

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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 GILRUTH  
historic name Gilruth, A. C., House  
other names/site number CD-WT-N-99

2. Location  
street & number 218 Second Avenue Northeast  not for publication  
city, town Watertown  vicinity  
state South Dakota code SD county Codington code SD 029 zip code 57201

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>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of the North End  
Neighborhood, Watertown, SD  
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] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11/14/88  
Signature of certifying official  
State of SD \_\_\_\_\_  
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. [Signature] 1/3/89  
 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: One-and-one-half Story Cube  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Concrete  
Wood  
roof Wood Shingle  
other N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation Sheet**

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The A. C. Gilruth House is a one-and-one-half-story cube-shaped dwelling of ornamental concrete block masonry construction (cast stone). Situated on a tree-lined corner lot in the North End Neighborhood, Watertown, South Dakota, the small house rests on a poured concrete foundation. It is capped by a mansard roof that is covered with wood shingles. A brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. Twin gable-roof dormers are symmetrically arranged on each surface of the mansard roof. Recent poured concrete steps lead to a small wood door that provides the main entrance to the home. A gable-end hood supported by slim wood brackets covers the front entrance. A modern wood frame rear entry addition is located on the southeast corner of the house.

Fenestration on the relatively simple building is symmetrical. Windows are long rectangular double-sash units, framed by plain wooden surrounds with concrete lintels and lug sills.

A one-story clapboard garage of unknown date (non-contributing) is located to the west of the house.

**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

1908  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1908  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Codington County Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	4	9	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	7	3	7	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the property are contained within the legal description:  
East one-half of Lot 1 and the East one-half of North 10 feet of Lot 2, Block 78,  
Third Railway Addition, City of Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sherry DeBoer, Consultant      date September 15, 1988  
organization Codington County Historic Preservation Comm.      telephone 605-886-7335  
street & number 27 First Avenue Southeast      state SD      zip code 57201  
city or town Watertown

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Under Criterion C of the National Register Criteria, the A. C. Gilruth House is significant in the area of architecture, because it is a good example of the smaller homes built in the North End Neighborhood, Watertown, South Dakota, after the turn of the century. Constructed of a popular vernacular building material, ornamental concrete block or cast stone, it is a simple one-and-one-half-story cube-shaped house. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan the property relates to the following historic context: V. Depression and Rebuilding, A. Changing Urban Patterns, 3. Residential Changes.

The first recorded deed activity on this property was a 1902 transfer for \$99 from the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company to William I. Ross. In 1908, A. C. Gilruth purchased the property and constructed the house. There were no further recorded transfers until 1920. Gilruth, an early dry-goods merchant, reportedly lived in a substantial dwelling at 113 Fifth Street Southeast as early as 1901. Presumably, he used the simple house at 218 Second Ave., Northwest as rental property.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the use of ornamental concrete block or cast stone, as it is sometimes called, became quite widespread throughout the county. Often constructed on site from do-it-yourself molds available from such companies as Sears and Roebuck, the blocks were strong and inexpensive. The use of cast stone offered affordable single-family housing. Probably based on pattern-book designs, the Gilruth House is a small simple cube-shaped dwelling with symmetrical fenestration, popular for smaller families at the time of construction. However, it also features a mansard roof, which was not as popular as gable roofs after 1900.

The period of significance for the nominated property does not extend beyond its date of construction in 1908.

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Assessor's Records. Codington County, South Dakota, Assessor's Office.

Cotton, J. Randall. "Ornamental Concrete Block Houses." Old House Journal. XII (October 1984): pp. 180-183+.

Barker, E.M., Compiler. General and Business Directory of the City of Watertown. Watertown, SD: Barker and Granger, 1903.

Blumenson, John J.G., Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1981.

Deeds Records. Codington County, South Dakota, Register of Deeds Office.

Gottfried, Herbert, and Jan Jennings. American Vernacular Design: 1870 to 1940. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1985.

Kant, Joanita, Virginia Allen, and Dr. Stanley W. Allen, Jr., eds. comps. Pictorial History of Codington County, South Dakota. Watertown, SD: The Codington County Historical Preservation Commission, 1987. 119, 238.

Torma, Carolyn. A Field Guide to Historic Sites Survey in South Dakota. Rev.: Vermillion, SD: State Historical Preservation Center, 1986.

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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

1.

A. C. Gilruth House

(Historic Resources of the North End Neighborhood, Watertown, SD)

218 Second Ave., N.E., Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota

by Rolene Schliesman

August 1987

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

North (front) and west facades, camera facing south

Photo No. 1

2.

A. C. Gilruth House

(Historic Resources of the North End Neighborhood, Watertown, SD)

218 Second Ave., N.E., Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota

by Rolene Schliesman

August 1987

Neg.: South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

Garage, camera facing south

Photo No. 2