

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Shriver-Johnson Building

and/or common Shriver's

2. Location

street & number 230 S. Phillips Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Sioux Falls N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Minnehaha code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Weinberg Investment, Inc.

street & number Talcott Building, P.O. Box 518

city, town Elk Point N/A vicinity of state South Dakota 57025

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Minnehaha County Court House

street & number 415 North Dakota Avenue

city, town Sioux Falls state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Survey of Sioux Falls has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion state South Dakota 57069

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shriver-Johnson Building is at the northeast corner of Phillips Avenue and Eleventh Street with an 88 foot frontage on Phillips Avenue and extending 150 feet eastward along Eleventh Street to the alley. The entire building stands 90 feet above the street level and consists of five stories and a basement. It is a simple rectangle in shape with a flat roof. The building is constructed of steel reinforced concrete with the exterior finished in dark brown brick with limestone trim.

Since its construction in 1918, there have been no additions to the building. The interior furnishings were remodeled in the 1950 era; original metal stair rails survive in the hallways. On the exterior the transom windows on the first floor, and windows of the second through fourth have all been covered with panels. The original metal canopy of the entrance has also disappeared. The renovation plans call for the removal of the upper panels and the restoration of the canopy.

The Shriver Building is a commercial structure of the simplified Classical Revival style. The profiles of the first floor pillars and fourth floor cornice are so flat as to be almost abstract. Two opposing commercial styles co-existed in the early 20th Century: the international and classical revival styles. Often structures, such as the Shriver were caught between, and so used the classical motifs, in a manner which attempts to disguise the large size and new construction techniques employed in the building. Yet, this is not a forthright classical revival building; details are extremely flattened, streamlined, and two-dimensional, creating some of the clean, spare "feel" of international style buildings.

The first floor equals in height two normal floors or twenty-one feet. The first floor facade begins at the sidewalk with about three feet of marble. Above this, limestone covers the exposed surface of supporting pillars to create a pilaster-like effect complete with simple limestone capitals and an entablature. The limestone entablature girds both the west and southern facades of the building. The space between the limestone pilasters of the base unit are filled by large show windows except for the last four at the east end of the southern facade. These four openings are filled by the same dark brown brick as the facade above the first floor. The two brick surfaces adjacent to the alley are pierced by a side entrance and a horizontal band of small windows seven feet above the sidewalk.

The shaft unit of the building, beginning at the limestone entablature, is of dark brown, rough textured brick. The design of the shaft portion of the building is organized by grouping windows into units of three. Window groups and spandrels are recessed from the plane of the intervening, supporting piers, and individual windows within the groups of three are separated by mini brick piers that protrude from the plane of the windows and spandrels. The exception to this scheme occurs in the set of windows adjacent to the corners of the building. In this case the plane of the windows and spandrels is the same as that of the piers. This treatment creates a wide pier-like area extending the full height of the shaft at each corner of the facade. Thus, there are vertical piers of three different sizes emphasizing the height of the building. As the same time, however, the groupings of windows are so narrowly separated that the broad bands of windows on each floor have a definite horizontal effect.

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The fifth floor serves as the cap to the design of the facade. The piers of the shaft climax in a limestone belt course above the fourth floor windows, but they are renewed above the belt course and conclude with individual limestone caps above the fifth story. The entire facade is topped with a plain, horizontal parapet with a limestone cap which hides the flat roof.

The current owners plan to make extensive changes in the interior of the building. A central atrium will be opened through all floors to a glass skylight on the roof. The first floor will become an arcade of small retail shops while upper stories will be altered to provide attractive and functional office accommodations.

The environment of the Shriver-Johnson Building has changed little since the building was constructed in 1918. Buildings at the other three corners of its intersection predate it slightly as do most others north and south along Phillips Avenue. The facades of some neighboring buildings have been modernized, buildings across the alley to the east have been replaced by a parking lot, and the Phillips Avenue pedestrian mall begins in front of the building and extends for two blocks northward.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Opened December 17, 1918 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Butler Bros., St. Paul, MN
Architect: Perkins & McWayne, Sioux Falls

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shriver-Johnson is significant for its size and architectural design, and as a monument to the commercial heritage of Sioux Falls. In an article announcing the opening of the new building, the SIOUX FALLS ARGUS LEADER on December 16, 1918, hailed the new addition to the local business community in the following words: "It is doubtful that any place in the West can show a department store of the size, character and magnificence of the new Shriver-Johnson store at Eleventh and Phillips which opens for business at 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning." Although local newspapers traditionally exaggerate the qualities of new buildings, this statement was in large measure accurate. Its size and character, if not its magnificence, were and remain impressive. The newspaper writer in 1918 could not know that sixty years later the Shriver-Johnson Building would be the sole survivor of the era of multi-storied department stores in a downtown business district that has surrendered to the competition of suburban shopping centers.

A. R. Shriver and J. H. Johnson combined resources in 1914 to purchase the Koenig Brothers Department Store in Sioux Falls. Their business talents and the rapid growth of Sioux Falls in subsequent years soon prompted the two men to plan for a new, larger building to house their prospering business. At first contemplating a four-story building, they ultimately decided to enlarge the project to five stories plus basement. The new building opened its doors to the public on December 17, 1918, and was the largest department store in the State of South Dakota. It retained the distinction throughout its existence as a retail store.

The new multi-storied department store had a profound impact on the patterns of retail traffic in the downtown business district of Sioux Falls. Previously the center of retail trade had been focused on Phillips Avenue between Eighth and Tenth Streets. The addition of the Shriver-Johnson Department Store extended the primary shopping district to Eleventh Street.

Architects Albert McWayne and Robert Perkins designed the building. McWayne received his civil engineering training at Purdue University and worked for an architectural firm in Chicago prior to coming to Sioux Falls in 1914. Perkins earned his architectural degree from the Chicago Institute of Art. The historic classical design motif that typically dominated commercial buildings at the time is very subdued in this building. Yet despite its five storied height the horizontal effect is very strong, and dark brown brick, most often used in Prairie School buildings is employed in this structure.

Finally, the Shriver-Johnson Building is a memorial to the era of multi-storied department stores and the time when downtown Sioux Falls was the primary business district of Sioux Falls and the surrounding region. Of all the multi-storied department stores that once existed in Sioux Falls, Shriver's was the last to close, and the building is the only one still in existence. Its current conversion to a small shop and office facility is symbolic of the general transformation of downtown Sioux Falls from a retail business district to an office and financial center. The Shriver-Johnson Building will continue to serve the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Building Blue Prints, Weinberg Investments, Inc., Elkpoint, South Dakota
Mr. John McWayne, 2701 Costello Road, Sioux Falls, SD (son of the designing engineer).
Newspaper clipping file on Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls Public Library
SIOUX FALLS ARGUS LEADER, November 21, 1917; December 4, 1917; March 26, 1918; and
December 16, 1918

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one

Quadrangle name Sioux Falls East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	8	3	7	0	0	4	8	2	3	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The lot lines of the property form the boundaries. The building occupies Lots 8 and 9 of Block 20 of the J. L. Phillips Addition to the City of Sioux Falls.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Gary D. Olson Technical Editing: Carolyn Torma
Historical Preservation Center
USD, Vermillion, SD 57069
organization Augustana College date January 26, 1981 (605-677-5313)
street & number 29th Street and South Summit Avenue telephone 605-336-5329
city or town Sioux Falls 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James R. Feltman
title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date May 3, 1982

For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
entered in the National Register date 6/17/82
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: Chief of Registration date

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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the community well in its new role, but it will always be a reminder of the downtown that once was.

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Mr. John McWayne interviewed by phone, January 13, 1981