

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 30 1985

date entered

OCT 31 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kant Hotel

and/or common Bryant Hotel

2. Location

street & number N/A

N/A not for publication

city, town Bryant X vicinity of

state South Dakota code 26 county Hamlin code 057

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Allen Kruse

street & number P.O. Box

city, town Bryant NA vicinity of state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Hamlin County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Hayti state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent ~~good~~ fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kant Hotel is a rectangular two-story building situated on a corner lot in the business district of Bryant. Constructed of cream colored brick, the hotel has a belt course that visually separates the first and the second floors. The raised parapet has decorative granite corbelling. Inspired by classical precedents, the central entranceway is flanked by raised Doric columns. Glass block now encloses the original transom over the door.

Fenestration on the front (north) facade includes two picture windows and two rectangular windows with transoms on the ground level of the front facade and five rectangular windows and one small square window on the second floor of the front facade. The side (west) facade has two raised entranceways, three picture windows and six rectangular windows with transoms on the ground level. There are ten rectangular windows on the second floor of the side facade. All window and door openings have granite lintels and sills. The east (side) facade shares a common wall with the building next door.

The first floor of the interior includes several large receiving rooms (two were originally the dining room and kitchen). The second floor contains the sleeping rooms. One of the downstairs sitting rooms displays an elaborate metal ceiling adorned with cherub faces, flowers and leaves. The banisters of the oak staircase are carved with a leaf design. A skylight opens up the space on the second floor. The hallway as well as all of the sleeping rooms on the second floor have hardwood floors and intact baseboards.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1912

Builder/Architect Theodore Henry Kant, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built by Theodore Henry Kant in 1912, the Kant Hotel in Bryant is significant in the area of commerce. The hotel represents one of the most ambitious commercial enterprises in Bryant, reflecting the optimistic attitudes of the times.

Theodore Henry Kant (1856–1931) was born in Poznan, Germany, in 1856. In 1881, Kant immigrated to the United States through the sponsorship of his sister. He worked as a farmhand picking apples before moving to South Dakota in 1881. Kant homesteaded a section of land near Bryant where he eventually owned 20 farms comprised of 12 sections. Throughout the years he amassed a large fortune but lost it in the great depression of the 1930s.¹

In 1911, Kant took an interest in the idea of building a hotel in Bryant. The citizens of Bryant had wanted a hotel for many years. They raised a fund of \$1000 to purchase the lot for the hotel. Kant, in turn, agreed to put up a building on the lot with the stipulation that it would cost not less than \$12,000. To show his good faith to the town he spent about \$20,000.² The April 12, 1912 tax levy stated that "Bryant is the best town, and has the largest trade of any town between Madison and Aberdeen. It now has the best hotel for its size in the state".³ O.J. Olson, a prominent merchant in Bryant, supplied the furniture and decoration for the hotel. The brick for the building came from Luverne, Minnesota.⁴

On January 12, 1912, the Bryant Dakotan wrote a series of articles on the new hotel which included very optimistic remarks about the structure and its future:

"...nothing but the 'very best' was used by Mr. T.H. Kant in the construction, from the first shovel of concrete under the foundation up to the last piece of gravel on the roof...the people of Bryant will always point to this building with pride. Nothing has been omitted in the way of workmanship to give the building an imposing appearance from the outside...(it is) as complete in all its appointments as any hotel in the larger cities. Every comfort and convenience will be supplied for the guests...the new hotel will be the pride and boast of the city for years and years to come..."⁵

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one Acre

Quadrangle name Bryant

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the Kant Hotel are contained within the legal description:
Lot 11, Block 6, Original Town, Bryant, South Dakota, Hamlin County.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Tim Efraimson (Technical Editing: Melanie Betz-HPC)

organization Bryant Community Development Corp. date August 6, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 224 telephone 605/628-2212

city or town Bryant state South Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

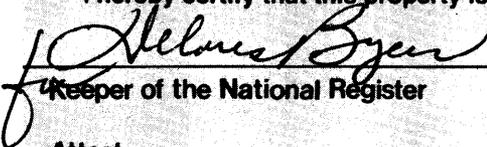
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title _____ date Sept 26 '85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10-31-85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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For many years, the hotel was the "pride and boast" of Bryant. Not only was it used for out-of-town guests but it also contained a large dining room which served the local townspeople. For many years, the Kant Hotel also became a community center for activities such as dances. However, as the population of the town decreased, a hotel was no longer needed and the building was used as both a recreation center for teenagers and as a rooming house for senior citizens. The Bryant Community Development Corporation has recently purchased the building with the intention of restoring it to its 1912 appearance.

¹Hamlin County News. c. 1931.

²The Bryant Dakotan, January 12, 1912.

³Tax Levy Statement, April 12, 1912.

⁴Hamlin County News, July 14, 1911.

⁵The Bryant Dakotan, January 12, 1912.

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Major Bibliographical References

The Dakotan, Bryant, South Dakota.

Oral Interviews with Kay Jutenine, Bryant Historian, Bev Moelder, Dutch Kant and other ancestors of Theodore Henry Kant. 1985.

The Hamlin County News.

Tax Levy Statement, April 12, 1912.