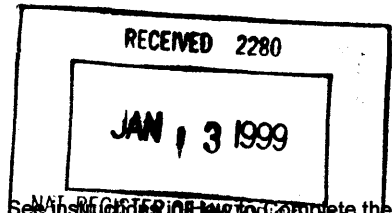


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

212



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on the back of this form to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ruth, Thomas, H. House

other names/site number Prairie House Manor Bed & Breakfast

2. Location

street & number 209 Poinset Ave not for publication

city or town DeSmet Vicinity

state South Dakota code SD county Kingsbury code 077 zip code 57231

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt
Signature of certifying official

10-15-98
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other,

(explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

1

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register) _____

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: hotel
Commerce restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone
roof Asphalt shingles
walls Clapboard siding

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant Contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, Period, or method of construction or represents the work of a Master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a Significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack Individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important In prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
- E** A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** A commemorative property
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Economics

Exploration/Settlement

Ruth, Thomas H. House

Name of Property

Kingsbury, South Dakota

County and State

Period of Significance

1900-1908

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person

Thomas H. Ruth

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ Previously listed in the National Register

___ Previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ Designated a National Historic Landmark

___ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

___ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Ruth, Thomas H. House
Name of Property

Kingsbury, South Dakota
County and State

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 615390 4915341
 Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicky Birshbach & Connie Cheney

Organization _____ date Sept. 11, 1997

street & number 209 Poinsett Ave telephone 605-854-9131

city or town DeSmet state SD Zip code 57231

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Ruth, Thomas H. House
Name of Property

Kingsbury, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name Larry & Connie Cheney
street & number 209 Poinsett Ave Telephone 605-854-9131
city or town DeSmet state SD zip code 57231

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Ruth house is a large two-story house located on the corner of South Dakota Highway 45 (Poinset Ave) and 3rd street in De Smet, South Dakota. Originally built as a single residence in 1900, it was completely remodeled in 1929. The house received substantial alterations with a porch being removed and conversion into apartments. The foundation is made of stone and concrete. The wood-frame building is covered with four-inch horizontal clapboard siding. Exterior windows and door have plain milled board frames with lintels. Cornerboards and fascia are also plain milled boards with some moldings and decorative trim. The roof and dormers are covered with asphalt.

It originally featured a wraparound porch facing south and a screened in porch to the east. It is unknown if the screened in porch on the east was part of the front porch. According to an early postcard, the east porch had been screened in. However, in 1929 the owners enclosed the screen porch to make an east entrance into the apartments. At this time the front porch (south side) was removed. Although, the front porch was replaced in 1996, using historic photos. On the north side a portion of the current kitchen was used as the summer kitchen.

The roofline features a hip roof with four hipped dormers. The roof originally had wood shingles, which were removed in 1989 and replaced with asphalt shingles. The chimney from the summer kitchen was removed from the roofline. However, the chimney is still visible in the attic. The fireplace, hearth chimney has three flues and is no longer functioning.

The foundation consists of stone and poured lower walls that sit about two-and-half feet inside the outside frame. A cistern was located in the basement, an elaborate water system that brought water from the eaves to the basement. All of that now is covered up by remodeling. The windows have most of the original leaded glass.

In the early 1900s, the house was a single dwelling with all the bedrooms upstairs and a nursery. Downstairs, they had a ladies parlor, men's parlor or library, dining room, kitchen and foyer. Also they had a summer kitchen. Now the house is a business, a bed and breakfast. The Bed and Breakfast has two suites each with bath in the men's parlor and women's parlor. The dining room and foyer are all one room. The kitchen and summer kitchen, are all one room. Now the open air pillared porch, serves as extra seating for the summer tea room that is open June, July, and August.

Name of Property

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Continuation Sheet

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The Ruth House has been a stately part of the De Smet community since 1900. The location of the house was on a prominent street of Poinsett Ave (Highway 25). It was located one block over from the commercial district.

Colonel Thomas H. Ruth, president of the Kingbury County Bank and ex-mayor, was one of the most prominent and influential citizens of De Smet. He was wealthy, a large property holder, and one of the leaders in municipal affairs in the flourishing city where he lived. Colonel Ruth was born in Carmichaels, Greene County, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1844. The Ruth house is eligible for the National Register under criterion B for Mr. Ruth role in the development of De Smet, South Dakota.

His father, Peter Ruth, was also a native of Pennsylvania, of German extraction, born September 16, 1819. He married Mary Homer, who was born in the same state November 19, 1821. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ruth settled in Carmichaels.

Thomas Ruth received his education in the common schools and at Green Academy, Carmichaels, and Pennsylvania. On the 6th of June 1863, he enlisted in Company C, Fifty-eighth Pennsylvania Infantry, in the ninety-day service and served until August 6, 1863 as a private during the Civil War. After his term of enlistment expired, Ruth returned to Carmichaels, and in 1868 went to Page County, Iowa, where he soon afterward began buying cattle for West & Company, of Hawleyville, Iowa. After a time he engaged in the business for himself. In 1876, Colonel Ruth moved to Greenfield, in the same state, where he started an abstract business, writing a complete set of abstract books of the county.

February 28, 1880, he came to De Smet, and in June of that year established the Kingsbury County Bank located on 3rd Street and Calumet. From a small beginning it grew to be one of the largest and most solid financial institutions of South Dakota. His brother William H. Ruth, was his partner in this venture. The bank was incorporated in 1885, under the state law, with a paid up capital of \$25,000. John Armstrong became its president and Thomas Ruth cashier. On the first of February 1892, Mr. Ruth succeeded to the presidency of the Bank, and Mr. E. P. Sanford became the cashier. In 1900 the bank gained national status and the name was changed to the De Smet National Bank. Mr. Ruth's career as a banker ended in September 1907 when he sold his interest in the Bank and stepped down as its president.

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Section 8 Page 3

Mr. Ruth, in addition to his city interest, was the owner of 1,120 acres of fine farming land in Kingsbury, Beadle, McPherson, and Campbell counties. In 1883 he became an agent for the United States Branch of the North British Mercantile Insurance Company for Kingsbury County. In that same year he took over as Secretary of the Kingsbury County Agricultural Society. Mr. Ruth was an ardent Republican, and had a lively interest in politics. In 1890 Mr. Ruth was the successful candidate on the Republican State ticket for the office of Commissioner of Schools and Public Lands. He was re-elected in 1892, and served until 1895. In 1889, his political career continued when a majority elected Mr. Ruth mayor of the city of De Smet. Ruth's term of office lasted from December 1889 until May 1890. Although a quiet term, on January 6, 1890 a meeting of the city council was held at the Kingsbury County Bank where it was decided that street lamp posts were to be placed along the railroad. Mr. Ruth did not run for reelection in May. His term as Commissioner of Schools and Public Lands was not as quiet. In 1895 a special Joint Committee was established by the Senate to investigate William W. Taylor, late treasurer of South Dakota. Mr. Ruth acted as one of the main witnesses in this investigation. Although the inquiry was focused on Mr. Taylor, information was also brought up about Mr. Ruth's appointment. The Joint Committee found that Mr. Ruth was also negligent in his duties when he did not make demands on Mr. Taylor for a certified statement of the amount of the interest and income funds, as required by law in 1893. Also, Mr. Ruth did not apportion the funds among the different counties in June of that year as required.

Mr. Ruth was for many years a member of the National Guard, which was originally organized in 1862, for the protection of settlers in the Dakota Territory against Indian attack. On February 26, 1885 Ruth was commissioned in the Second Regional Dakota National Guard in Company "E" with the rank of Captain. In 1887 Captain Ruth attained the rank of Major. Two years later, in 1889 the Territorial Regiment was dismantled and the new South Dakota National Guard was created. The Second Regiment, which was created from this change, was renamed in 1893 to the First Regiment, South Dakota National Guard. General Orders nos. 5 and 7 issued on September 11 and October 12 of that year ranked Major Ruth as Colonel of the Regiment. He served in this capacity until 1897. In 1898 Company "E" joined with 1,008 other soldiers of the South Dakota Regiment and rendered distinguished service during the Spanish American War. Not long after arriving in De Smet, he was made a member of the Masonic Lodge no. 55, along with other significant members of the community. Mr. Ruth was also a member of Garvey post no. 82, of the Grand Army of the Republic, at De Smet.

Mr. Ruth married Miss Laura (Lora) (Lara) Galbraith, November 11, 1879, in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. She was born May 30, 1844. She was a member of the De Smet Methodist Episcopal Church and acted as treasurer for their Ladies Aid Society in 1888. Mrs. Ruth died August

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10, 1893. Colonel Ruth remarried, May 1, 1895, his bride being Miss Amelia M. Bell. Mr. Ruth completed the construction of the house in 1900 before the birth of his first son Edwin Ruth in 1902. Mr. Ruth was 58 years old, when his son was born. He passed away in 1908, when his son was 6 years old. After his death his wife returned to Pennsylvania.

The home was then rented out until its sale in 1929. At that time it went under severe renovation into apartments. The "sale prices being \$1 and other valuables". The new owner converted the house into apartments during the depression. They removed the south porch and screened-in porch was enclosed. The main leaded glass doors from the south side were used on the eastside for an entrance into each apartment. However, they had to borrow more money to complete the project and the apartments were not being rented out right away, so the owner lost it in a sheriff's sale that was held on the steps of the courthouse.

The town of De Smet was named after Father Pierre Jean De Smet, a Belgian-born Jesuit priest, who traveled to the territory to establish missions among the Dakota people. De Smet was founded in 1880 by the Western Town Lot Company from eighty acres of land purchased from Marvin Hughett. The town of De Smet was populated slowly in 1878 and 1879, but with the arrival of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in 1880, it filled with many families, instead of the usual single men who came first. The first train came to De Smet in 1880. On November 2, of that same year De Smet was named the county seat of Kingsbury County, which contributed to its rapid growth. Also in 1880 the town was platted, and then organized in 1883. In February of 1880 the town got one of its first buildings, which was owned by Henry Hinz, Sr., built for recreational purposes. Structures went up rapidly along the business street. Also in February, and in March, E. M. Hartshorn, T. H. Maguire and the Fuller brothers erected business houses, and C. P. Parker put up a store building, W. H. Crook a tin shop and store, A. T. Barnes a law office; the Exchange Building was erected by C. W. Meade, and the Sheldon House was also built. Early in 1880 a post office was established and J. H. Carroll was appointed Postmaster. The lumber was hauled, sometimes from Volga, by wagon before the first train arrived. One of the first families to settle in De Smet was that of Charles P. Ingalls. He was employed as the timekeeper for the railway construction crew in 1879, which was camped on the shore of Silver Lake. In 1880, he moved to the town of De Smet to and established a general mercantile store. The Ingalls' family has been popularized through the books written by Laura Ingall's Wilder. Thomas Ruth was mentioned in several of Mrs. Wilder's books, including *The Long Winter*, as having bought the last 50 lb. bag of flour for a dollar a pound. He was also one of the men who attended a citizen's meeting at Charles Ingalls' house to discuss the growth of the town in 1880. By 1883 De Smet had approximately sixty buildings, including grocery and provision stores, wagon

Ruth, Thomas H. House

Name of Property

Kingsbury, South Dakota

County and State

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shops, lumber yards, banks, a drug store, newspaper companies, a flour mill, a church, a school, a elevator, two attorneys, a harness shop, one hotel and two real estate dealers. It was basically, a typical prairie town.

In a short time, Mr. Thomas Ruth played an important role in the development of De Smet South Dakota. He has been documented in Laura Ingalls Wilder's books as being one of the original town citizens who planned the future of De Smet. He and his brother were the first to establish a bank, which was a sign of economic growth for the town. He had interests in other aspects of town life, such as city politics and the De Smet Unit of the National Guard. Mr. Ruth continued his interests in the growth of De Smet until his death in 1908.

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List bibliography

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Verbal boundary Description

Part of the southwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of section 27, township 111, Range 56.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Thomas H. Ruth House.