

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received JAN 17 1986

date entered FEB 13 1986

1. Name

historic McKenzie-Cassels House

and/or common Erdman House

2. Location

street & number 508 N. 3rd Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Groton N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota 26 county Brown 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	X occupied	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
building(s)	X private	unoccupied	commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	X private residence
site	Public Acquisition		entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		no	military	X other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert G. and Kathleen A. Erdman

street & number P.O. Box 527 - 508 N. 3rd Street

city, town Groton N/A vicinity of state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Brown County Courthouse

city, town Aberdeen 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 N/A state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a corner lot in a shaded residential area of Groton, the McKenzie-Cassels house is a three-story frame building with a brick chimney, a granite foundation and a full basement. The house exemplifies late Queen Anne architecture with its wraparound porch and irregular roofline dominated by a large corner tower. A one-and-one-half story frame carriage house (contributing property) with a gable roof and large shed addition is located on the property. A large barn had once been located behind the house but it was moved to Main Street at the turn-of-the-century and converted into a house.

The southern core of the house has a hip roof with overhanging eaves. Gables with return cornices project from the southern, northern and western facades. The eastern (front) facade has a dormer projecting from the third floor hip roof. Decorative brackets and the original painted shingles are located beneath the conical tower roof. Two-story bays project on the north and south facades. The west (rear) facade has an open back porch with a second floor balcony. Fenestration is original throughout the house. All windows and doors have retained their surrounds. The front entranceway has elegant cut-glass transoms and sidelights.

Much of the interior appears as it did when the house was constructed around 1898. The original floor plan and decorative features are intact. Stained oak moldings, ceiling beams, paneling, floors, Corinthian room columns, stair banisters and built-in seats are displayed throughout the first floor as well as many of the original lighting fixtures and wall mirrors. There are two built-in china cabinets and a stained oak library mantel with applied foliate scroll decoration and an inlaid mirror. The front vestibule has an oil mural on the wall. The first level plan consists of a large foyer, a double parlour, a formal dining room, a library, a kitchen, a back stairwell and a bachelor's pantry located between the kitchen and dining room. The second floor consists of several bedrooms off a long hallway and the third level has bedrooms (originally servant's quarters) and a large ballroom.

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/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

Specific dates C. 1898

Builder/Architect Not Available

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McKenzie-Cassels house (now the Erdman residence) is architecturally significant as one of the largest and most gracious homes in Groton. Retaining most of its original exterior and interior features, the house exemplifies late Queen Anne architecture at its finest.

Prominently situated on a shaded corner lot, the McKenzie-Cassels house displays a wraparound porch and an irregular roofline dominated by a large corner tower. It retains its original frame siding and fenestration. A frame carriage house is also located on the property. Aside from the new plumbing and kitchen fixtures, the main house has retained its original floor plan and decorative interior features. Oak moldings, ceiling beams, paneling, floors, Corinthian room columns, stair banisters, and built-in seats are displayed throughout the first floor as well as many of the original lighting fixtures and wall mirrors. There are two built-in china cabinets and an oak library mantel with applied foliate scroll decoration and inlaid mirror. The front vestibule has an oil mural on the wall while the front door has elegant cut-glass transoms and sidelights.

The house was built around 1898 by a wealthy lawyer, Kenneth McKenzie. A few years later, the building was purchased by Herb Cassels who eventually went into the automobile business. The house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Emil Lehman in 1920 but Fred Frommels lived in it for a number of years until the Lehmans moved into town to retire in the 1940's. Dr. Louis Eske, Jr. purchased the building from them in the 1950's. Later, James Saunders and his family resided in the house until Richard Kruegers bought it. (1) Currently, Kathleen and Robert Erdman live in the house and are in the process of restoring it.

1

Groton Centennial History 1881-1981. North Plains Press, Aberdeen, SD, 1981, pgs. 158-9.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Groton Centennial History, 1881 - 1981. North Plains Press, Aberdeen, SD, 1981.

Deed Book Records.

Probate Records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less Than One Acre

Quadrangle name Groton

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 4	5 7 0	6 2 0	5 0 3 3 2 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				
E				
G				

B				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
D				
F				
H				

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the property are contained within the legal description: Lots 1 and 2, Block 22, 1st Addition to the City of Groton, Brown County, South Dakota.

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 Melanie A. Betz, Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Preservation Center date December 2, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 417 telephone 605/624-6614

city or town Vermillion 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 Melanie Betz

title Director, Office of History date 1/10/86

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

2/13/86

J. DeLoach Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration