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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

JAN 05 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

historic name Lenehan, Thomas, House other names/site number The Union House

2. Location

street & number Main Street city, town DeLmont state South Dakota code SD county Douglas code SD 045 zip code 57330

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [x] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 1. Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. 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 [x] 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 [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature], Date: 12/20/87, State or Federal agency and bureau: S.D.O. of SHPI.

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: [x] entered in the National Register. [] 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: [Signature], Date of Action: 2-8-88.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

~~DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling~~
~~HEALTH CARE/ Clinic~~

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling
COMMERCIAL/ Specialty Shop

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
roof Asphalt
other Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 Thomas Lenehan House

Sited along Delmont's Main Street, the Thomas Lenehan House is a two-story Queen Anne dwelling that features a metal onion-shaped dome atop a side tower. Rising from a concrete foundation and basement, the rectangular wood frame house is sided with both fish-scale shingles and clapboard. It is capped by an irregular roof, covered with asphalt shingles. An open porch wraps around the south (front) and west facades. The only obtrusive alteration on the south street facade is a modern casement window that replaces an original double-hung window. An aluminum storm door protects an historic entry door.

The interior is approximately two bays wide and three bays deep and based on an informal floor plan. Although the house has been remodeled in recent times (1976) to accommodate use as rental apartments, the division of space has not been altered. In addition, many elements of the original decor remain intact, including a hardwood stairway, moldings, and pocket doors. However, most walls have been paneled with modern materials, and the first floor ceilings have been lowered.

A modern wood frame garage (non-contributing) is located few yards northeast of the house.

At present, the house is used as a fashion boutique and private residence of its owner.

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

1902-1937

Significant Dates

1902

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lenehan, Thomas

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:

South Dakota Historical Preservation Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 14 567860 4790690
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

Quad: Delmont. Scale: 1:24000.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are contained within the legal description as recorded in the Douglas County Register of Deeds Office: Lots 9 and 10, Black 3, Original Town of Delmont, Douglas County, South Dakota.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the parcel that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Verla B. Lehman (w/ technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO staff)
organization _____ date October 30, 1987
street & number P. O. Box 181 telephone 605-779-3981 / Rau: 605-677-5314
city or town Delmont state South Dakota zip code 57330

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Under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, the Thomas Lenehan House is significant in the area of architecture, because it is believed to be the only residence in the state that features an onion-shaped dome. Although it has suffered some alteration in recent years, the house still retains most of its identity as a late Queen Anne dwelling. Under the South Dakota Historical Preservation Plan the property relates to the historic context labeled: IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement, D.2. Urban Development/Residences.

The Lenehan House includes such Queen Anne stylistic characteristics as an irregular roof line, informal entry and floor plan, multiplicity of siding material, a wrap-around porch, and the distinctive side tower. Although, its influence is unknown, the metal onion-shaped dome is of particular significance. No other house recorded in the state has exhibited this design element. For many years, local residents have known as the property "the Onion House".

Douglas County was organized in 1882 and the City of Delmont was founded three years later. Thomas Lenehan was a prominent early citizen of Delmont and an active carpenter throughout the county. In 1902, he built this house as his private dwelling. During this same year he constructed the Delmont Public School. In 1915, Lenehan lost the property to foreclosure. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Thomas Arnold began operating a clinic and hospital in the house. A local implement dealer, Charles Sroka, purchased the house from Arnold in 1920. Sroka owned the property until 1939. Since that time, it has been used as a beauty shop and apartments, as well as a private residence.

In 1983, Russel and Verla Lehman bought the house. Verla Lehman now operates a fashion boutique in the lower level and uses the upper level as her residence. She continues to keep the house in a good state of repair and to call public attention to its history.

The period of significance of the property spans from its construction in 1902 to 1937, the established 50-year cut off for the National Register.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Thomas Lenehan House

Abstract of Title. Lots 9 and 10, Block 3, City of Delmont, Douglas County, South Dakota.

Douglas County History and Centennial Observances, 1961. Stickney, SD: Argus Printers, 1961. p.136.

Karolevitz, Robert F. Douglas County: The Little Giant. Armour, SD: Douglas County Historical Society, 1983. Passim, pp. 101, 112.

"News from Years Back." Delmont (South Dakota) Record. May 27, June 24, December 2, 1986.

Personal Interview with Bertha Wieting by Verla Lehman at Delmont, South Dakota, May 15, 1987.

Personal Interview with Marsell Sroka Case by Verla Lehman at Delmont, South Dakota, July 17, 1987.