> 00-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1872, 1891

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT** 

J.H. Cox head, St. Paul, Minnesota

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hotel Charles Gurney began life as the Hotel Pierce in 1891 when, according to a local newspaper, it was considered the most important improvement to Yankton. The hotel occupied the site of what was once the St. Charles Hotel built by J.W.C. Morrison in 1870, a big year for construction in Yankton. The three-story cottonwood structure was not the city's first hotel, but through the years the structure that stood on the corner of Third and Capital streets became a landmark. meeting place for businessmen and politicans and served as a popular location for social gatherings, a tradition that has continued in the Gurney Hotel to the present day

The hotel played a role in the history of Dakota Territory. The northern annex housed an United States courtroom on the second floor. The courtroom was the scene of several colorful events, one being the fatal shooting of McCook, secretary of the Territory, by Wintermute, a local banker. Probably the most famous incident in the early days was the trial of Jack McCall, the convicted murderer of "Wild Bill" Hickok, in the vicinity of what is now Room 221.

By 1872 two brick annexes were built, one to the north on Capital and one on the west on Third street. In 1876 the hotel was purchased by Horace Jencks and his son, Leroy, who operated it for eight years. Morrison purchased the hostelry in 1884, and within five years the building was purchased by an hotel company. J.H. Coxhead of St. Paul, Minnesota, was employed as the architect. The old cottonwood structure was demolished and the existing structure was begun. Financial problems forced the company to sell the partially completed building to J.T.M. Pierce in 1890, and it was Pierce who saw the project through, slightly altering the original plan.

The Hotel Pierce, as it was now called, passed to other owners. Within a few years Alfred Crebbin purchased the building and it became the Portland Hotel, presumably in recognition of the Western Portland Cement Company which had flourished for some twenty years and had given Yankton the nickname of "Cement City." Interior improvements were made at this time with no exterior changes. As the Hotel Yankton under the ownership of Charles Smith, the building was again remodeled, especially the north annex. Smith owned and operated the hotel for fifteen years before selling to Charles and Nancy Gurney in 1944. The Gurneys extensively remodeled and modernized the structure. The Hotel Charles Gurney was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Elza Anderson in 1962 but the Gurney name was retained.

The Hotel Charles Gurney is significant both because of its architecture and because of the role it has played in the social and business life of Yankton through the

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Yankton Press and Dakota

Dorothy Jencks, intervied January 23, 1979, Yankton, South Dakota Karolevitz, Robert F. <u>Yankton: A Pioneer Past</u> Aberdeen, South Dakota North Plains Press, 1972

10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	ATA			
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERT		re		
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E		FLI		
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIP		ed property i	s located on the	northwest
corner of 3rd and Capit Courthouse and 1' block lots 10,11,12, block 3.	south of SD State	e Highwav #50	). The property is	located on city
LIST ALL STATES AND C	OUNTIES FOR PROPERT	ries overlappin	G STATE OR COUNTY BO	UNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPARED I	BY	·		
NAME / TITLE				
Paula Kapitan				
ORGANIZATION			January 26, 19	270
Yankton College STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
History Department		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	605-665-3661 e	ex. 162
Yankton			South Dakot	3
12 STATE HISTORIC P	RESERVATIO	N OFFICER	CERTIFICATION	ON
	ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF			
NATIONAL		E	LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic Pre	servation Officer for the N	National Historic Pr	eservation Act of 1966 (P	ublic Law 89-665), I
hereby nominate this property for ir			that it has been evaluat	ed according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by t	he National Park Service,	// /		
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFI	CER SIGNATURE	y-rouce	<i>·</i>	1
TITLE Director/ State I	Historic Preserva	tion Officer	DATE <b>25</b>	June 79
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS P			L REGISTER	7
Total Charle	alper	$\mathcal{A}$	DATE $\delta$	·3-27
ATTEST: 1) I Clam H. K	REGISTER	7. z.	0. 79 DATE	
enfer of registration				

Form No. 10-2008 (Rev. 10-74)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

8

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

years. The building was one of the most striking Richardsonian Romanesque structures built in Yankton and the surrounding area at the turn of the century. In spite of alteration the hotel retains its style and dignity. Socially the hotel is significant because in the minds of the citizens of Yankton, and in fact, this landmark serves as a viable link with the past, extending back to the era when Yankton served as the capital of the Dakota Territory. The hotel's day-to-day participation in the business and social life of Yankton over many generations has given it a firm place in the history of the city.

