

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received JAN 27 1987  
date entered FEB 26 1987

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

**1. Name**

historic Sheafe, General Mark W., House (Liberty Hall)

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 57-4th Avenue, N.W.

N/A not for publication

city, town Watertown

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 046

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	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 Mr. and Mrs. J. Douglas Myers

street & number 57-4th Avenue NW

city, town Watertown

N/A 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 Historic Sites Survey of Watertown

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Summer 1982

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion

state South Dakota

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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			

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Scheafe House is sited on a slight rise on the northwest corner of the intersection of 4th and Park Avenues. Located in the North Side neighborhood, the house is one of the many 19th century dwellings in the area.

Two stories in height, the house is constructed of frame and rests on a stone foundation, which is covered with cement. The house consists of a central cubic shape with projecting gables: two on the west, one on the north, one on the east, and one on the south, front facade. Second-story windows are placed within each of these gables. On the first floor the side gables have an additional rectangular bay projection, which is covered with a mansard roof. A porch with stick style details wraps around the front gable on the south and east. All window openings retain their elongated, double-hung 1/1 sash windows. However, in recent years the house was sided over with circa 1950 siding and a new roof was also added. Aluminum storm windows were placed over the originals. Two small additions containing a bath and vestibule were added on the west and east side facades to the rear.

On the interior the house has retained its fine original details. An Eastlake, incised wood mantel is found in the parlor, which matches the machine-made Eastlake moldings found throughout the house. In the 20th century the front parlor and hallway were joined with an open column archway. This molding is all Colonial Revival, but of the same quality as the original and adds architectural interest to the house. Stained glass transoms decorate the original dining room.

To the rear is a one-and-one-half story, frame carriage house (contributing), which has been recently converted to an antique store. A contemporary one-story frame garage (non-contributing) has been built directly to the east of the carriage house.

The present owners have done extensive restoration work on the interior of the dwelling. With Register listing, the owners hope to obtain the funding to remove the siding. Historic photographs show the original design and decoration of the dwelling.

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

**Specific dates** 1886

**Builder/Architect** Not available

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significant in the area of politics/government, the General Mark Wentworth Sheafe House was the home of one of Watertown's and South Dakota's prominent early citizens. A 1915 biography describes Sheafe as a man closely "identified with the pioneer development of the territory and (who) has as well been a factor in the upbuilding of the state." His house is the most appropriate representative of Sheafe's history.

Born in 1845, Scheafe was descended from an old and politically prominent New England family. Educated for Harvard, he forewent his college education at the outbreak of the Civil War. At the conclusion of the war he moved to Janesville, Wisconsin, and in 1871, to Dakota Territory. He settled in Elk Point, Union County, where he served as mayor six times and operated a lumber and flour milling business. In 1885, he and his wife Agnes, moved to Watertown upon his appointment as Register of the United States Land Office. He served as Register until 1897, and in the meantime served as vice president of the Dakota Loan and Trust Company, as well as territorial and state senator. In 1885, he was also appointed as Colonel of the Second Regiment of the Dakota National Guard and at the outbreak of the Spanish American War in 1898, he and his troops left for Cuba. He was then appointed Brigadier General of the United States Volunteers. After the war, he retired back to South Dakota and took up ranching.<sup>1</sup>

For many years, he was a friend and close associate of Arthur C. Mellette, last territorial governor (1885-1889) and first state governor (1889-1893). Mellette and his associates tried to win for Watertown the designation as state capitol. Sheafe helped promote the business and political life of the city in order to warrant the designation which ultimately went to Pierre.

When Sheafe built his Watertown house in 1886, he named it Liberty Hall. The name was later inscribed in the concrete front path. Although the exterior has been altered, the present owners wish to restore it including removing the circa 1950 siding. Much work has also been done to the interior which reveals the original elegance of the house including its fine Eastlake and Colonial Revival moldings and woodwork.

The General Mark Wentworth Sheafe House in Watertown relates to South Dakota Historic Context IV. Permanent Rural and Urban Pioneer Settlement (1858-Present), D. Urban Development 2. Residences (1858 to 1899). For additional information on Sheafe, see section #9, bibliographical sources. For additional information on Watertown, see proposed multiple property nomination for Watertown, South Dakota (in progress).

<sup>1</sup>George W. Kingsbury, and George M. Smith, ed. History of Dakota Territory: South Dakota, Its History and People, Vol. IV, Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915: pgs. 8-12.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property about one acre

Quadrangle name Watertown East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 14 64888d 4974100  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The lot lines of the property form the boundaries of the site, which is located in Lots 5,6,7 and the South 1-foot of the Alley in Block 1 of the Hopper Addition to the City of Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Torma, Historical Survey Coordinator (with the assistance of Melanie Betz, Architectural Historian)

organization State Historical Preservation Center date August 12, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 417 telephone 605-677-5314

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 

title Director, Office of History

date 1/22/87

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 2-26-87

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   1  

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Kingsbury, George W. and George M. Smith, ed. History of Dakota Territory: South Dakota, Its History & People, Vol. IV, Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915: 8-12.

Presentation by General Mark W. Sheafe at a P.E.O. meeting in 1926 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. L.T. Morris, Watertown, South Dakota.

Ransom & Cory. Picturesque Souvenir Watertown & Codington County. Watertown: n.p. Ransom, Cory & E.M. Berber, 1901:

Tarbell, Wright. "The Early and Territorial History of Codington County," South Dakota Historical Collections. XXIV (1949): 443, 446.

Watertown Public Opinion. Collection of articles about General Sheafe. Undated. Probably circa 1890-1925.