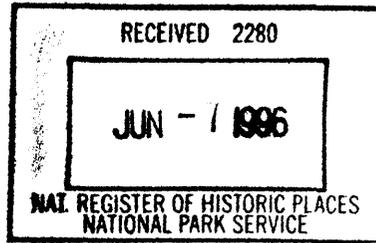


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 an 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: G. L. STOCKER BLACKSMITH SHOP

Other names/site number: MEADE W.R.C. HALL

2. Location

Street & number: MAIN STREET not for publication

City or town: GETTYSBURG vicinity

State: SOUTH DAKOTA Code: SD County: POTTER Code: 107 Zip code: 57442

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gary D. Vogt
Signature and title of certifying official

05-24-96
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

G.L. STOCKER BLACKSMITH SHOP

POTTER COUNTY, SD

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beal
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beal *7.5.96*

Entered in the
National Register

G.L. STOCKER BLACKSMITH SHOP
Name of Property

POTTER COUNTY, SD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - local		district
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State		site
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal		structure
<input type="checkbox"/>			object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty store

SOCIAL: Meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular false-front

commercial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

G.L. STOCKER BLACKSMITH SHOP
Name of Property

POTTER COUNTY, SD
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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)

COMMERCE

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1901-20

1920-45

Significant Dates

1901

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Arthur Hurley

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

G.L. STOCKER BLACKSMITH SHOP
Name of Property

POTTER COUNTY, SD
County and State

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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name: City of Gettysburg
Street & Number: 110 East Commercial Telephone: (605) 765-2264
City or Town: Gettysburg State: South Dakota Zip code: 57442

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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Narrative Description:

The G.L. Stocker blacksmith shop is located on Main Street in Gettysburg, South Dakota. The area surrounding the building was one of the earliest portions of town to be developed (during the 1880s and 1890s), and today contains a diverse mixture of historic and modern buildings. Commercial Street, home to Gettysburg's primary business district, is approximately one-half block north of the site. Lots surrounding the property see a mixture of commercial and residential uses.

The blacksmith shop is a single-story, wood-framed building, largely vernacular in design. The building includes two structural masses: a primary mass measuring approximately 32' (north-south) by 48' (east-west), and a 12' by 29' addition abutting the rear (west) wall of the primary structure. Both display similar, utilitarian design qualities. Exterior wall framing is sheathed in 1X8 tongue-and-groove boards; this in turn is covered with beveled clapboard siding, displaying an average 4" exposure. There are vertical 1x6 corner boards on the building, and the walls are topped by a fascia board approximately 10" wide. The building rests on a primitive foundation of dry-laid rubblestone. The exterior walls were once painted, but almost no trace of paint remains and the siding is heavily weathered. Walls sag noticeably, due in part to water seepage beneath the building.

The primary building mass is beneath a wood-framed gable roof, with shallow, boxed eaves; the addition has a shed roof. Roof surfaces are covered with sheet asphalt. An exterior red-brick chimney is at the center of the building's west elevation, and is held to the building by two metal straps. Much of the chimney's mortar is gone, and the top rows of bricks are modern replacements. A second chimney (for the blacksmith forge) is in the north gable face and consists of a length of corrugated metal pipe.

The building includes only minimal decorative detail, virtually all of which is on the primary facade. This elevation features a simple, pedimented false-front, suggestive of an Italianate form but largely vernacular in appearance. The pediment consists of a low triangle,

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detailed with lengths of milled wood molding above sections of beaded-board paneling. The back of the false front is sheathed with modern metal siding. The rear wall of the addition also has this siding; the later repair was necessitated by a small fire in the building in the early 1970s.

The historic fenestration pattern of the building survives largely intact. The building's primary entry, centered on the east elevation, consists of a pair of large hinged doors constructed of vertical boards. This opening, just over 9' wide, was enlarged in the early 1970s to allow vehicle entry. A doorway on the south elevation of the addition contains an historic 5-panel door, and an opening on the addition's north elevation houses a pair of doors made of vertical boards. Windows are wood-framed; most are 2-over-2 wood sash. The window over the primary doorway is flanked by areas of patched siding, suggesting that the window may not be original.

The blacksmith shop interior retains an unusually high level of integrity. The primary building mass consists of a single room. Floors are tongue-and-groove softwood. Wall surfaces include an 8" baseboard, a beaded-board wainscot (to 42" high), and pressed metal in a diamond/floral pattern above. The pressed metal extends upward to cover the ceiling. The interior room space continues upward into the building's gabled area, giving the ceiling a half-octagon form. The northern third of the building includes a primitive loft area (not original), which is used for lumber and equipment storage. Water damage has caused considerable floor buckling.

Most of the building's historic blacksmithing equipment remains in place. The northern third of the main room features several pieces of large machinery, driven by an historic "line shaft" and belt system. These machines include grinders, a drill press, and a trip hammer. There are two coal-fired forges near the west end of the north wall; one was reportedly used to set the metal tires of wagon wheels, and the other was used to forge plow blades. A large workbench runs along the north end of the building's west wall, and many historic hand tools remain scattered about the room. There is also a free-standing historic heating stove near the west wall.

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The building's rear addition also consists of a single room, largely unfinished. The room was reportedly used for horseshoing during the early years.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

The G.L. Stocker Blacksmith Shop is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A" and "C." The building is historically significant for its original role as Gettysburg's W.R.C. hall, a symbol of the importance of fraternal organizations in the social history of the community. During the years immediately following its construction, the hall served as an important center for civic, recreational, and charitable activities in Gettysburg. The building is also significant as an extremely well-preserved example of an early twentieth-century blacksmith shop. Businesses such as this were once found in all but the smallest American communities, and provided important services to local agriculture, transportation, and other businesses. Relatively few early blacksmith shop buildings remain, and fewer still retain the historic forges and other machinery that are present in the Stocker shop.

The building is architecturally significant as a representative example of early twentieth-century vernacular commercial architecture. The building's wood-framed construction, clapboard siding, and simple pedimented false front are all reflective of the form. Designs such as this saw very wide use in new or small western townsites. The style allowed for economy and speed of construction and did not require architectural drawings, but the false front helped convey the public nature of the building, and the pediment added a small touch of prominence.

Historical Narrative:

This building was constructed during the summer of 1901 by the Gettysburg chapter of the Women's Relief Corps (W.R.C.). Nationally, the W.R.C. functioned as a women's auxiliary organization to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a patriotic and fraternal organization for men who had been veterans of the Civil War. Meade Post No. 32 of the G.A.R. was established in Gettysburg in 1883, by some of the Civil War veterans who had initially settled the community. As with other G.A.R. chapters, the Gettysburg unit undertook a variety of charitable and civic functions, and

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sponsored the town's annual Fourth of July celebration. The W.R.C. organization existed alongside the G.A.R. unit, and busied itself with a variety of local welfare projects, as well as programs intended to aid those in the country's armed forces.

The first published mention of Gettysburg's planned W.R.C. hall came in the May 2, 1901 issue of the *Gettysburg Herald*, which published the following notice:

The local W.R.C. have been threatening for several years to build a Grand Army hall in town and have in the meantime have been gathering up funds in various ways for the purpose. They have owned a suitable site for some time, and it is now stated that Samuel Smith will begin the foundation work for the building proper next Monday, which is to be a one-story structure 32-48 feet fronting on Main Street south of Commercial Avenue. The foundation stone has been brought in by rail from near Forest City.

A similar notice in the newspaper's May 16 issue noted that construction work on the building had begun the previous day, under the supervision of Arthur Hurley. By the end of the month, the building was fully enclosed and near completion. Within a few weeks, the W.R.C. and others had begun using the hall regularly for social and civic functions. On selected Saturday afternoons and evenings, for example, the W.R.C. served ice cream and cake to the public in the hall. The building was also used for basketball games and as a movie theater. A small exterior vestibule containing a projection booth was constructed near the building's front door to simplify the showing of movies.

Use of the W.R.C. hall began to lessen within a few years, due in part to the decline in the G.A.R. and W.R.C. organizations themselves. Simultaneously, other construction projects in Gettysburg created new venues for many of the events formally held at the W.R.C. hall. A 1917 fire insurance map of downtown Gettysburg listed the hall as "vacant." The W.R.C. finally decided to sell the hall, and in 1920 the building was purchased by George LeRoy Stocker for \$1,800.00. Stocker, known locally as "Lee," was an Iowa native who settled in Gettysburg in 1907 and opened a

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blacksmith shop. He immediately relocated his business to the old W.R.C. building, adding a forge and a variety of shop tools and installing a new entry door wide enough to accommodate wagons and sleighs.

With only very brief interruptions, Stocker continued to operate the shop until very shortly before his death at age 97 in 1970. In addition to blacksmithing, Stocker did welding, metalwork and wood work for area farmers. He also repaired wagon wheels and later did automotive work. The nature of his business evolved somewhat over the years, responding to the arrival of the automobile and other changes in technology, but the appearance of the shop remained largely unchanged. Electricity was installed to power the line shaft for the machinery and to replace the hand-operated bellows on the forge, but the original forge and most of the other equipment remained in use throughout Stocker's long career. Many of the tools used in the shop were made by Stocker himself. The shop's long record of made Stocker something of a local celebrity, but on his 85th birthday he simply told the *Potter County News* "I wouldn't amount to anything sitting around doing nothing."

After Lee Stocker's death, the shop was permanently closed and ownership of the building passed to his son Worth. Worth used the old shop primarily for storage. In 1993, he donated the building to the City of Gettysburg, which plans to maintain the old blacksmith shop as a museum.

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Bibliography:

Deed and mortgage records maintained at the Potter County Register of Deeds office, Gettysburg, South Dakota.

General Inspection Company. Fire Insurance Map of Gettysburg, South Dakota, October 1917. South Dakota State Historical Society collection.

Gettysburg Diamond Jubilee Committee. *Through 75 Years -- 1883-1958*. Gettysburg, South Dakota: the Committee, 1958.

Gettysburg Herald [newspaper], Gettysburg, South Dakota, May 2, 1901 - July 4, 1901.

Interview with Worth Stocker, Gettysburg, South Dakota, August 10, 1995.

Potter County Historical Association. *Potter County: People, Pictures and Progress, 1883-1983*. Pierre: State Publishing Co., 1983.

Potter County News [newspaper], Gettysburg, South Dakota, May 23, 1901 - August 1, 1901; February 27, 1958.

Swanson, Alice Stocker. "Genealogy of George LeRoy Stocker Family," unpublished manuscript, Worth Stocker collection.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots Twenty (20) and Twenty-one (21), Block Twenty-seven, (27),
Bryson's Addition to the City of Gettysburg, South Dakota.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the blacksmith shop building and the yard area immediately surrounding it. It coincides with the legal description of the tract of land historically associated with the building. It does not include adjacent city streets or alleys, or the unrelated urban development surrounding the property.