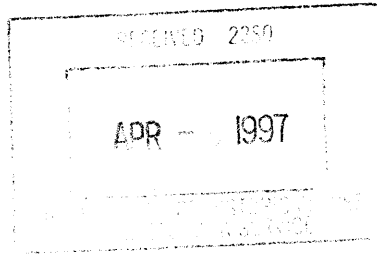


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How 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 Blackburn, Dr. William and Elizabeth, House

other names/site number Fishback House, Billinghamurst House, King House

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 219 South Tyler Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Pierre vicinity N/A
state South Dakota code SD county Hughes code 065 zip code 57501

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt 03-25-97
Signature of certifying official Date

SD SHPO
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall *5/9/97*

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):

be

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====

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
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Secondary structure</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian - Stick

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, cement block, poured concrete

roof wood shingles

walls wood

other _____

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

Architecture
Community Planning and
Development
Education

Period of Significance 1883-1938

Significant Dates 1883
1885 - 1898
1910

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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

Name of repository: South Dakota State Historical Society, Pierre SD

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	394260	4912755	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	_____ See continuation sheet.					

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

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Scott P. Myren with technical assistance from Michelle Saxman-Rogers
organization _____ date February 11, 1997
street & number 219 South Tyler Avenue telephone 605-224-2984
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

=====

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)

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Scott P. Myren and Virginia P. Trexler-Myren

street & number 219 South Tyler Avenue telephone 605-224-2984

city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501
=====

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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Section 7 Page 1

Description of the exterior of the Blackburn House

The Blackburn House is a two-story wood frame building constructed in the Late Victorian Stick style of architecture. As originally constructed in 1883, the house was an L-shaped building with three gables. The original structure rested on a field stone and mortar foundation. This configuration of the house is depicted in Diagrams A and B. In approximately 1910, significant additions were added to the West end of the structure. A two-story enlargement was added to the Southwest corner of the house. This new addition rests on a concrete-block foundation. At approximately the same time a one-story greenhouse/solarium was added to the South gable-end of the house. This greenhouse/solarium rested on a rock-faced, concrete-block foundation. A two-story addition was also added at about the same time to the West gable-end of the house. This addition consisted of an enclosed room, an open porch, an entrance on the first story, and a covered, but open, porch on the second story. This addition rests on a field stone and mortar foundation. At the time of these additions, some of the exterior stick bracing was removed and resulted in simpler ornamentation. These additions increased the size of the structure by 30 percent, bringing it to its current irregular configuration of approximately 2,500 square feet. This configuration is depicted in Diagrams C and D. Each of these additions was completed between 1898 and 1910.

Between 1910 and 1946, the house remained essentially unchanged. The Kings, the new owners of the property, removed the remaining stick ornamentation and sheathed the house in builder's tar paper and modern composite shingles in 1946. The new owners undertook these changes to make the house appear more modern. The greenhouse/solarium was demolished. The foundation was retained and filled with concrete to serve as a patio. The composite shingles disguised the original architectural style, but also served as an excellent preservative for the original cedar tongue-and-groove siding. In 1995 the composite shingles and builder's tar paper were removed to reveal the original siding. The original stick bracing is being replaced based on photographs of the structure from the 1880s and on physical evidence remaining on the original siding.

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The house is centered on a moderately wooded site consisting of four city lots. When originally constructed, the site was open in all directions for several blocks. Over the years the City of Pierre has developed around the property.

Throughout most of its life, the house was accompanied by various outbuildings, including three smaller sheds and a medium-sized barn. Horses, goats, and chickens were kept on the property through the 1960s. All of the outbuildings were demolished in the 1970s. In 1980, a modern garage was constructed next to the Northwest corner of the house. The style of the garage is not in keeping with the architectural style of the house.

A seven-foot basement exists under three-quarters of the home. The foundation of the Southwest corner of the house was reinforced with poured concrete in about 1946. The foundation of the Northwest corner of the original structure was reinforced with poured concrete in approximately 1970. The basic structure of the house consists of full-dimensioned eight and ten-inch lumber. Structural beams underlying the home appear to have been salvaged from some previous use. The exterior is covered with molded, tongue-and-groove siding. In the 1970s cellulose insulation was blown into the exterior walls through holes drilled in the exterior siding.

The East facade is asymmetrical with a two-story gable end on the North end. The East facade gable end has a ribbon of three, one-over-one, double-hung windows on the first and second floors. Each of these windows is approximately two feet wide and seven feet tall. This gable end is ornamented with horizontal and vertical stick bracing. The horizontal stick bracing joins the top and bottom trim of each window. The vertical stick bracing joins the vertical trim of each window and covers the exterior corners of the structure. The bottom two feet of the structure is covered with a beaded wainscoting with horizontal bracing trim. Additional wainscoting and stick bracing mirrors the angle of the roof on the gable end. The above described ornamentation was originally on all sides of the house.

The South end of the East facade is a one-story, open porch covered by a high pitch cedar shingle roof which continues over the main house. The porch is supported by lightly figured posts with decorative "sunrise" brackets. Under the porch is the primary

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entrance to the house. When the house was originally constructed, this porch area featured three large windows of the same size and style as those on the gable end of the East facade. These three large windows were removed in approximately 1910. One window, on a South facing wall under the porch, was completely removed. The other two windows, both on the East wall under the porch, were replaced with two feet tall by three feet wide leaded glass windows. The porch does not extend the full length of the East side. To the South of the porch roof is a one-over-one, double-hung window on the second story. Below this window is a cutaway on the first story that faces Southeast. This cutaway features a four-over-one, double-hung window approximately five feet by six feet. This large window was added in approximately 1910 and replaced a single, one-over-one, double-hung window like those on the East gable end.

The roof of the East facade is interrupted by a gabled dormer that matches the two-story gable in design and pitch. The base of the front of the gabled dormer is shingled. A triangular pediment at the top of the gabled dormer has octagonal shingles. The remainder of the front of the gabled dormer consists of a canted bay window with three, one-over-one, double-hung windows.

The South elevation is also asymmetrical. The East half of the South Elevation features a gable end similar to the gable end on the North end of the East facade. In the peak of the gable is a small window. The second story of the gable end of the South Elevation features a ribbon of four one-over-one, double-hung windows. Each of these windows is seven-feet tall and two-feet wide. The first floor of the South elevation features an exterior entrance. This door formerly entered the greenhouse/solarium. Before this greenhouse/solarium was demolished, it featured a moderately pitched, shed roof. The walls of the greenhouse/solarium carried the wainscoting detail from the remainder of the house. The exterior wall of the house on the South elevation is irregularly sided where the greenhouse/solarium formerly existed.

The West half of the South Elevation is also two-storied, but is topped with a nearly flat shed roof. This West half of the South Elevation was added in about 1910. Each floor features a large, horizontal sliding window approximately three feet tall and six feet

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wide. A small, one-over-one, double-hung window is placed to the East of the sliding window on the second story. This window provides natural light for a large closet.

The West elevation is also asymmetrical. The North half of the West elevation is a gable end identical to the gable end on the South Elevation. However, this gable end is partially covered by the two-story shed roof addition added in approximately 1910.

The two-story shed roof is low in pitch and covers a porch on the second story. This porch was originally open, but was enclosed in approximately 1980. Aluminum combination windows were placed in plywood to enclose the porch. Long term restoration plans include the reopening of this second story porch.

A small room that originally served as Mr. Billingham's office occupies three-quarters of the first floor of the shed roof addition. The remaining one-quarter of the first floor is an open porch featuring an entrance to the back of the house. This porch is identical in structure and detailing to the porch on the East elevation. On the first floor under the porch, on the south side of the shed roof addition is a sliding window that is three feet tall and six feet wide.

To the North of the shed roof addition is a projection of the original gable end. This two-story wall originally featured an open porch on the first floor, with an entrance to Billingham's office. This open porch was identical in design and detail to the porch on the East elevation. This open porch was enclosed in approximately 1946. Long-term restoration plans include reopening this porch.

The South half of the West facade is covered by the extremely low angle shed roof that covers the 1910 addition. The second story has one large window that is three feet wide and six feet tall. The first story has a ground-level entrance to the basement. This entrance has two regular doors. One opens in and one opens out. To the south of the door is a large, horizontal sliding window that matches the first story sliding window on the West half of the South facade.

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The North facade is two-storied for its entire length. Slightly more than three-quarters of the roof revealed in this elevation is very highly pitched. The West portion of the facade was added with the addition in 1910. This portion is covered by a nearly flat roof, with short hips of the same pitch as the main portion of the roof.

The second story of the North facade features two pairs of large, one-over-one, double-hung windows. Each of these windows is approximately two feet by seven feet. There is a small window on the West end of the second story. The first story features identical pairs of large, one-over-one, double-hung windows. Approximately one-quarter of the North facade (west end) was originally a small open porch identical in detail and ornament to the other two porches on the house. As previously described, this porch was enclosed in approximately 1946. The North side of the shed dormer originally featured a window identical to the sliding window on the South side of the shed dormer. This window was closed at an unknown date.

All of the windows in the house (except the combination storms used to enclose the second-story porch in the shed dormer on the West elevation) are original to the house. The original storm windows of the one-over-one windows were wooden and had eight lights. The original storm windows for the sliding windows were wooden and had four or six lights. The original storms that still exist are being renovated and replaced. New reproductions are being manufactured for missing storm windows. Aluminum combination storm windows were placed on the windows of the East gable end and the North elevation in approximately 1980. Renovation plans include the replacement of these storm windows with more historically appropriate wooden storm windows as described above.

The interior and exterior doors throughout the house appear original to the structure. There are five exterior doors. The house originally had two chimneys. One chimney in the center of the house services the furnace. This chimney originally extended at least 15 feet over the peak of the house and was octagonal in its terminus. That chimney now ends approximately four feet over the peak and is square. It is unknown when the top 11 feet of the chimney were removed. The second chimney serviced the kitchen and a fireplace in the dining room. The top portion of that chimney was removed at some time before 1946. This chimney no longer functions because it no longer exists

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above the roof. The pitched portions of the roof were originally shingled with cedar shingles. The West half of the roof was reshingled with asphalt shingles in 1980. The pitched portions of the entire roof were reshingled with cedar shingles in 1996. The nearly flat portions of the roof were originally roofed with jointed sheet metal. These portions were covered with asphalt sheeting in 1946 and 1980. The flat portions were reroofed with new copper, jointed sheeting in 1996.

Description of the interior of the Blackburn House.

The interior of the Blackburn House is simple but elegant. Throughout the house the ceilings are twelve feet high. The floors throughout the house are tongue-and-groove oak. All of the walls and ceilings are constructed of lath and plaster.

The front door, under the porch on the East elevation is oak with a three-quarters length, beveled-glass window. Inside the doorway is an irregularly shaped foyer. This foyer is approximately seven feet by ten feet. On the West end of the foyer are four steps that lead to a landing. This landing extends the width of the foyer. The North half of the landing is exposed to the front door. The north half also features a door that leads to a similar entrance foyer that services the west entrance to the house. The South half of the landing covered from view by a wall toward the East entrance. A stairway to the second floor rises to the West from the South half of the landing. The landing and the four steps rising from the East foyer are constructed of Oak. The stairs from the West foyer and those leading to the second floor are constructed of pine.

Just inside the front door is a large single sliding door that provides access to the parlor/library. This parlor/library is approximately 14 feet by 32 feet. The room is divided by a pedestal colonnade that features two fluted columns constructed of oak and capped with Corinthian capitals. Along the North wall this room features two pairs of one-over-one, double hung windows. A ribbon of three similar windows is on the East wall of this room. The West wall is covered with built-in bookcases approximately five feet tall.

To the South of the front entrance, in the front foyer, is a leaded-glass window on the East wall. To the left of the front foyer and this window is a doorway that leads into the

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dining room. The dining room is nearly octagonal in shape and is approximately 16 feet in each direction. The doorway from the front foyer is on the Northeast facet of the octagon. The East facet of the octagon has a leaded-glass window that overlooks the open front porch. The Southeast facet is consumed by a large, four-over-one, double hung window that overlooks the front lawn. The South facade has a doorway that originally led to the greenhouse/solarium, but now leads to a concrete patio built on the foundation of the demolished greenhouse/solarium. There is no Southwest facet -- so the room is not actually an octagon. In the center of the West facet is a swinging door that leads to the kitchen. The Southwest facet is a fireplace. The facings and mantel are constructed of polished, green stone. This stone has been carved with grooves which are gilded. The North facet is a blank wall.

The kitchen is shaped like a reversed letter L. The base of the letter is approximately six feet by six feet. The extension of the L is approximately 5 feet by 8 feet. The long wall of the L-shaped room is the opposite side of the West facet of the dining room. This wall has the swinging door in its center between the dining room and kitchen. The South wall of the kitchen has a large, horizontal sliding window. The West wall that is the extension of the L has an identical window. The remainder of the West wall, the inside of the L, is a blank wall. The top of the L is the North wall. This wall has a door leading to the rear foyer.

The rear foyer is very irregular in shape. It features a doorway leading to the basement, a doorway leading to the kitchen, a closet, a doorway to the landing shared with the front foyer, and a doorway leading to the first floor room in the two-story shed dormer addition. This rear foyer also has an exterior door that exits onto the covered, but open, porch on the South wall of the two-story shed dormer addition. This porch occupies approximately one-third of the first floor of the shed dormer addition. The other two-thirds of the first floor space consists of rectangular shaped room. This room has a large, horizontal sliding window on the South wall, and a one-over-one, double hung window on the West wall. The North wall has an exterior doorway that exits onto the formerly open porch on the North elevation. This room has a vanity and sink, a shower, and a toilet. These bathroom facilities were added in approximately 1980.

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The second floor of the house is reached by stairs that rise from the landing between the front and rear foyers. The second floor is divided approximately into thirds along its length from East

to West. The center third is a large room or hallway that extends from the East facade to the West facade. This hallway is approximately eight feet wide and 35 feet long. The East end of the hallway extends into the area in the dormer with the bay windows noted on the front or East elevation. Along the walls of this hallway are five doors leading to the other rooms of the second floor. A sixth door leads to the second floor porch.

In the Southeast Corner is the master bedroom, which is approximately 14 feet by 14 feet. The entrance is on the far East end of the North wall. The East wall has a doorway that enters a walk-in closet that is constructed over the open porch on the first floor of the East elevation. On the South end of the East wall is a one-over-one, double-hung window. The South wall of the master bedroom has a ribbon of four one-over-one, double-hung windows. The West wall is blank.

The next room on the South one-third of the second story is also a large bedroom. This room is also approximately 14 feet by 14 feet. The entrance doorway is on the far West end of the North wall. The remainder of the North wall of the room is blank. The East wall of the room is blank except for a doorway at the extreme South end of the wall. This door enters into a narrow closet that runs the entire length of the East wall. This closet fits between the two bedrooms and has a small, one-over-one, double-hung window to provide natural light. The South wall of the bedroom has a large, horizontal sliding window. The West wall of the bedroom has a large, one-over-one, double-hung window.

The North one-third of the second story has three rooms. The first room in the Northeast corner of the house is a bedroom approximately 12 feet by 14 feet. The entrance doorway is on the extreme Southwest corner of the South wall. The remainder of the South wall is bare. The East wall of the bedroom has a ribbon of three large, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The North wall of the room has a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows. The West wall is blank except for a doorway that

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provides access to a walk-in closet on the North end of the wall. This closet is approximately four feet deep and five feet wide.

The second room of the North one-third of the second story is also a bedroom. This room is also approximately 12 feet by 14 feet. The East wall is blank except for a door on the Southeast end. This door enters a walk-in closet that is approximately four feet deep and five feet wide. The South wall of the bedroom is blank except for a doorway that provides access from the main hallway. The West wall is completely blank. The North wall has a pair of large, one-over-one double-hung windows.

The final room on the North one-third of the second story is the main bathroom. This bathroom has a vanity and sink, toilet, bathtub and surround, and storage. The room has two windows. Each window is approximate 2 feet square. One window is on the North end of the West wall. The other window is on the West end of the North wall.

The final door off the center hallway of the second story provides access to the formerly open porch on the second story of the two-story shed dormer. This room is now enclosed and quite plain. It was formerly open on the South, West, and North sides. As near as can be ascertained all of the doors and trim throughout the house are original to the construction. All of the doors and most of the trim work are painted. At this time it is unknown what type of wood exists under the paint. The lath and plaster throughout the house are in excellent condition.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**Section 8 Page 10**Statement of Significance.**

The significance of the Blackburn House rests on both the merits of its historic associations in the early development of East Pierre and its well-preserved architecture.

Criterion A - The Blackburn House is one of the oldest remaining residential structures in the City of Pierre. It is significant for its place in Community Planning and Development. H.O. Fishback, a banker and real estate speculator, constructed the house in 1883 as an example to encourage new settlers and to help establish the new community in East Pierre. William Maxwell Blackburn, who purchased the house in 1887, was an ecclesiastical historian internationally known through his authorship of numerous books and articles. While living in the Blackburn House, he continued to write books and articles on various topics of local and national interest. Also significant during this period were his Presidency and active promotion of Pierre University from 1885-1898. The house is located several blocks from the site of Pierre University and is believed to be the only remaining structure to have any documented relationship with Pierre University. The third owner of the property was C.B. Billingham, a well-known and significant community leader for Pierre during its second boom period after 1900. Billingham was a prolific writer on topics of local and statewide concern. His articles were published in his own newspaper and those of other communities in South Dakota. Billingham kept an office in the home where he pursued his writing and managed his various business interests.

The Blackburn House fits into the South Dakota Context as part of the Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement from 1858-1899. The house also fits into the South Dakota Context by being part of the Depression and Rebuilding Era from 1893-1929.

Criterion C - The Blackburn House is a well-preserved example of the distinctive Late Victorian Stick style of architecture. It is one of few Late Victorian Stick houses in Pierre, South Dakota or the immediate area. Architect Andrew Jackson Downing is credited with the introduction of this new architectural form as a "cottage style" of housing.¹ Downing envisioned a "bracketed mode" of his "cottage style" that has

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become known as the Stick Style. Stick style focuses on the use of decorative horizontal and vertical stick bracing to mirror the structural elements of the building. This bracing material enhances the vertical appearance of the structure. The Blackburn House still has its original tongue-and-groove cedar siding.

The fact that the Blackburn House is one of the oldest residential structures existing in Pierre further enhances its significance. Most of the structures remaining in Pierre that predate 1883 were and are commercial structures. Although the neighborhood has filled around the house and the trees have grown to enormous heights, the house retains its architectural integrity. The large yard and circa 1910 fence assist the architectural significance of the property.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Early History of Pierre and South Dakota

Dakota Territory was officially recognized in 1861, although it was still a wild place as evidenced by the Great Sioux Rebellion of 1862.² The conflicts between settlers and Sioux Indians were largely resolved by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.³ Hopes of peace were destroyed in 1874 by the discovery of gold in the Black Hills of Southwestern Dakota Territory.⁴ The fact that this area had been ceded to the Sioux Indians in the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 did little to halt the rush of settlers and prospectors to the area.⁵

Pierre was laid out in 1878 by T.F. Nichol, an engineer working for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.⁶ The Chicago Northwestern Railroad promptly extended its line to this small settlement on a bend of the Missouri River.⁷ For the next score of years, Pierre was the end of the Western rail lines because no rights of way had been negotiated by the railways to cross the Sioux Indian territories West of the Missouri River.⁸ Still, the Great Sioux Reservation was open to public travel.⁹ Settlers and prospectors traveling on the Chicago Northwestern disembarked at Pierre and purchased provisions and transportation before heading West to the Black Hills.¹⁰ As a result, Pierre experienced its first boom from approximately 1880-1885.

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By 1883, Pierre had grown to 2,000 and had its own brick yard.¹¹ Permanent structures such as the Hughes County Courthouse were built in late 1883.¹² East Pierre featured the development and

operation of Dakota Territory's first street car system, Pierre City Railway.¹³ The first section of street car railway ran East and West from Pierre Street to Tenth Street (now Polk Avenue).¹⁴ The Plat to Well's Second Addition to Pierre was not filed until May 4, 1883.¹⁵ During the summer of 1883 more than \$500,000 had been expended in erecting buildings in the Wells First and Second Additions.¹⁶ During one day in May of 1883 more than \$50,000 in town lots were sold in Pierre.¹⁷

In October 1889, Pierre was designated as temporary capital of the new state, South Dakota.¹⁸ The legislature first met in Pierre on October 15, 1889.¹⁹ The placement of the capital in Pierre ignited Pierre's second boom period.

H.O. Fishback

H.O. Fishback moved to Pierre from Rochester, Minnesota.²⁰ Although it is not clear when he first arrived in Pierre, it is known that he was in residence in the booming town by at least March of 1883.²¹ According to an article in the March 7, 1883, edition of The Signal: "Messrs. H.O. Fishback and W.I. Wellman, of Rochester, Minn., and a Mr. Pratt, of Zombrota Minn., will start a bank and printing office here combined."²² In the March 21, 1883, publication of the same paper, Fishback, Wellman, and Pratt were advertising as "Real Estate Dealers" and announced that they would open "Dakota Central Bank about June 1st."²³ By May 9, 1883, Fishback and his partners were purchasing quarter page advertisements in The Signal.²⁴ Fishback and his partners were "locaters and agents" for Well's First and Second Additions, the most recently platted additions in East Pierre.²⁵ Fishback and his partners advertised the new "Dakota Central Bank," as well as the Fishback, Pratt & Wellman Lumber Yard.²⁶ The lumber yard was said to carry a "Complete Stock of LUMBER! Lath, Shingles, Sash, Doors, Building Paper, Hair, Lime and Cement."²⁷

The Dakota Central Bank was located on the corner of Central Avenue (Dakota Avenue) and 10th Street (Polk Avenue).²⁸ The lumber yard office was located on the

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corner of Sioux Avenue and 8th Street (Harrison Avenue).²⁹ The Blackburn House was located on the corner of Franklin Avenue and 9th Street (Tyler Avenue). Essentially, Fishback's house was centered between the bank and the lumber yard office.

By May of 1883, The Signal was treating Fishback and his partners as longtime fixtures.³⁰ In its May 9, 1883, edition, The Signal published a lengthy article extolling the growing virtues of Pierre and East Pierre, in which Fishback and his partners were discussed as follows:

Fishback, Pratt & Wellman, who represent several branches of business here, entered our ranks early this spring to become fixtures and active business men of our prosperous city. Their large bank building on Central avenue in Wells' addition, is nearly completed, and is built upon a solid stone foundation. The bank will be called the Dakota Central Bank, and they will be able to offer the best fire and burglar security in the northwest. Their vault is of large size built of brick with very heavy fire walls and dead air space, built on a solid foundation of granite boulders, laid deep into the ground. Their Diebold burglar proof safe and vault front is of the latest pattern and are made with all the latest improvements. Their safe in particular is striking both in its appearance and in the various points of security it offers that no other safe can offer at the present time, and their handsome safe time-lock gives in all double security. These gentlemen have also opened in connection with their banking business an insurance and steamship ticket agency. They do a very large real estate business and are agents for Wells' First and Second additions, and Prentice, Pettegrew & Sterling's First Addition to Pierre. Parties coming here to invest or locate will find them trustworthy and reliable, and need not fear of being misinformed or defrauded. Fishback, Pratt and Wellman have permanently located their new lumber yard in Wells Addition, and keep a complete line of lumber and building material of all kinds, and have in fact as complete a yard as there is in the Territory. Their office is on Sioux avenue, Wells addition, and all orders left there for lumber or city delivery will be promptly filled, with no charge for delivery.

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The Pierre Printing Company will have their office in the Dakota Central Bank Building and will publish The Pierre Free Press with W. W. Kinne as editor and manager.

Fishback, Pratt and Wellman are general agents for southern Dakota for T. P. Hall & Co's light spring wagons and buggies, which speak for themselves.³¹

As noted earlier, Fishback was an agent for Northwestern Land Association, the developer of Well's Second Addition. This perhaps explains the fact that he apparently never took title to the property on which the Blackburn House stands. The Hughes County Assessor's records for 1884, the first year the Well's Second Addition was listed as separately platted property, lists Fishback, Wellman, and Pratt as the owners of many parcels in the Well's Second Addition, including the parcel where the Blackburn House is located.³² Lots surrounding the property were assessed at \$50.³³ A six-lot parcel that includes the site of the Blackburn House was assessed at \$1200.³⁴

Clearly, a significant and valuable improvement was sited on that property. The county assessor's records and the oral history of the house show that it was built in 1883.³⁵ The 1883 directory for the City of Pierre lists Fishback's residence as Wells Addition.³⁶ The 1884 directory specifies that his home was on Ninth Street, which is now Tyler Avenue.³⁷ When Fishback, Pratt, and Wellman opened their new bank in the spring of 1883, Pierre was in the beginning of a massive boom. Housing was scarce.³⁸

No reference to the building of the Blackburn House has been located in contemporary newspapers. However, Wellman began construction of his new home in May of 1883 only a short distance from the site of the Blackburn House.³⁹

In May 1883, Fishback traveled to Huron to attend a meeting of the South Dakota Presbytery.⁴⁰ Fishback was a member of the first Board of Trustees for the newly created Pierre University, a Presbyterian institution.⁴¹ It is surmised that Fishback met William Blackburn when he came to Pierre in 1885 to take over as President of Pierre University. Blackburn later purchased the house and took title in 1888, directly from Northwestern Land Association.⁴²

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It is unknown what happened to H.O. Fishback. By 1889, he was no longer listed as a partner in the Dakota Central Bank.⁴³ By that time, Pratt and Wellman had become the sole agents for the Northwestern Land Association.⁴⁴

Pierre University

Two Presbyterian ministers, Dr. H.P. Carson and M.E. Chapin, first envisioned Pierre University while pacing the deck of a steamboat while returning to their homes after a Presbytery meeting in Sioux City in the Spring of 1881.⁴⁵ Others heard of their plans and spread their dreams.⁴⁶ In 1882, the newly organized Presbytery of Southern Dakota took up the dream and published an invitation to towns in the territory to serve as a site for a new "Institution of Higher Learning."⁴⁷ Huron, Mitchell and Pierre, all involved in a fight to become the site of territorial capital, responded to the invitation.⁴⁸ By the time a Presbytery committee could visit each location, Pierre had been effectively rejected as a site for the territorial capital.⁴⁹ Pierre offered 20 acres of land and \$13,000 for the construction of the educational institution.⁵⁰ The generous offer was accepted and construction was begun in 1883.⁵¹

First called the Presbyterian University of Southern Dakota and later renamed Pierre University, the institution was incorporated on July 6, 1883.⁵² H.O. Fishback, the first owner of the Blackburn House, was a member of the first Board of Trustees for the new school.⁵³ Reverend T.M. Findley was selected as President of the institution.⁵⁴ He and his wife took up residence in a new, two-story wooden building that cost \$3,000.⁵⁵ This building was known as Pioneer Hall and served then as the educational facility as well as student housing.⁵⁶ Three students enrolled when the first term began on September 26, 1883.⁵⁷ By December of 1883, the student roster had swollen to 24.⁵⁸ Financial needs beset the institution immediately.⁵⁹ To encourage enrollment of new students, boarding costs were kept to \$2.46 per week.⁶⁰ This resulted in the difficult task of distinguishing between serious students and those individuals who were simply seeking inexpensive housing.⁶¹ The economic outlook of the new institution turned brighter in 1884 when an endowment of approximately \$20,000 was presented by Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the McCormick Reaper.⁶² This money was used to construct a three-story brick building that became known as McCormick Hall.⁶³

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The new institution was located on "Rattlesnake Hill" in East Pierre.⁶⁴ A second railroad depot was soon opened near the school.⁶⁵ The institution immediately had an impact on the area as is evidenced by this quotation from the period: "Pierre once had a hard name, but among the 500 people now living within a mile of the college, there is but one -- who persists in working on the Sabbath."⁶⁶ Pierre University's curriculum leaned heavily on scientific and classical education, requiring three years of Greek and Latin, and four years of sciences.⁶⁷ The curriculum also required history, elocution, Christianity, and Morality.⁶⁸ Students were required to attend daily services as well as Sabbath services.⁶⁹

President Findley resigned in June of 1884 due to declining health.⁷⁰ Dr. William M. Blackburn was selected to replace Findley as President of the fledgling university in October 1885.⁷¹ Blackburn immediately set upon an improvement plan for the university.⁷² He began by attempting to collect promised financial support from the Presbyterian Synod.⁷³ His first year saw the dedication of McCormick Hall, the creation of a college Young Men's Christian Association, publication of a college paper known as "the Collegian," and increase in the size of the library through its formal dedication as a depository for government publications.⁷⁴ A Young Women's Christian Association was not formed until 1887.⁷⁵ By January of 1887 the young school could boast of seventy students and eight faculty.⁷⁶ Pierre University conferred its first degree, the first degree granted in all of Dakota territory, on May 31, 1887.⁷⁷

The school grew rapidly in enrollment during the next several years.⁷⁸ The financial status of the school was strong.⁷⁹ The biggest problem facing the school in 1888 and 1889 was a lack of dormitory space for all of the students.⁸⁰ The future surely looked bright in 1889 when Pierre was named the temporary capital for the new State, South Dakota. However, 1889 also brought with it a devastating prairie fire in April and a severe drought during the summer.⁸¹ Until 1889, Pierre had been the terminus of the railroad serving western South Dakota.⁸² Pierre had thrived as a hub of traffic because of that railhead.⁸³ As railroad lines were extended past Pierre and into the western portions of the state, Pierre's significance declined rapidly.⁸⁴ Repeated droughts furthered the decline of the young town.⁸⁵ The East Pierre railroad station was abandoned in about 1890.⁸⁶

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Blackburn and his staff continued to struggle to keep the dream of Pierre University alive.⁸⁷ By 1898 it became clear to all that Pierre University could not survive.⁸⁸ In June of 1898, the Presbyterian Synod of South Dakota met and decided to combine Pierre University and Scotland Academy and relocate the new institution in Huron, South Dakota.⁸⁹ At Dr. Blackburn's suggestion, the new school was named Huron College.⁹⁰ Rev. C. H. French was named the President of the new school and Dr. Blackburn was named president emeritus, a member of the board of trustees, and professor of normal science, economics, and geology.⁹¹

William Maxwell Blackburn

William Maxwell Blackburn was born to a family of means in Carlisle, Indiana on December 18, 1828.⁹² He received his college education from Hanover College in Indiana. After receiving his degree at age 21, he spent a year teaching before attending Princeton Theological Seminary.⁹³ Blackburn was soon called as a pastor in Erie, Pennsylvania and then Trenton, New Jersey.⁹⁴ During this period, Blackburn wrote and published numerous articles and papers on church history and philosophy.

The Northwest Presbyterian Theological Seminary was founded in 1859 with money provided by industrialist and inventor Cyrus McCormick.⁹⁵ In 1868, Blackburn was appointed as professor and chair of Ecclesiastical History at that prestigious institution.⁹⁶ In 1874, the seminary was rocked to its foundation by nationally publicized heresy charges leveled against David Swing, a prominent Chicago Presbyterian pastor.⁹⁷ The charges led to a "trial" within the Presbytery to decide the culpability of Swing.⁹⁸ The Chicago Daily Tribune published daily accounts of the trial's progress.⁹⁹ Blackburn took a moderate view and urged the dismissal of the charges against Swing based on an absence of proof.¹⁰⁰ Swing was eventually acquitted, but the matter did not end there.¹⁰¹ Shortly after that, holders of more strict views gathered control of the institution's board of regents.¹⁰² Blackburn's voice of moderation earned him the disdain of McCormick and eventually led to his discharge in 1880.¹⁰³

Blackburn returned to his pastoral responsibilities and was serving as minister for Central Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, when he was approached by an old school mate about undertaking the Presidency of the newly organized University of North Dakota.¹⁰⁴ The University of North Dakota was founded as a non-sectarian

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institution governed by a Board of Regents.¹⁰⁵ Blackburn was urged by friends to consider the appointment.¹⁰⁶ Despite concerns over his status as a religious man, Blackburn was appointed to the position in June of 1883.¹⁰⁷

There was no well-defined description of his job duties at the new institution.¹⁰⁸ Blackburn perceived his principal responsibility as encouragement of growth of the institution through public appearances.¹⁰⁹ Blackburn undertook this role by making many public appearances, which frequently included attendance at local church functions.¹¹⁰ The lack of specificity about the nature of the Presidency immediately led to conflicts between Blackburn and the Board of Regents.¹¹¹ The Regents responded by enacting detailed rules prohibiting nearly all religious exercises in the new institution.¹¹² Even stricter rules were put in place regarding conduct and discipline of students.¹¹³ Blackburn was told to enforce the rules.¹¹⁴ Blackburn was removed as president on May 16, 1884, because of the tensions created by this unfortunate situation.¹¹⁵

Blackburn was not unhappy to leave the University of North Dakota. Within weeks he had been offered and accepted the Presidency of Pierre University. Pierre University, as a Presbyterian institution, was a better match for the inherently religious nature of Blackburn.¹¹⁶ Blackburn undertook the position with vigor and immediately began to encourage the growth of the new institution. Blackburn and Pierre University had a civilizing effect on life in early Pierre. Blackburn did not end his community involvement with Pierre University. Blackburn was active in the local Presbyterian Church and often took the pulpit to deliver the sermon.¹¹⁷ Blackburn continued to write on issues of local and national importance. While living in Pierre, Blackburn developed a passion for geology.¹¹⁸ Coe Crawford, a student, longtime friend, and later U.S. Senator and Governor of South Dakota, described Blackburn in this period as follows: "He had a very tough, dun-colored pony, which he named Sardinus (which the students called 'Charlie') and a cart. He always carried a hammer in that cart. Every hill, ravine and stretch of prairie for miles around Pierre were familiar to pony and driver. With the hammer he secured and brought home specimens for his geological collection."¹¹⁹

Blackburn brought his wife, two of his daughters, and his son to Pierre. His private wealth enabled him to purchase a "comfortable house" for his family.¹²⁰ After the Blackburn family relocated to Pierre, the son, Charles, went to Persia as a missionary

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and the daughter, Kate, married and died following childbirth.¹²¹ Blackburn and his wife remained in the same home for the remainder of their lives.

Blackburn continued to write and publish on ecclesiastical history, philosophy of education, geology, and South Dakota History. Over his life Blackburn published more than 30 books, ranging from young adult fiction to biographies of church reformists to religious histories.¹²² In 1892, he was a founding member and first Secretary and Librarian of the South Dakota Historical Society.¹²³

In 1897, Blackburn finally acknowledged the necessity of closing Pierre University.¹²⁴ He was instrumental in arranging the transfer of the institution to Huron.¹²⁵ Blackburn taught at the new institution in Huron during its first semester.¹²⁶ He returned to his Pierre home during holiday vacation and died there on December 29, 1898.¹²⁷ His wife, Elizabeth Powell, remained in the home until her death on March 7, 1899.¹²⁸

Blackburn was of national significance because of his numerous published writings. Of his Coligny and the Huguenots, a history of the Huguenots, a contemporary, British reviewer wrote:

In this work the author has gone to many fountain-heads [sic] and set them before the reader in all the distinctiveness of a dramatic picture. If there had been no authentic work on this most interesting subject written on this side of the Atlantic, here is one by an American author that admirably fills the needs.¹²⁹

Another contemporary reviewer, discussing Blackburn's History of the Christian Church, wrote:

On the whole the history is a fine specimen of condensed, yet spritely historical writing. The work ought to have a place, not only in the theological seminaries and ministers' libraries, but in the families of intelligent Christians of all denominations.¹³⁰

His writings and personal involvement in the early life of Pierre were no less important. Again, Coe Crawford, student and friend, best describes Blackburn's importance as follows:

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I think Dr. Blackburn gave more to me than any man I have ever known; - and I have known, very happily, some of the choicest men of my time. But that old philosopher came into my life when I needed him and I became his debtor a thousand fold. He was a real coin. No sham. No veneer. The real thing. He loved the sanctuary, the library and the school. His heart went out to the whole world. I remember how he always asked the Lord to 'bless the stranger within these gates', and in a thousand ways his voice comes back to me across the intervening years.¹³¹

C.B. Billinghamurst

Charles Bryan (C.B.) Billinghamurst, the third owner of the Blackburn House, was born in Juneau County, Wisconsin on April 17, 1854.¹³² His father, Charles Billinghamurst, a prominent lawyer, was elected a United States Congressman under the newly created Republican Party.¹³³ Congressman Billinghamurst was strongly opposed to slavery and strongly resisted the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Charles Billinghamurst continued his support for the destruction of slavery and devoted significant energy to raising troops for the Union Army.¹³⁴ Charles Billinghamurst died in 1865, leaving behind his wife, Hannah, and two sons, C.B. and Seelye.¹³⁵

In 1882, C.B. and Seelye moved to Ashton, Dakota, and established the Bank of Billinghamurst Bros. Incorporated.¹³⁶ The bank was reported to hold capital stock of \$100,000 and offered:

General Banking in all branches: Collections, Bonds, City, School and County Warrants, Farm Mortgage Loans. **FARM MORTGAGE DEPARTMENT.** We negotiate 7 per cent. First Mortgage Loans, in large and small sums on improved farm property in Spink County, Dakota, without expense to the lender.¹³⁷

C.B. and Seelye were each strong promoters for Ashton and proponents of Statehood for South Dakota.¹³⁸ C.B. was an incorporator for the City of Ashton and served as its first Mayor.¹³⁹

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In a joint wedding in 1886, C.B. Billinghamurst married May Bowman and Seelye Billinghamurst married May's sister, Lida.¹⁴⁰ May and Lida each gave birth to their first children within 36 hours of each other.¹⁴¹ The daughter of Seelye and Lida was named Anne.¹⁴² Unfortunately, Lida died of puerperal fever shortly after childbirth.¹⁴³ May raised Anne as her own child with her two daughters Florence and Alida.¹⁴⁴ In 1899, C.B. Billinghamurst and his family (including Anne) moved to Pierre and purchased the Blackburn House from the estate of William Blackburn.¹⁴⁵ Seelye Billinghamurst remained in Ashton to operate the bank. C.B. and Seelye remained close and corresponded nearly daily for the remainder of their lives.¹⁴⁶

On his arrival in Pierre, C.B. Billinghamurst established the State Publishing Company with his new partner J. Hipple.¹⁴⁷ They founded the Pierre Daily and Weekly Dakotan, a local newspaper. In approximately 1910, Hipple sold his interest, established Hipple Printing Company, and began publishing the Capital Journal.¹⁴⁸ Billinghamurst continued his publishing business and became a significant property owner in Hughes County. He later became associated with the National Bank of Commerce and served as president of that institution.¹⁴⁹ Billinghamurst was apparently an inventor and held several patents on printing equipment and was involved in prolonged litigation regarding a patent for an automobile shock absorber.¹⁵⁰

The depression of the 1930s hit C.B. Billinghamurst hard. The American Exchange Bank, where May kept a personal account, was closed in December of 1930.¹⁵¹ May Billinghamurst's checks drawn on the account were refused payment.¹⁵² Alida, the second daughter, suffered from mental illness and was frequently hospitalized at the state hospital in Yankton.¹⁵³ Finding themselves alone in an unnecessarily large house during the winter of 1930, C.B. and May, "drained the water from the big and expensive furnace unit and are boarding with a neighbor for the winter."¹⁵⁴

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C.B. remained active and involved in politics throughout the Depression. Through written correspondence in the spring of 1930, C.B. encouraged Gladys Pyle to seek the Republican nomination for Governor of South Dakota.¹⁵⁵ Ms. Pyle was the first woman to serve in the South Dakota Legislature, the first woman to serve as South Dakota Secretary of State, and the first Republican woman to serve in the United States Senate.¹⁵⁶ Pyle became only the second woman to run for Governor of South Dakota.¹⁵⁷

Billingshurst was a beautifully descriptive writer. In correspondence dated October 1930 to his cousin Julia Anscomb, he described the Blackburn House and Pierre in extremely effective terms.

We have a good, roomy house. The house is old but I remodeled it some years ago and put in modern furnishings. The interior is in good repair, but the outside needs painting, but even with the new paint and repairs brought up to date our invitation to you would be no warmer and our pleasure no greater at having you with us for a visit, then it will if you will come any time before all repairs are made. I suppose some of our folks have written you that I am quite deaf.

Let me tell you something of Pierre lest you be surprised at the looks of things when you arrive. I believe you will find Pierre different than any city that you have visited in Europe or the U.S. This little city of 4,000 people is a city of distances. The city is located in a horse shoe bend of the Missouri River and stretches along a range of more than three miles with the river on one side and bluffs on the other side. This straggling condition comes from the town site being over platted by real estate boomers of fifty years ago. Yet Pierre is in the making of a beautiful city allowing for some spaces yet unfinished. The river and the hills have their own beauty and the city will become handsomely terraced in the bottom land, the first bench and the second bench up against hills.¹⁵⁸

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C.B. Billinghamurst died Friday January 21, 1938, in the Blackburn House. His funeral services were conducted in the house three days later.¹⁵⁹ His obituary summarizes C.B. Billinghamurst's life in Pierre as follows:

He was known throughout the state during his active life as a builder, through editorials urging freedom from domination of railway corporations, and in advocating diversified farming instead of exclusive wheat farming. In his political life he was active with the republican party.¹⁶⁰

He was active in community life, serving as a Pierre City alderman, member and President of the Historical Society, and a member of the Christian Science Club, Commercial Club, and International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF).¹⁶¹ As a member of the IOOF, Billinghamurst opened the dedication ceremonies for the new Capitol building in 1912.¹⁶²

May Billinghamurst followed her husband in death in 1946.¹⁶³ C.B., May, Florence, and Alida are all buried in Riverside Cemetery in Pierre. Coincidentally, their graves are located adjacent to those of William Blackburn and his wife, Elizabeth. Despite his financial difficulties, C.B. Billinghamurst remained compassionate to others in need. For example, Billinghamurst wrote to one of his tenants in December 1931, as follows:

I did not ask you for settlement of rent for the Phillips place this year, as I knew you did not get much, if anything, from the crop, so you re owing nothing on it for 1931.¹⁶⁴

His optimism during this period of stress was further shown in his correspondence to his niece Anne:

I feel that I have a good prospect of being here some time yet. Of course, I am not as active as a man in his prime, but despite the property slump, which was caused by the general drepression [sic] beyond the control of hundreds of thousands of thrifty people who lost out, I have enough of philosophy in me to be interested in life and affairs at my age.¹⁶⁵

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Billingshurst was unable to pay his property taxes for the Blackburn House for the year 1927. After the death of C.B. and May Billingshurst, the property was put up for sale, but not sold, by the Hughes County Treasurer because of the unpaid 1927 taxes.¹⁶⁶ Harold and Irma King purchased the property from Florence Billingshurst Bard (daughter of C.B. and May Billingshurst), paid the overdue taxes, and became the fourth owners.¹⁶⁷

H.R. and Irma King

Harold Ralph King was born December 16, 1897, and was raised in the Pierre area.¹⁶⁸ Harold King served in the military at the end of World War I and then returned to Pierre to work in the Nash Finck Grocery.¹⁶⁹ In 1927 he married Irma Bliss and they purchased a general merchandise store in Canning, a small town east of Pierre.¹⁷⁰ In 1937 they relocated to East Pierre and opened King's Korner Grocery.¹⁷¹ During World War II, Harold served as a fireman at the Pierre Airbase and was assigned to the Corp. of Engineers.¹⁷² Harold served as Hughes County Treasurer and Pierre Assessor.¹⁷³ He served as a volunteer fireman for 22 years.¹⁷⁴ He died on Thursday, October 23, 1986.¹⁷⁵

Irma Bliss King was born in Canning in 1907.¹⁷⁶ A national award-winning poet, songwriter, and author, she has published two books of poetry as well as various articles and booklets on the history of the Pierre area.¹⁷⁷ Her lyrics to the song "These Dakota Lands" was awarded the 1988 Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.¹⁷⁸ Many of her poems are about or involve the Blackburn House. Irma King has been inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame.¹⁷⁹

Irma King sold the Blackburn House to Scott Myren and Dr. Virginia Trexler-Myren in December 1994.¹⁸⁰

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Deed of November 20, 1888, from Northwestern Land Association to William M. Blackburn recorded in Book 54 at page 4 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

Deed of February 16, 1900, from the Estate of William Blackburn to Charles B. Billingshurst recorded in Book 91 at page 514 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

Deed of November 16, 1945, from May Billingshurst to Florence Bard recorded in book 218 at page 153 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

Deed of December 27, 1945, from Florence and Russell Bard to Harold R. King recorded in Book 209 at page 529 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

Deed of February 6, 1946, from Hughes County to H.R. King recorded in Book 211 at page 637 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

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Collections, Vol. I, p. 25, 1902.

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The Signal, Vol. III, #47, May 2, 1883.

The Signal, Vol. III, #48, May 9, 1883.

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Verbal Boundary Description.

All of Lots 8 through 12 inclusive, in Block 50, Wells Second Addition to the City of Pierre, Hughes County, South Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the land presently surrounding the house.

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-
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 2. Kingsbury, George W., Dakota Territory, Vol. 1 at p. 169-174, 233-257, S.J. Clark Publishing Co., Chicago 1915.
 3. *Ibid.* at p. 513-520, 744-769; Robinson, Doane, History of South Dakota, Vol. 1 at p. 237, B.F. Bowen & Co. 1904.
 4. Kingsbury, George W., Dakota Territory, Vol. 1 at p. 861-930, S.J. Clark Publishing Co., Chicago 1915.
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 8. Kingsbury, George W., Dakota Territory, Vol. 2 at p. 1125-27, 1437, S.J. Clark Publishing Co., Chicago 1915.
 9. *Ibid.*
 10. Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." *The Wi-lyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society*, Vol. XXII, #6, p. 4, September 1, 1968; Robinson, Doane, History of South Dakota, Vol. 1, at p. 302, B.F. Bowen & Co. 1904.
 11. _____, Souvenir Program Hughes - Stanley Centennial Celebration 1961 at p. 8.
 12. *Ibid.* at 12.
 13. _____, History of Hughes County, South Dakota State Publishing Co. 1964.
 14. *Ibid.*
 15. Plat of Well's Second Addition to Pierre, South Dakota on file at Hughes County Clerk and Records Office, Pierre, South Dakota.

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16. Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-lyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, p. 2, September 1, 1968.
17. The Signal Vol. III, #50, May 23, 1883.
18. Kingsbury, George W., Dakota Territory, Vol. 2 at p. 1913, S.J. Clark Publishing Co., Chicago 1915.
19. Ibid. at 1917.
20. The Signal Vol. III, No. 41, March 21, 1883.
21. Ibid.
22. The Signal Vol. III, No. 39, March 7, 1883. The reference to Zombrota, Minnesota appears to be a typographically erroneous reference to Zumbrota, Minnesota.
23. The Signal Vol. III, No. 41, March 21, 1883.
24. The Signal Vol. III, No. 48, May 9, 1883.
25. Ibid. At that point in time there were essentially three separate communities in this valley on the Missouri River. Fort Pierre, a longtime trading post was located on the west shore of the Missouri. Directly across the river was Pierre. Approximately one east was East Pierre. In 1883 there was strong antagonism between Pierre and East Pierre. This divide is evident in the papers of the period. The news and advertisements published in The Signal Papers seem to have a strong connection to East Pierre. Similarly news and advertisements published in the Weekly Dakotan seem to have a strong connection with Pierre. It was not uncommon for one paper to make derogatory comments about its competitor in the other community.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid. (Errors in original).
31. Ibid. (Errors in original).

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32. Hughes County Assessor's Records 1884. (Located at South Dakota State Historical Society, at Pierre, South Dakota.)
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.; Hughes County Treasurer's Tax Records 1884. (Located in storage at Hughes County Courthouse at Pierre, South Dakota); Interview with Irma Bliss King by Scott P. Myren on September 13, 1996.; Hughes County Equalization Office Appraisal Form for Residential Properties, 219 South Tyler, June 22, 1990.(Located in Hughes County Equalization Office in Hughes County Courthouse at Pierre, South Dakota); Hughes County Equalization Office Platted Property Assessment Form, 219 South Tyler, 1931. (Located in storage at Hughes County Courthouse at Pierre, South Dakota)
36. Pierre City Directory July 1883. (Located at South Dakota State Historical Society at Pierre, South Dakota.)
37. Pierre City Directory 1884. (Located at South Dakota State Historical Society at Pierre, South Dakota.)
38. Hughes County Assessor's Records 1884. (Located at South Dakota State Historical Society at Pierre, South Dakota); Hughes County Treasurer's Tax Records 1884. (Located in storage at Hughes County Courthouse at Pierre, South Dakota); Interview with Irma Bliss King by Scott P. Myren on September 13, 1996.; Hughes County Equalization Office Appraisal Form for Residential Properties, 219 South Tyler, June 22, 1990. (Located in Hughes County Equalization Office in Hughes County Courthouse at Pierre, South Dakota); Hughes County Equalization Office Platted Property Assessment Form, 219 South Tyler, 1931. (Located in storage at Hughes County Courthouse at Pierre, South Dakota)
39. The Signal, Vol. III, No. __, May __, 1883.
40. The Signal, Vol. III, No. 47, May 2, 1883.
41. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 5, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.

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42. Deed of November 20, 1888, from Northwestern Land Association to William M. Blackburn recorded in Book 54 at page 4 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.
43. _____, Reliable Information concerning Hughes County and Pierre, South Dakota and the Great Sioux Reservation 1889. (A promotional pamphlet extolling the virtues of the area. In the possession of Scott Myren.)
44. Ibid.
45. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . .", The Wi-Iyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, p. 1, September 1, 1968.
46. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
47. Ibid.; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-Iyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, p. 1-2, September 1, 1968.
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49. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958", The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid.; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-Iyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, p. 2, September 1, 1968.

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52. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 2, September 1, 1968.
53. Ibid. at p. 5.
54. Ibid. at p. 3.
55. Ibid. at p. 3; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930.
56. Horton, Garner, Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958, The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930.
57. Horton, Garner, Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958, The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3, July 1, 1958, Special Edition
58. Ibid. at p. 4.
59. Ibid. at p. 3.
60. Ibid. at p. 3.
61. Ibid. at p. 3.
62. Ibid. at p. 3 - 4; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-lyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, September 1, 1968.
63. Horton, Garner, Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958, The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3-4, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930.
64. Horton, Garner, Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958, The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 3, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.

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65. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 5, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
66. Ibid. at p. 5.
67. _____, "Dakota West" South Dakota Hall of Fame, Vol. XII, #3, p. 41, September 1986.
68. Ibid.
69. Ibid.
70. Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "The Reverend Thomas M. Findley, D.D." The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXVII, # 19, March 15, 1928; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930.
71. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 7, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-lyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, September 1, 1968.
72. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 5, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
73. Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator." (In possession of Scott Myren)
74. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 7, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930.
75. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 7, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.

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76. Horton, Garner, Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958, The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 7, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
77. Ibid. at p. 8.
78. Ibid. at p. 8.
79. Ibid. at p. 8.
80. Ibid. at p. 8.
81. Ibid. at p. 9.
82. Ibid. at p. 9; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-lyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, at p. 4, September 1, 1968.
83. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 9, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Canady, Dayton, "Territorial Educator . . ." The Wi-lyohi - The Bulletin of the South Dakota Historical Society, Vol. XXII, #6, at p. 4, September 1, 1968.
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85. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 9, July 1, 1958, Special Edition; Reid, Elisabeth, Editor, "Pierre University" The Huron College Bulletin, Vol. XXIX, #14, April 10, 1930.
86. Horton, Garner, Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958, The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, p. 9, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
87. Ibid.
88. Ibid.
89. Ibid. at p. 11.
90. Ibid. at p. 11.

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91. Ibid. at p. 11-12.
92. Ibid.; _____, "Dakota Images" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. VII, # 2, 1976.
93. Riggs, Thomas, "William Maxwell Blackburn, D.D., LL.D" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. I, p. 25, 1902; Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 8.
94. Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 8.
95. Ibid. at p. 10.
96. Ibid. at p. 8 and 10.
97. Ibid. at p. 11.
98. Ibid. at p. 11.
99. Ibid. at p. 11.
100. Ibid. at p. 11.
101. Ibid. at p. 12.
102. Ibid. at p. 12.
103. Ibid. at p. 13.
104. Ibid. at p. 3 and 5.
105. Ibid. at p. 5.
106. Ibid. at p. 6 and 7.
107. Ibid. at p. 7.
108. Ibid. at p. 22.
109. Ibid.
110. Ibid.
111. Ibid.
112. Ibid.
113. Ibid.
114. Ibid.
115. Ibid.

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116. DeLand, Chas., "DeLorme Wilson Robinson, M.D." South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. VI, p. 35, 1912.
117. Ibid.
118. Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 27. (In possession of Scott Myren).
119. Horton, Garner, "Pioneer College: A History of Pierre University and Huron College 1883-1958" The Huron College Bulletin Vol. LVIII, #2, at p. 9, July 1, 1958, Special Edition.
120. Ibid. at 10.
121. DeLand, Chas., "DeLorme Wilson Robinson, M.D." South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. VI, p. 35, 1912.
122. Ibid.; Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 27.
123. Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 27. (In possession of Scott Myren).
124. Ibid.; DeLand, Chas., "DeLorme Wilson Robinson, M.D." South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. VI, p. 35, 1912.
125. Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 27. (In possession of Scott Myren).
126. Ibid.
127. Robinson, Doane, Encyclopedia of South Dakota at p. 73, First Ed. 1925; _____, "A Sudden Call" Pierre Weekly Capitol Journal, January 5, 1899.
128. Blackburn, William, "Historical Sketch of North and South Dakota" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. I, 1902 at p. 28.
129. Smith, Kenneth, "William Blackburn: American Educator" at p. 27. (In possession of Scott Myren).
130. Ibid.
131. Ibid.; DeLand, Chas., "DeLorme Wilson Robinson, M.D." South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. VI, p. 35, 1912.
132. _____, The History of Dodge County Wisconsin, Western Historical Company 1880.

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133. Ibid.
134. Ibid. In 1930, a M.E. Parmelee requested C.B. Billinghurst's assistance in securing his pension as a Civil War Veteran. C.B. Billinghurst submitted a sworn affidavit dated December 9, 1930 in which he testified that he: "was a school boy in that town in the period of the War of Rebellion, 1861-1865; that his father Charles Billinghurst, was Congressman and a leader in the recruiting and training of troops in the district surrounding Juneau; and that he, the deponent was a school mate and chum of Martin E. Parmelee in seat town of Juneau; that he witnessed the service of said Martin E Parmelee as a drummer boy for troops in the time of the assembling and training of troops" Personal correspondence of C.B. Billinghurst. (In the possession of Scott Myren).
135. Ibid.
136. Billinghurst, C.B., "Address of the President" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. XI, p. 11, 1922; _____, Bank of Billinghurst Bros., Ashton, Dakota. A Pamphlet on the Natural Resources and Industrial Development of Spink County, Dakota. (In possession of Scott Myren).
137. _____, Bank of Billinghurst Bros., Ashton, Dakota. A Pamphlet on the Natural Resources and Industrial Development of Spink County, Dakota. (In possession of Scott Myren).
138. Ibid.
139. Ibid.
140. _____, "Daughters of Dakota: May Bowman Billinghurst" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol XXXIII, p. 61, 1966. Copies of the joint wedding announcement are also in the possession of Scott Myren.
141. Ibid.
142. Ibid.
143. Ibid.
144. Ibid.
145. Ibid.; Deed of February 16, 1900, from the Estate of William Blackburn to Charles B. Billinghurst recorded in Book 91 at pate 514 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

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146. Correspondence between C.B. Billinghamurst and Seelye Billinghamurst in the possession of Scott Myren.
147. _____, "C.B. Billinghamurst is called by death" Pierre Daily Dakotan, January 22, 1938.
148. Ibid.
149. Ibid.
150. Personal correspondence of C.B. Billinghamurst in the possession of Scott Myren.
151. Personal correspondence from F.E. Strang, City of Pierre Treasurer to May Billinghamurst, December 16, 1930. (In the possession of Scott Myren).
152. Ibid.
153. Personal Correspondence of C.B. and May Billinghamurst in the possession of Scott Myren.
154. Personal Correspondence of C.B. Billinghamurst in the possession of Scott Myren
155. Personal correspondence between C.B. Billinghamurst and Gladys Pyle date 1930 and in the possession of Scott Myren.
156. Ibid; _____, Biographical file on Gladys Pyle located at the South Dakota State Historical Society.
157. Ibid; _____, Biographical file on Gladys Pyle located at the South Dakota State Historical Society.
158. Personal correspondence from C.B. Billinghamurst to Julia Anscomb dated October 1930 and in the possession of Scott Myren.
159. _____, "C.B. Billinghamurst is called by death" Pierre Daily Dakotan, January 22, 1938.
160. Ibid.
161. Ibid.
162. _____, "The Formal Dedication" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. V, p. 266, 1986.
163. _____, "Daughters of Dakota: May Bowman Billinghamurst" South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. XXXIII, p. 61, 1966.

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164. Personal correspondence of C.B. Billinghurst to E.C. Walters, December 26, 1931. (In the possession of Scott Myren)
165. Personal correspondence of C.B. Billinghurst to Anne Taylor, June 27, 1931. (In the possession of Scott Myren).
166. County Treasurer's Tax Deed of June 12, 1943 to Hughes County recorded in Book 204 at page 617 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota. According to the deed the property was offered for sale because of unpaid taxes for 1927 but no one bid on the property.
167. Deed of December 27, 1945, from Florence and Russell Bard to Harold R. King recorded in Book 209 at page 529 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.
168. _____, "Obituary notice of Harold King" Pierre Capital Journal, October 24, 1986.
169. Ibid.
170. Ibid.
171. Ibid.
172. Ibid.
173. Ibid.
174. Ibid.
175. Ibid.
176. Interview with Irma Bliss King by Scott P. Myren on September 12, 1996.
177. Some of Irma King's published works include: King, Irma, Prairie Winds: A collection of Poems by Irma Bliss King 1984; King, Irma, Prairie Sunset: A collection of Poems by Irma Bliss King 1989; King, Irma, Pierre, South Dakota: The Friendly City and Fort Pierre, South Dakota: Where the West Begins, 1966; King, Irma, "In the Eye of the Inferno" South Dakota Heritage, p. 4, Summer Issue 1990.
178. King, Irma, Prairie Sunset: A collection of poems by Irma Bliss King 1989.

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179. Interview with Irma Bliss King by Scott P. Myren on September 12, 1996.
180. Deed of December 23, 1994, from Irma E. King Trust to Scott P. Myren and Virginia Trexler-Myren recorded in book 460 at page 492 of the real estate records of the clerk and recorder for Hughes County, South Dakota.

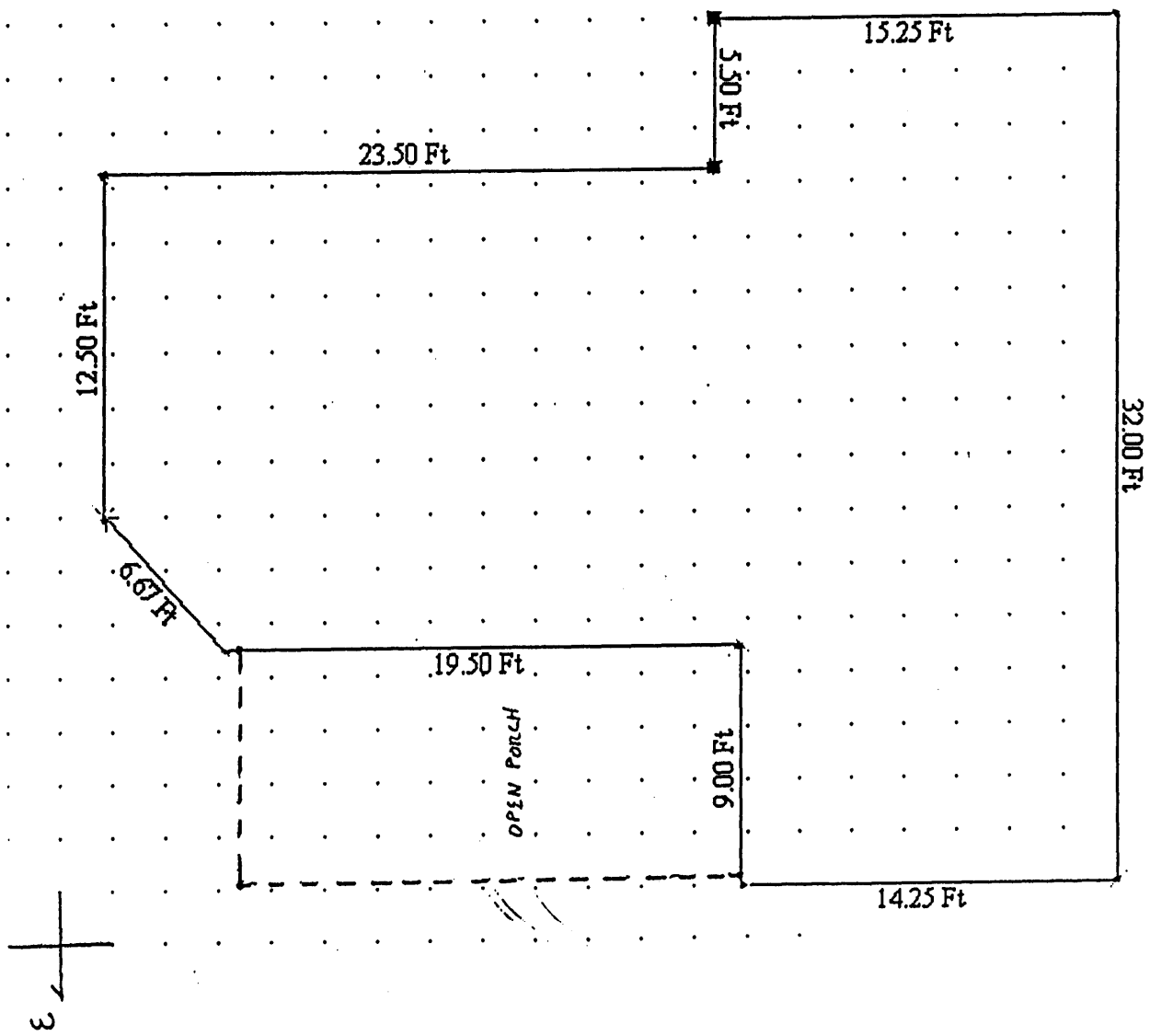


Diagram A First Floor 1883-1900

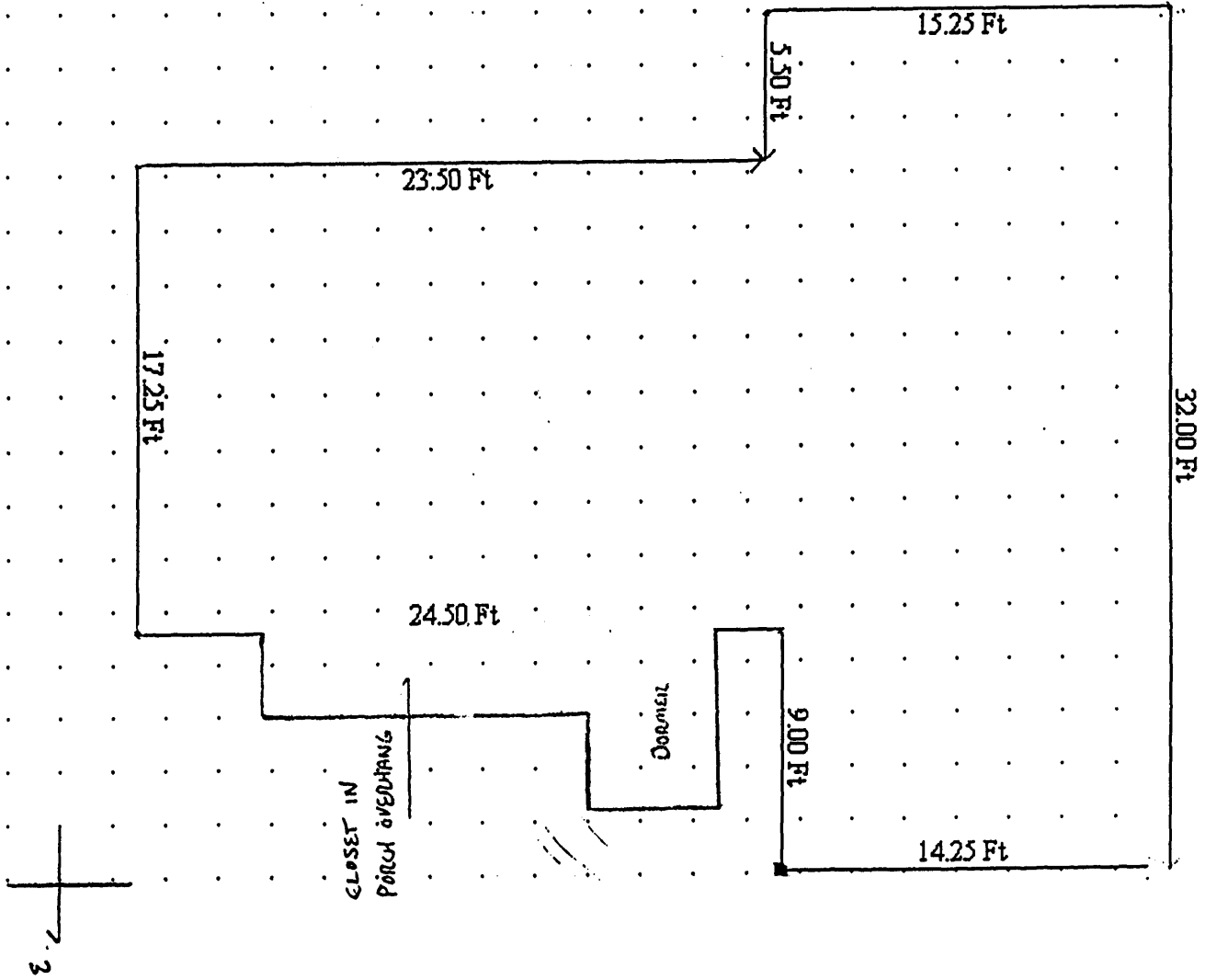


Diagram B Second Floor 1883-1900

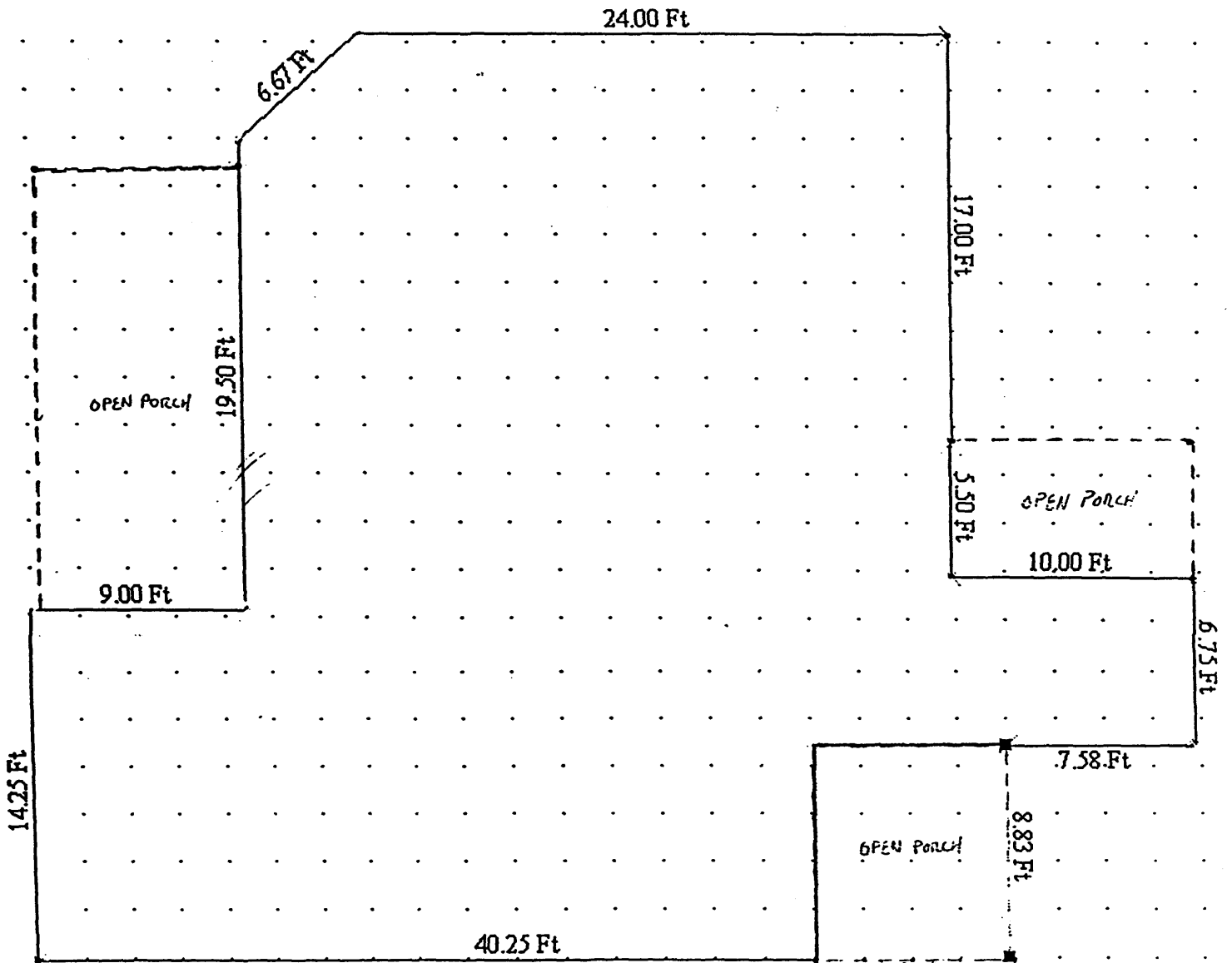
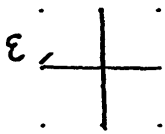


Diagram C First Floor 1900-present

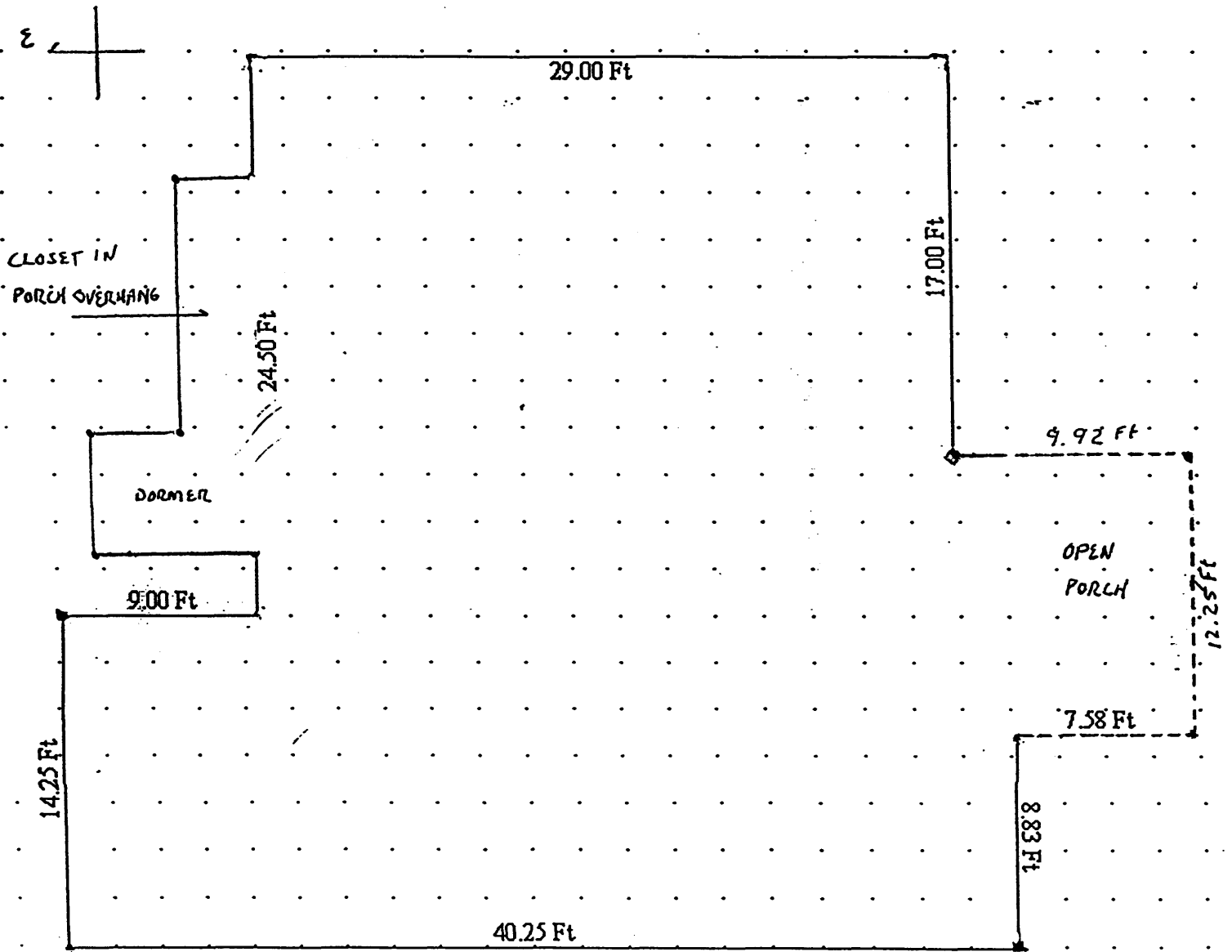


Diagram D Second Floor 1900-present



Photograph 1 - approximately 1883



Photograph 2 - approximately 1900