



NPS FORM 10-900 (Rev. 8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018 [SD-SHPO # ECA-OH-597-1/89]
[use paper with at least 25% cotton rag content, use NLQ or LQ printer]

United States Department of the Interior -- National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES -- REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Werth, Gustav and Mary, House
other name/ site number: James and Carol Leach House, BN-AB-AB-WH-1

2. Location

street & number: 1502 North Dakota Street /NA/ not for publication
city, town: Aberdeen /NA/ vicinity
state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Brown code: SD 013 zip code: 57401

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property:		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
/XX/ private	/XX/ building(s)	___1___	___1___	buildings
/ / public-local	/ / district	_____	_____	sites
/ / public-state	/ / site	_____	_____	structures
/ / public-federal	/ / structure	_____	_____	objects
	/ / object	___1___	___1___	Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		Number of contributing resources		
NA _____		previously listed in the National Register: ___0___		

11. Form Prepared by

name/title: Carol Leach, owner; w/ technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO Staff
organization: _____ date: January 8, 1991
street & number: 1502 North Dakota Street telephone: 605-225-1026
city or town: Aberdeen state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57401

page 3: Gustav and Mary Werth House
property name

, Brown
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

6. Function or Use (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions:
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
(enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: American Foursquare (modified)

Materials:
(enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Wood

roof Wood Shingle, Metal
other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance: /XX/ see continuation sheet

8. Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in
relation to other properties: / / / / /XX/
 nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria / / A / /B /XX/C / /D

Criteria Considerations / /A / /B / /C / /D / /E / /F / /G

Areas of Significance (enter from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1916

Significant Dates
1916

Significant Person
NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
Brott, Clarence

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations,
and periods of significance noted above /XX/ see continuation sheet

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Situated in northeastern Aberdeen, South Dakota, on a huge corner lot that was once part of a farmstead, the Gustav and Mary Werth House is a large two-and-one-half story wood frame dwelling. Rising from a foundation of ornamental concrete block masonry, the house is clad with narrow clapboard siding. In form, the building is an American Foursquare with a rectangular two-story wing projecting from the east facade. The main section of the house is capped by a pyramidal roof, while the rear wing is capped by an intersecting hipped roof. Three hipped roof dormers on the west, north, and south facades light the unfinished half-story attic. The roof system, which features exposed rafter ends and wide overhanging eaves, is covered with wood shingles and ornate pressed metal ridge caps. A spacious enclosed sunporch wraps around the south and west facades of the house.

Fenestration is generally balanced consisting mostly of large double-hung windows with upper sash muntins arranged in a diamond motif. A huge oval window, flanked by a pair of bay windows, punctuates the upper level of the west facade. Located in the center of the south facade is a wide two-story projecting bay, and located in the center of the north facade is a second-story cut-away projecting bay pierced by a door that opens onto a small balcony. Another small balcony is located on the northeast corner of the house.

Originally, the main entry was on the west facade with side entries facing south and north. However, in 1955, the west entry was removed, the foyer was converted into a den, and the original winding staircase was changed to one of a double-flight configuration. At this time, the living room and dining room were opened up, and a fireplace was added. The main entry is now on the south facade, yet the original floor plan is still quite discernible. Except for these changes in orientation, the interior is in period-authentic condition featuring especially fine quality woodwork and fixtures throughout the house.

During the mid-1960s, a large dairy barn that once graced the Werth Farm was demolished. In 1973, the farm was annexed into the city of Aberdeen and eventually all the agricultural outbuildings were removed. Located a few yards east of the house, a circa-1955 two-car, gabled, wood frame garage (noncontributing) is the only remaining outbuilding on the premises. Much of the landscaping and the semicircular driveway date from before the dissolution of the farmstead. The property is in an excellent state of repair.

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Under Criterion C of the National Register Criteria, the Gustav and Mary Werth House is significant in the area of architecture, because it is a good example of early 20th Century builders' vernacular domestic architecture in Brown County, South Dakota. Constructed in 1916 for a prominent local farmer, the house is a modified American Foursquare design that exhibits several fine original period-authentic features. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan the property relates to the following historic contexts: V. Depression and Rebuilding (1893-1929)/A.3. Changing Urban Patterns-- Residential Changes and V./E.1. Changing Rural Patterns-- Pattern Book Structures.

In the middle of the 19th Century, American builders and homeowners began to reap the benefit of plan and concept books that made modern, up-to-date house designs accessible to middle-income households. The availability of these guidebooks increased throughout the remainder of the century. By the beginning of the 20th Century, a great plethora of pattern books and mail order catalogs for pre-cut houses and architectural features and the development of new low-cost materials and techniques made mass housing even more affordable. Contemporary with these changes was the emergence at the turn of the century of a new building form for single family dwellings, a two-and-one-half story cubic building with a hipped or pyramidal roof now generally known as the American Foursquare. Distinguished only by its massed cubic form, the facade treatments, stylistic embellishment, and floor plans of the Foursquare vary considerably. Costs of houses span a wide range depending upon personal tastes, needs, and resources of the owner. Yet these dwellings are generally noted for economy and versatility, and the design commanded widespread popularity across the country for three decades.

Constructed by local carpenter Clarence Brott, the Werth House is a modification of the Foursquare scheme that incorporates a two-story hipped-roof wing projecting from the rear of the house and creating a decidedly rectangular form. Yet, the main block is nearly cubic in shape capped by a characteristic pyramidal roof. Other items typical for the style and period of construction include high quality woodwork and fixtures, narrow clapboard siding, finely detailed metal ridge caps, an enclosed sun porch, attic dormers, diamond-patterned window muntins, an oval window, bay windows, and wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. When it was completed, the house featured running water, a coal-fired heating system, and a 32-volt electrical plant, all of which have been upgraded in recent years. In 1955, the main entry on the west was removed and the foyer was converted into a den; however, the original floor plan of the house is still fully visible. The west entry on the enclosed porch remains extant.

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Section number 8 Page 2

In 1914, Gustav and Mary Werth and their eight children moved from their original homestead three miles west of Stratford, South Dakota, to the former Williams farm near Aberdeen. Over the next several decades, the family erected several buildings including the new house in 1916. In 1919, Werths sold the farm to Arthur Jones, a migrant from Iowa, who occupied it until 1922, when he returned to his home state. At that time, the Werth family resumed ownership and operation of the farm. In 1932, son Alvin Werth and his wife Helen assumed residency of the house and remained there until 1968. In the mid-1960s, the City of Aberdeen annexed the farm, and the Werths sold the outbuildings. Today the neighborhood is an urban residential subdivision, and all that remains from the Werth farm is the house with its spacious yard and semicircular driveway as well as a nearby circa-1955 garage. The Werth House, owned by James and Carol Leach since 1968, stands out among the surrounding houses as a testament to early 20th Century construction and design.

The period of significance of the nominated property does not extend beyond its date of construction of 1916.

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property name

, Brown
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA
state

9. Major Bibliographical References

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Previous documentation by 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:

/XX/ State historic preservation office
/ / Other State agency
/ / Federal agency
/ / Local government
/ / University
/ / Other

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: Less than one acre.

UTM References:

A = /14/	/541-110/	/5036-340/	B = / /	/ /	/ /
C = / /	/ /	/ /	D = / /	/ /	/ /
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

Quad: Aberdeen East

Scale: 1:24000

/ / see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundaries of the nominated property are contained within the legal description as recorded in Brown County Register of Deeds Office: Lots 10 and 11, Block 1, Northridge First Subdivision, City of Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota.

/ / see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: The boundaries of nominated property include the historic house and noncontributing garage as well as the original semicircular drive and yard around the house all historically associated with the domestic function of the house but does not include any other, now separate, parcels that were once part of the farmyard. These excluded parcels do not contribute to the architectural significance of the property.

/ / see continuation sheet

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Aberdeen City Directory. St. Paul: R. L. Polk and Co. 1924.

_____. 1928-9.

_____. 1930-1.

_____. 1940-1.

Aberdeen Telephone Directory. Aberdeen, SD: Dakota Central Telephone Co.
1932.

_____. 1933.

Brown County Tax Assessor's Records.

Kahn, Renee. "Post-Victorian Domestic Architecture: The American Foursquare."
Old House Journal. X, n.2 (Feb. 1982): pp. 29-32.

Labine, Clem, and Patricia Poore. "The Comfortable House: Post-Victorian
Domestic Architecture." Old House Journal. X, n. 1 (Jan. 1982): pp. 1-8.

Poore, Patricia. "The American Foursquare." Old House Journal. XV, n. 6
(Nov.-Dec. 1987): pp.28-31.

Werth., Mrs. Alvin. Manuscript History of the Werth Family. [1978]. Copy
Housed at the State Historical Preservation Center.

_____. Personal Interview by Carol Leach at Aberdeen, South Dakota. June 6,
1985.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed., comp. "Surveying and Evaluating Vernacular Architecture."
Midwest Vernacular Architecture Committee. Draft. National Register
Bulletin No. 31. [September 1987].

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos Page 1

1.

Gustav and Mary Werth House
Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota
by John Rau
August 1990
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
West and south facades, camera facing northeast
Photo No. 1

2.

Gustav and Mary Werth House
Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota
by Melanie Betz
June 1985
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
West and south facades, camera facing north-northeast
Photo No. 2

3.

Gustav and Mary Werth House
Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota
by John Rau
August 1990
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
South and east facades, camera facing north
(southwest corner of noncontributing garage shown)
Photo No. 3

4.

Gustav and Mary Werth House
Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota
by John Rau
August 1990
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
West facade, camera facing east
Photo No. 4

5.

Gustav and Mary Werth House
Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota
by John Rau
August 1990
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center
North facade, camera facing south
Photo No. 5