

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 1 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mathews, G.A., House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 423 8th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Brookings

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 26

county Brookings

code 111

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gene & Barbara Murra

street & number 423 8th Street

city, town Brookings

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 314 Sixth Avenue

city, town Brookings

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Brookings Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer, 1986

federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Brookings

city, town Brookings

state South Dakota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 spacious, shaded lot, the G.A. Mathews House in Brookings is a two-and-a-half story frame dwelling with a cross gable roof and a stone foundation. Hedges frame a semi-circular drive that begins at the lot line, follows along the east side of the house and leads to the garage at the rear of the lot. There is an abundance of trees and shrubs on the property - in keeping with the philosophy of the original owner who is credited with framing the ordinance that required tree planting in Brookings.

The house displays both Queen Anne and Classical Revival elements. In the Queen Anne tradition, a variety of textures are employed including the fish scaling of the upper level, the painted shingles of the middle level and the clapboard siding of the ground level. Modillions decorate the roofline fascia on all facades as well as the bell curve surface between the first and second stories. The water table also forms a flared surface. A pedimented portico, which is located off the south facade, is decorated with an elaborate scroll design. A porte cochere extends from the southeast corner of the house.

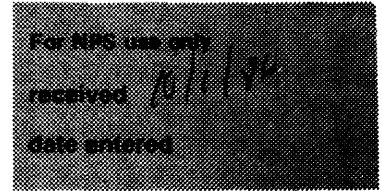
Fenestration includes a lunet on the south facade, a large oval window with a decorative surround on the west facade, a Palladian window on the east facade, double hung sash windows with delicate swags and pilaster surrounds on the south and west facade, and two sets of bay windows centered by rectangular leaded, stained glass windows, accompanied by sash windows with original surrounds on either side, on the east and west facade. Two sets of rectangular windows with original surrounds leads onto balconies on the south and east facade. An original upper spindle railing is retained only on the east facing balcony. Several other rectangular windows with original surrounds are irregularly spaced on all facades. Two rectangular windows are centered by mullions. Ground story bay windows are used on the east and west facade. All the windows let "in a flood of light and sunshine. In fact there is not a dark room in the house."(1) A protruding double hung window is next to the large brick chimney.

A semi-conical turret with a flared bottom is covered with shingles and is built into the gable section of the top story of the west facade. The metal finial atop the turret is original. A rectangular window with wooden rails is inset in a pediment dormer that is built into the turret.

An 1897 newspaper description includes the main floor plan: a tiled vestibule, reception hall and lavatory, a parlor (15'x15'), sitting room (15'x17'), dining room (13'x13'), pantry, china closet and kitchen.(2) The interior remains much the same today, but the use of some rooms has changed. The original lavatory has become a closet and the butler's pantry is now a bathroom. Original tile covers the floor of the vestibule. The original polished oak and polished cedar woodwork are unchanged. One of the most outstanding interior features is the fireplace: "a high red cedar mantel surmounted by a French plat glass mirror adorns this room and in the fireplace is set a base burning grate".(3) The kitchen interior contains structural alterations in the house--it has been modernized. The outside stairway was enclosed.

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The most intriguing rooms are found on the top floor and were called the lumber and the tank rooms in the 1897 newspaper account.

This latter room, situated immediately beneath the roof, contains a tank with a capacity of twenty barrels and is connected both with the cistern and well.

Water is elevated by means of force pumps and thus water is distributed to every floor. Hot water is provided in the same manner, the water passing down through pipes connected with a large heater in the kitchen."⁽⁴⁾

Some original pipe is enclosed in a plumbing chase. The unique gravity system for water and steam radiation heating was definitely a pioneer in the field.

A one-and-one-half story frame garage (contributing) with gable roof sets at the rear of the lot. The upper half story contains a loft and a clapboard loft door.

¹"A Handsome Residence - Just About Completed in North Brookings - the Home of Hon. G.A. Mathews," Semi-Weekly Register, 10 Feb., 1897, p. 3.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1896 **Builder/Architect** A.D. Mower builder (Architect unknown)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1896, the G.A. Mathews House in Brookings is architecturally significant as an intact example of late Queen Anne architecture with Classical Revival elements. It is also significant for its association with Attorney George A. Mathews, pioneer leader in local government and territorial politics.

The G.A. Mathews House relates to the South Dakota Historic Context IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement (1858-Present) D. Urban Development 2. Residences (1858-1899).

Situated on a spacious, tree-lined lot, the Mathews house displays both Queen Anne and Classical Revival elements. Its turret, porte-cochere, varied facade textures, and large porch are characteristic of the Queen Anne style while its Doric columns, Palladian window, swag and bow relief over the windows and some interior features - such as the elaborate mantel piece - are more classically inspired. Other significant features include the original tile vestibule floor, interior stairs and wood trim, upper level window surrounds, and sculptured relief on the pediment of the front porch.

The G.A. Mathews Family acquired the property from the Fishbacks in 1892. Local news articles in 1896 and 1897 give a complete account of the construction of the Mathews residence. In 1896, J.C. Johnson moved the original Mathew's residence to Mondale Street between Brookings Street and Dakota Avenue.(1) Contractor A.D. Mower broke ground for the residence on July 1, 1896.(2) Steen and Wilson did the mason work. Grant Davis was in charge of electrical wiring,(3) while the plumbing was done by Hobart and Willis, Minneapolis. It was nearly completed by February, 1897 and Mathews had spent \$7,500 building the residence. According to the newspaper account, it had a very unique system of water, sewerage, heating and ventilation(4) The Mathews lived there until the 1920's. Several families, including the Fishbacks and Flitties(5) occupied it, possibly in a lease or rental arrangement until the property was purchased from the Mathews' heirs in 1942 by E.P. Johnson. A third generation Fishback family purchased the home in 1973.

"Mathews was a very prominent person, not only in the history and development of Brookings, but also in the story of the state."(6) A native of upper New York State, he graduated from Iowa State University law school in 1878.(7) Driving a team of mules hitched to a wagon, Mathews came from Iowa to Brookings in March, 1879. He settled in Fountain for a year and took up residence in Brookings in 1880, establishing one of the first law firms here with his partner J.O'B. Scobey. Mathews married Cora Thomas at West Union, Iowa in 1880. She passed away in 1889. He was later married to Bertha Van Dusen, sister of Mrs. Horace Fishback, Jr. Mathews was a member of the first Brookings Council and is credited with framing the ordinance that required tree planting in the city. In 1883, he was a member of the controversial Capital Commission which

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Brookings

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	7	5	8	1	0	4	9	0	8	6	9	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 property are contained within the legal description:
Lot two (2) an undivided one-half interest in Lot three (3), Fishback Addition,
Brookings, SD.

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 Sherry DeBoer, Consultant (technical assistance: Melanie A. Betz, State Historical Preservation Center, Vermillion, South Dakota 57069)

organization City of Brookings Historic Preservation Commission date July 18, 1986

street & number City Hall telephone 605/692-6629

city or town Brookings state South Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

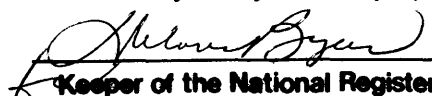
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Office of History date 9-26-86

For NPS use only

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

 Keeper of the National Register date 11-26-86

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

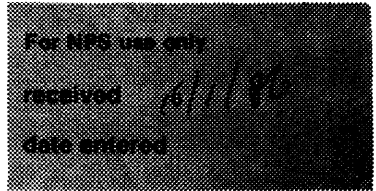
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selected Bismarck to replace Yankton as the capital of Dakota Territory. He served as prosecuting attorney for the First Judicial Circuit and was a member of the Territorial Legislature. He held the distinction of being the last delegate to Congress from the Dakota Territory, having been elected in November of 1888. Mathews served as mayor of Brookings several times; he was elected in 1887, 1888 and 1897-1903. While serving as mayor in 1890, the city issued \$50,000 in bonds to start the municipal electric plant.

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¹"Items of Local Interest," Semi-Weekly Register, 13 June, 1896, p. 3.

²Ibid., 1 July, 1896, p. 3.

³Ibid., 17 Oct., 1896, p. 3.

⁴"A Handsome Residence - Just About Completed in North Brookings--The Home of Hon. G.A. Mathews," Semi-Weekly Register, 10 Feb., 1897, p. 3.

⁵"Historical Structures," Brookings Centennial 1879-1979 Commemorative Book, p. 48.

⁶Mary Haug, "Abundance of Trees in City No Accident," Brookings Daily Register, 15 Aug., 1975, p. 10.

⁷"Historical Structures," Brookings Centennial 1879-1979 Commemorative Book, p. 48.

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"A Handsome Residence - Just About Completed in North Brookings - The Home of Hon. G.A. Mathews," Semi-Weekly Register, 10 Feb., 1897. p. 3.

Haug, Mary, "Abundance of Trees in City No Accident," Brookings Daily Register, 15 Aug., 1975, p. 10.

"Historical Structures," Brookings Centennial 1879-1979 Commemorative Book, p. 48.

"Items of Local Interest," Semi-Weekly Register, 13 June, 1 July, 17 Oct., 1896.

"Like Topsy, It Just Grewed - Brookings - the 'City of Homes' - Develops a Healthy Growth During the Year 1897," Semi-Weekly Register, 31 Dec., 1897, p. 1.

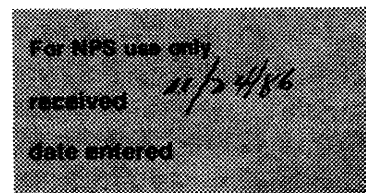
Mitchell, Arthur S., Pioneer Life Dakota Territory 1861-1889, pp. 88-91.

Personal Interview, Margaret Fishback, July, 1896.

Personal Interview, Barb Murra, July, 1986.

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Continuation sheet Geographical Data

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Name of Property: G.A. Mathews House

Address of Property: 423 8th Street, Brookings, SD

Acreage of Nominated Property: Less Than One Acre

Quadrangle Name: Brookings

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM References: 14/675810/4908690

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundaries of the property are contained within the legal description as recorded in the Register of Deeds Office, Brookings County Courthouse, Brookings, SD:

"Lot two(2) and an undivided one-half interest in Lot three(3), Fishback Addition, Brookings, SD," ALSO DESCRIBED AS: "All of Lot 2, West Half of Lot 3, Block One, Fishback Addition, Brookings, SD."

Local practice accepts both variations of the legal description as correct and undisputable.