

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 8 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 21 1977

**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 ** **
Harney Peak Tin Mining Company Buildings

AND/OR COMMON

Hilyo House, Chute Rooster

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W.S. 16/85

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hill City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

STATE

South Dakota

CODE
046

COUNTY

Pennington

CODE

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Louis and Bette Wipf

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hill City

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pennington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

301 St. Joseph Street

CITY, TOWN

Rapid City

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

October 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1960</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		BARN

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harney Peak Tin Mining Company located their main headquarters on the outskirts of Hill City in the central Black Hills. All that remains are the superintendent's house, the main barn, and three out-buildings with the general office, engineering and assaying office, coach houses, stables, and servants accommodations having been removed at some time.

The superintendent's house was until recently in a state of decay but its present owners are gradually rehabilitating the home. The two story structure is of no particular style but relates a slightly elaborate example of late nineteenth century building design. Its facing material is brown painted clapboard with white trim around the seventeen windows and porch and under the eaves. Most of the fenestrations are rectangular in shape and have lintel and slipsill surrounds. However, the first and second story openings are much larger, seven feet by three feet, and have french doors on the interior. The main entrance is of the same dimensions and features an oval, double plated window in its upper half. The structure's roof is a steep pitched gable with wood shingle covering; it also sweeps down to cover a small one story wing on each side of the house. A rear portion is cubical in shape, one story in height, and has a hipped roof. Interiorally, the structure features six rooms trimmed in yellow pine with fifteen feet by fifteen feet dimensions and a ten foot high ceiling.

Just to the northeast of the house is a small unpainted board and batten structure. This building is at least as old as the house and has served as a root cellar and a storage shed.

United States Highway 385 divides the property between the house and the barn. This construction caused the removal of the latter about two hundred feet to the northeast in 1960. This rather typical gambrel barn with a 1940 lean-to addition to one side has been adapted into an elegant supper club. A rear addition, the kitchen, is hardly visible because it is built right up to the side of a hill. The only other major exterior changes are the placement of windows, doors, and a second story wooden patio on the building's facade. Still present are the corrals and the chutes. The interior is a unique combination of modern and old decor applied to the basic structural design of the barn. It also contains various historical items and agricultural apparatus.

Two outbuildings also appear on this property. One is a combination of stone rubble and earth while the other looks more modern with horizontal siding. Both are used for storage of vehicles.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Harney Peak Tin Mining Company's buildings is that they are the last known structural reminders of a tin mine company "that was among the most heavily capitalized if not the heaviest in which the British participated in the American west."¹ Its importance to the world market in tin was immense and its complex and fraudulent history creates one of the most unusual events in South Dakota's past.

Prospectors discovered cassiterite, the chief source of tin, in the area around Hill City in 1877; however, gold hungry miners paid little attention to the news. A.J. Simmons rediscovered the metal in 1883 and sent a sample to Professor William P. Blake whose assessment of those and other samples, along with a visit to the Black Hills, convinced him that this mine held a potentially large supply of tin. Various mining journals reported the discovery which caused considerable consternation in the London and New York financial circles.

The anxiety in these economic centers was because large deposits of tin had not yet been discovered in the United States, hence a find like this could drastically effect the import of English tin from the Cornwall mines which was over \$24,000,000 annually. So the news from the Black Hills became an important topic of concern.

Shortly after the discovery, a New York group organized the Harney Peak Tin Mining, Milling and Manufacturing Company. Reports came in that the ore had a high tin yield, but Professor Blake cautioned investors that this was only in the Etta mine. Another mining expert stated the area lacked any commercially valuable tin deposits. Divergent reports such as these were just the beginning of one of the most controversial mining exploits in English and U.S. history.

In May of 1887 a London group known as the Harney Peak Tin Mining Company, Ltd., circulated a prospectus which included the purchase of the Dakota tin mines. Many British financial and mining papers lambasted the enterprise as being foolish and a bubble. These attacks resulted in the collapse of the proposed company.

Although the London concern withdrew its offer, the debate over Dakota tin continued. Then, in 1888, it became apparent that another deal was in the making. After considerable maneuvering, a group of prominent Englishmen got the Harney Peak Consolidated Tin Company, Ltd., listed in 1889 with a capital stock of \$15,000,000. Among the major stockholders were H. Seaton-Kerr, a member of Parliament and Lord Thurlow, former Governor-General of India.

¹William Turrentine Jackson, "Dakota Tin: British Investors at Harney Peak, 1880-1900" NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY: JOURNAL OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS, XXXIII (January 1966), p. 63.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jackson, William Turrentine, "Dakota Tin: British Investors at Harney Peak 1880-1900" NORTH DAKOTA HISTORY: JOURNAL OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS, XXXIII (January, 1966), 22-63.
 Wipf, Bette, "Hilyo House." Unpublished history, Hill City, South Dakota, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 615210 4865490
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Scott Gerloff, Historic Preservation Assistant II

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

January 1976

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605/677-5314

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John J. Little

TITLE

Director/Historical Preservation Center

DATE

9/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

Charles [Signature]

DATE

2/21/77

DATE

1-15-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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The completion of the deal resulted in a war of words between various newspapers and journals on the worth of the Black Hills property. While the company could not halt the criticism at home, they tried to silence their detractors in Dakota. They also built several buildings, including those still left today, bought several more claims, and started a large publicity campaign.

The promotional push continued almost up to the day the mine unexpectedly closed on February 2, 1893. By the fall of the same year, all hopes of reopening the mines were finished. The superintendents removed the most expensive machinery and it was apparent that over four hundred men would not return to work.

Five stockholders took the New York company to court in 1894 and it became apparent that "In all the annuals of mining investment, no clearer evidence of corruption and abuse of the newspapers and the mining press to promote the cause of a mining speculation can be found than in the events associated with Harney Peak Tin."² The trial resulted in the corporation being replaced in receivership.

The buildings built by the company continued to be used for mining during the first part of the twentieth century. Gradually, many of the structures were removed until only the superintendent's house, the main barn, and three outbuildings remained. Eventually, the property became part of a family farm and served this purpose for several years. In the late 1960's the present owners converted the barn into an elegant supper club and stocked it with western memorabilia. During the last few years, the home has undergone private rehabilitation.

²IBID.