

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

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

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Brown Hall  
other name/ site number: Oneota Township Hall

2. Location

street & number: Main Street /NA/ not for publication  
city, town: Barnard /NA/ vicinity  
state: SOUTH DAKOTA code: SD county: Brown code: SD 013 zip code: 57426

3. Classification

|  |                      |                                      |                 |            |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Ownership of Property:                     | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property: |                 |            |
|  |                      | Contributing                         | Noncontributing |            |
| / / private                                | /XX/ building(s)     | 1                                    |                 | buildings  |
| /XX/ public-local                          | / / district         |                                      |                 | sites      |
| / / public-state                           | / / site             |                                      |                 | structures |
| / / public-federal                         | / / structure        |                                      |                 | objects    |
|  | / / object           | 1                                    | 0               | Total      |
| Name of related multiple property listing: |                      | Number of contributing resources     |                 |            |
| NA   |                      | previously listed in the National    |                 |            |
|  |                      | Register: 0                          |                 |            |

11. Form Prepared by

name/title: Carol Sheldon, member; w/technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO staff  
organization: Barnard Centennial Committee date: October 12, 1989  
street & number: RR, Box 30A telephone: 605-329-2179  
city or town: Westport state: SOUTH DAKOTA zip code: 57461

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property name

, Brown  
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA  
state

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*M. F. ...*  
Signature of certifying official

12/17/89  
Date

*S. D. ...*  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria.  
 See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_ other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Beck Poland* 2/7/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date

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property name

, Brown  
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA  
state

**6. Function or Use** (enter categories from instructions)

Historic functions:  
GOVERNMENT/City Hall  
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall  
EDUCATION/School  
RELIGION/Religious Structure

Current Functions:  
GOVERNMENT/City Hall  
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

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**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:  
(enter categories from instructions)  
No Style

Materials:  
(enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Stone  
walls Wood  
  
roof Wood Shingle  
other NA

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

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**8. Significance**

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (enter from instructions)  
Social History

Period of Significance  
1911-1939

Significant Dates  
NA

Significant Person  
NA

Cultural Affiliation  
NA

Architect/Builder  
Pontine, George

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

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Situated in the middle of the now quiet railroad siding town of Barnard in north-central Brown County, Brown Hall is a small rectangular pen building measuring 25-feet by 37-feet. Rising from a rubblestone foundation, the wood frame walls are clad with clapboard siding. The building is capped by a gable roof covered with wood shingles. A brick chimney with a corbelled cap extends above the west (rear) gable end. The entry door pierces the center of the east (front) gable end. Four large two-over-two windows with exterior wooden shutters run along each axial wall. The building has always been painted a ruddy brown color, from which it takes its name.

The interior space is generally unadorned and is divided into three rooms, comprising a large meeting hall and two historic cubicles at the western corners of the building. Originally, these cubicles were used as voting booths. A short wainscot encircles the main room. Plaster walls were covered with fiberboard in the 1920s and more recently have been covered with modern wood paneling. Original plaster ceilings are intact but concealed by suspended acoustical tile. Although modest, much of the interior furnishings, including meeting benches, are authentic.

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Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, Brown Hall is significant in the area of social history, because for nearly eighty years it has served the tiny community of Barnard as the center of social activity. Built in 1893 as a township hall, it was moved to the railroad siding in 1911 where it has been continuously used as a multiple-function gathering place. It is the oldest extant and best preserved historic building in Barnard. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan, the property relates to the historic context labeled: IV.E. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement/Government and Education-Related Activities.

Brown County was organized in 1881 in the vast plains of the middle James River Valley. Populated largely during the Great Dakota Boom (1878-1887) its ethnic make-up is quite diverse. The county seat, Aberdeen, was founded in the same year by officials of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad (The Milwaukee Road). That city quickly became a major regional transportation hub as several railway carriers vied for business in the fast-growing county. During the decade of the eighties, a number of smaller service towns sprang up along rail lines going in and out of Aberdeen.

Barnard was a latecomer among these towns and was not founded until 1909. At that time, increasing grain production and a growing need to have supplies closer to area farms necessitated a railroad siding on the Milwaukee Road between Frederick and Westport. Although it never grew to great proportions, the settlement thrived for a number of years. In 1922, Barnard was selected as the location of a new consolidated school causing a modest upsurge in the town's commerce. However, economic chaos and drought conditions of the Great Depression weighed heavily upon the community. By the 1950s, increasing automobile travel and school district reorganization caused most of the town's businesses to close. Today only a handful of people live in this once small but flourishing rural settlement. The school and business places are now closed.

Originally located in Section 21 of Oneota Township (T126N, R64W), Brown Hall, named for the brown color of its exterior paint, was built in 1893 by early settler George Pontine to serve as the township meeting place. In 1911, the building was moved to the new town of Barnard, and the focus of governmental and social activity for the township moved with it. During the town's heyday, Brown Hall not only served as an official governmental meeting place, but it also provided space for purely social gatherings, including dances and box socials. From 1912 to 1916, the building housed local high school classes. In the 1920s, the Congregational Community Church held services there. Over the years the townspeople have shared much fellowship in the tiny hall. Several generations have fond remembrances of a variety of activities at Brown Hall.

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It continues to function as a township hall and as a public meeting place. As late as the summer of 1989 it was the site of a huge community potluck dinner with old-time fiddling in commemoration of the state centennial. A local committee is directing repair and maintenance of the building as a "lasting legacy" centennial project.

The period of significance of the nominated property extends from the date it was moved to Barnard in 1911 to 1939, the established 50-year cut-off date for the National Register. Its significance is derived from its historically distinguished role as the principal gathering place in the local community at its current location. Despite its early relocation, the building is eligible for listing in the Register under Criteria Consideration B.

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property name

, Brown  
county

, SOUTH DAKOTA  
state

9. Major Bibliographical References

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Previous documentation by NPS:

- / / preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- / / previously listed in the National Register
- / / previously determined eligible by the National Register
- / / designated a National Historic Landmark
- / / recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- / / recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property: Less than one acre

UTM References:

|     |      |         |   |          |   |   |     |      |         |   |          |   |   |
|-----|------|---------|---|----------|---|---|-----|------|---------|---|----------|---|---|
| A = | /    | /       | / | /        | / | / | B = | /    | /       | / | /        | / | / |
| C = | /    | /       | / | /        | / | / | D = | /    | /       | / | /        | / | / |
|     | ZONE | EASTING |   | NORTHING |   |   |     | ZONE | EASTING |   | NORTHING |   |   |

Quad: Westport

Scale: 1:24000

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification:

/XX/ see continuation sheet

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Assessor's Records. Brown County Director of Equalization Office.

Badgley, Mrs. Perry and Mrs. Lavern Gooding. "History of Barnard, South Dakota, 1909-1984." Typescript. N.d.

Brown County Atlas. Leola, SD: Three Brothers Atlas Company, 1969.

Brown County History. Aberdeen, SD: North Plains Press, 1980. pp. 66-67.

Deed Records. Brown County Register of Deeds Office.

Shattuck, Mrs. Clifford. "A Bit of History." Barnard Congregational Church 25th Anniversary Bulletin. Typescript. N.d.



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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES: Since the appropriate U.S.G.S. quad map does not have UTM marks for calculating the UTM references of the nominated property, those references have been calculated in longitude and latitude.

References: 98 degrees 29 minutes 38 seconds longitude/  
45 degrees 43 minutes 57 seconds latitude.

Westport Quad (1952), scale: 1:24000.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: There are no platted lot lines for the townsite of Barnard; therefore, the boundaries of the nominated property are best defined by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a rectangle centered around the rectangular building. The eastern boundary line lies 3 feet east of the east wall of the building and runs parallel to that wall. The southern boundary line lies 3 feet south of the south wall of the building and runs parallel to that wall. The western boundary line lies 3 feet west of the west wall of the building and runs parallel to that wall. The northern boundary line lies 3 feet north of the north wall of the building and runs parallel to that wall. The property is located in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 14, Township 126 North, Range 64 West (5th Principal Meridian), in Brown County, South Dakota.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The boundaries of the nominated property are set to include only Brown Hall and exclude any of its neighboring buildings or the public roadway.

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1.  
Brown Hall  
Barnard, Brown County, South Dakota  
by Carolyn Torma  
August 1989  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
East (front) and south facades, camera facing northwest  
Photo No. 1
  
2.  
Brown Hall  
Barnard, Brown County, South Dakota  
by Carolyn Torma  
August 1989  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
Close-up view, east (front) and south facades,  
camera facing northwest  
Photo No. 2
  
3.  
Brown Hall  
Barnard, Brown County, South Dakota  
by Carolyn Torma  
August 1989  
Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center  
Interior: bench and wainscoting, camera facing southwest  
Photo No. 3
  
4.  
Brown Hall  
Barnard, Brown County, South Dakota  
by Carolyn Torma  
August 1989  
Interior: camera facing west  
East (front) and south facades, camera facing northwest  
Photo No. 4