

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" 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 Keets, Henry, House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 344 East Illinois  not for publication  
city, town Spearfish  vicinity  
state South Dakota code SD county Lawrence code 081 zip code 57783

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.

[Signature] 6/6/88  
Signature of certifying official Date

South Dakota SHPO  
State or Federal agency and 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 and 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:)

Beth Boland 7/13/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

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walls Wood

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roof Asphalt

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other Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Built in 1883, the Keets house was designed in the Victorian Italianate style. The house is sited in the center of the block and is surrounded by hedges separating the property from adjacent structures and the street. The site is covered with lawn and some deciduous trees.

The house is a one-and-one-half story T-shaped-plan building. The wood frame house has clapboard walls and sits on a stone foundation that has cement pargeting. An asphalt tile pyramidal hip roof covers the structure's front porch and bay windows. There is a newer dormer on the front. There are two central brick chimneys. A porch runs across the front of the structure, with a turned ballustrade railing, Italianate columns and brackets. There are Italianate bay windows on the east and west sides of the structure. The windows are 1/1 wood double-hung with small panel wood storms. There is a wood paneled door with arched lights on the main entrance. The rear section is a newer structure with casement windows, but compatible materials. There is a covered porch on the northwest corner, with a concrete floor and ramp to the ground.

The interior consists of a central hall with side parlors on the east side and bedrooms on the west side. The ceilings are decorative plaster with central chandeliers in the rooms. The wood trim is painted. The rear wing is a modern kitchen.

The structure is in good condition with some cracking of plaster in the rooms.

There is a one-and-one-half story frame garage (carriage house) that is contemporary with the house on the site. The structure has shiplap siding and an asphalt shingle intersecting gable roof. There are round, wood, four-paned windows on the side, and 1/1 wood double-hung windows in the attic.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1883

Significant Dates  
1883

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Architect unknown  
Builder: Howard, Frank

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Under Criterion C of the National Register Criteria, the Henry Keets house is significant in the area of architecture, because it is an excellent example of the Victorian Italianate style. The house retains most of the aspects of the style, of which it is a rare example of the pyramidal-roof version. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan the property relates to the historic context labeled: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, D.2. Urban Development/Residential Living.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Keets house was built for Henry Keets, president of the America Bank of Spearfish. Mr. Keets was born in New York in 1839 and came to Spearfish in 1878. He was involved in the First Kentucky Cavalry and with the First United States Cavalry. He engaged in the livestock business near Cheyenne, Wyoming, as well as stock and fruit farms in South Dakota, owning much property, which provided his wealth. He was involved with a hydro-electric plant at Redwater, South Dakota, which supplied water to the nearby mining towns of Deadwood and Lead. His main interest, however, was banking.

When Spearfish was organized under the general incorporation laws in 1885, Henry Keets was one of the organizers and became one of the first aldermen. He later was elected mayor of Spearfish

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Keets house is a prime example of the Victorian Italianate style of architecture, popular in the United States, ca. 1870-1910. The pyramidal roof version of this style was more common in the South, so this is a rare example of this style in Spearfish, and possibly South Dakota. The structure has retained the pyramidal roof on a symmetrical plan and a front porch with decorative spindles and brackets, and turned columns. Materials and architectural integrity have mostly been retained.

The period of significance of the nominated property does not extend beyond its date of construction in 1883.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Kingsbury, George W. HISTORY OF DAKOTA TERRITORY:  
Smith, George Martin. SOUTH DAKOTA: ITS HISTORY AND ITS PEOPLE. 5 vols. Chicago:  
S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915. v.5.

Lawrence County Historical Society. SOME HISTORY OF LAWRENCE COUNTY. Pierre, SD:  
The State Publishing Co., 1981.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	3
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5	9	1	0	9	0
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4	9	2	6	8	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

South 10' of West 25' of Lot 3 & South 10' and North 40' of West 25' of Lot 4, all of Lots 5 & 6, Block 18, Original Townsite, City of Spearfish, South Dakota.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based on legally recorded property lines, historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James R. McDonald  
organization James R. McDonald Architects PC date 24 November 1987 / rev. 6-1-88  
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