

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Mathiesen House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 914 North Maple not for publication

city, town Watertown vicinity of congressional district First

state South Dakota code 46 county Codington code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gayle G. and Dorothy A. Small

street & number 913 North Broadway

city, town Watertown vicinity of state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Codington County Courthouse

city, town Watertown state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Watertown Community Survey Scott Gerloff  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion state South Dakota

## 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 Mathiesen House was built in c. 1885-1887 as a single family house and has been converted into three separate apartments. It is a two-story, frame structure, the first story of which is covered with horizontal boarding and the second with shingle. The plan is a modified latin cross with full two-story wings with steep gables facing west, south and east and a one-and-one-half story kitchen wing to the north. The west and south wings have bay windows on the first floor. A mansard-roofed stair tower and an open porch fit between the south and west wings. A second gable and one-story wing project beyond the main mass of the house on the south corner of the east side. The wing is covered with an octagonal ogee roof. The roofs are all covered with wood shingles. There are two chimneys, one rising from the center of the house between the original dining room and front parlor, and the second also rising from the center, between the original dining room and kitchen. There is an open porch on the southwest corner and an enclosed porch on the north end of the west facade. Ornament includes millwork on the bargeboards, dormers and porches. There is a Greek Key motif frieze across the west and east gables at the eave level. All of the features appear to be contemporary with the construction of the house. Additions include an exterior stairway on the north and a shed roof dormer on the west of the north (kitchen) wing. The dates of construction of these additions are unknown, but they appear to have been made to accomodate the apartment created by a former owner.

The interior woodwork is still intact and is most notable for the millwork on the front stair, the parquet floor of the original dining room, and the double sliding doors from the original dining room into the original sitting room. Alterations include the remodeling of several closets into bathrooms and the walling off of the back stair. (See sketch plan.)

Sometime in the past ten years the lot has been subdivided and a contemporary duplex apartment has been constructed facing 10th Street. The Mathiesen House is now sited on the second lot from the corner. A c. 1915-1930 frame garage is located to the east on the alley.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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** c. 1885-1887 **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Mathiesen House built c. 1885-1887 is significant in the area of architecture. It was built at the onset of the "Great Dakota Boom", when Watertown was the land office, railroad terminus and banking capital of the lakes area of eastern South Dakota. Watertown's architecture of the 1880s is unusually sophisticated, richly detailed and varied, and contrasts sharply with structures built after the depression of the 1890s. The house exemplifies the free-handed ornamentation of a traditional latin cross plan with exuberant details, such as a tower, octagonal bay and bold details, and is an excellent, surviving example of small-scaled, yet lively, Queen Anne style architecture in Watertown.

Built approximately five years after Watertown was incorporated, the Mathiesen House reflects the speculative wealth of the new community. Sited at the end of Maple Street, facing southward toward the city, the house was the northernmost residence in the city for many years. The Mathiesen family was comprised of three brothers, two of whom, Haakon and Hans, operated a general merchandise business in Watertown. This house most likely was built for Hans Mathiesen. The Mathiesens were born in Kaafjord, Norway and immigrated to America in 1869, residing first in the copper mining region of northern Michigan, where the men worked in the first level of the deep shaft mines. In 1879 the family moved to Hamlin County where Magnus Mathiesen remained. Hans came to Watertown in 1883 and immediately set out to establish a Norwegian Lutheran Church and Sunday School. Joined in his retail business by his brother, Haakon, in 1886, he expanded his interests to stock raising in 1891. His Hillside Stock Farm was located two miles west of the city and by 1896 he was so absorbed by his interest that he disposed of the store. He entered local politics and in 1914, he was elected to the state legislature.

Although the Mathiesens maintained their ties with their Norwegian origins through the Lutheran church, their house represents the rapid assimilation of minority groups into mainstream American culture through rapid economic advancement.

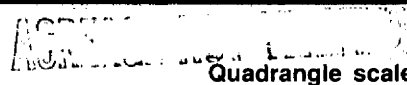
# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hogan, Edward P., Roybal, Joseph. South Dakota House Types: Our Architectural Heritage. South Dakota State University: Brookings, 1979.  
 Codrington County History Book Committee, The First 100 Years in Codrington County, SD. Watertown: Watertown Public Opinion Printers, 1979.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .272

Quadrangle name Watertown East, S.D.



Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

7	14	6	4	9	1	5	10	4	9	7	14	6	16	10
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 lot lines of the property form the boundaries of the site. These lots include the north 22 feet of Lot 10 and all of Lots 11 and 12, less the north 42 feet of Lot 12 and adjacent alley of Ways Addition of the City Watertown.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Burrows, Architectural Historian; Carolyn Torma (technical editing)

organization Historical Preservation Center date  

street & number University of South Dakota telephone 605-677-5313

city or town Vermillion state South Dakota 57069

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James R. Fishburne

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date 11/5/81

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Brauman</u>	date <u>2/1/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior  
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For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered: FEB 1 1982

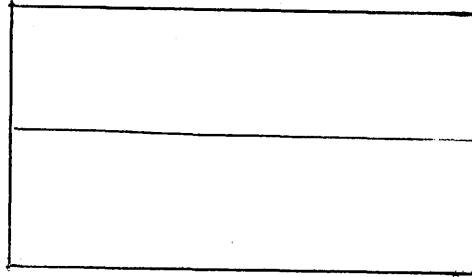
Continuation sheet

Mathieson House

Item number

Page

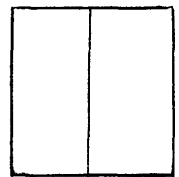
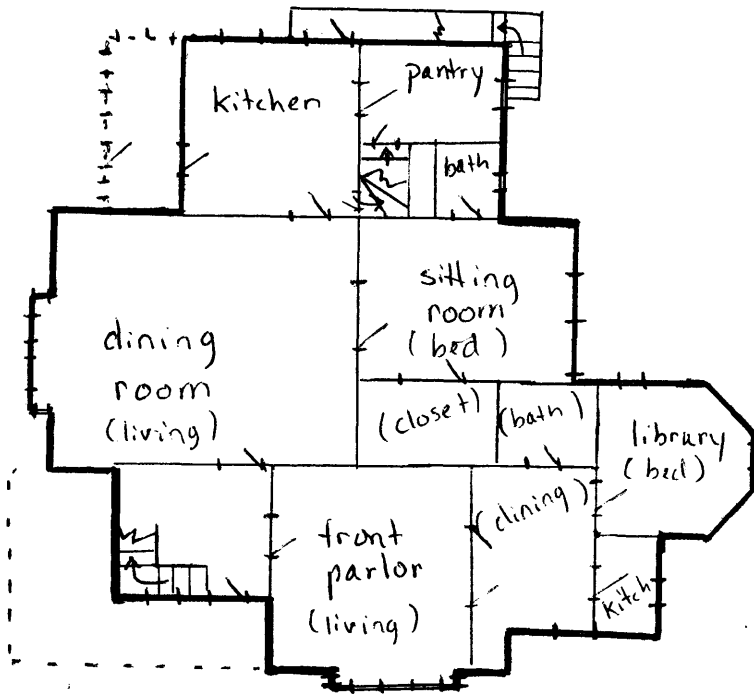
TENTH STREET



apartment - duplex c. 1979

ALLEY

MAPLE STREET, N.



garage  
c. 1915-1930