

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

JUN 9 1988

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 Harris, Fred S., House  
other names/site number The Benjamin House

2. Location

street & number 826 State Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Belle Fourche N/A vicinity  
state South Dakota code SD county Butte code SD 019 zip code 57717

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>2</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>      </u> Total

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  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] 6/8/88  
Signature of certifying official Date

South Dakota SHPO  
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. Beth Roland 7/13/88  
 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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Family

Domestic/ Multiple Family

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Family

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Wood Shingle

other Wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Section number 7 Page 1 Fred S. Harris House

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Situated on an established, tree-lined lawn just east of the Belle Fourche Commercial Historic District, the Fred S. Harris House is a large two-and-a-half story dwelling. Rising from a rubblestone foundation, the rectangular wood frame building is clad with clapboard siding and capped by an irregular-shaped roof covered with wood shingles. A tall, thin brick chimney rises from near the center of the roof. A two-story bay window projects from the center of the west facade. An open porch, adorned with fluted Ionic columns, wraps around the north (front) and west facades. A small balcony with a balustrade is located above the porch on the north facade. Fenestration consists mostly of paired and single rectangular one-over-one windows placed asymmetrically on all facades. There is a large original picture window on the north facade. The half-story attic is finished off for use as bedroom and storage space. It is lighted by small rectangular windows on the south, east, and west facades and by a diamond-shaped window on the north facade.

The irregular floor plan is about three bays deep and two bays wide. Interior features include original hardwood parquet floors, baseboards, staircase and balustrade, pocket doors, and a cedar-lined closet in the attic. In addition, there is a chandelier in the dining room. and a fireplace in the living room. The original hot water heating system is in place with radiators of various unique shapes, including a corner radiator in the parlor.

Contemporary with the house, a large, two-story wood frame carriage house (contributing) is located a few yards southeast of the house. Rising from a stone foundation, the carriage house is clad with clapboard siding and capped by a gable roof covered with wood shingles. The building features a modern overhead door and an original sliding door. An outside staircase along the west gable end provides access to a second-story apartment.

The property is partially encircled by an original wrought iron fence.

**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

1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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 13 591360 4946880  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

Quad.: Belle Fourch, 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 Register of Deeds Office of Butte County; Lots 14 and 15, Block 22, Original Townsite, City of Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Debra J. Mitchell (w.technical assistance by John Rau, SHPO staff)  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date February 12, 1988/ Rev. June 1, '88  
 street & number 826 State Street telephone 605-892-3098/ Rau:605-677-5314  
 city or town Belle Fourche state South Dakota zip code 57717

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Under Criterion C of the National Register Criteria, The Fred S. Harris House is significant in the area of architecture, because it is a well-preserved example of domestic housing constructed by successful pioneers of the region. One of the oldest houses extant in Belle Fourche, it is representative of late Queen Anne styling, used extensively in towns throughout the state. 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/Residential Living.

The influence of Queen Anne architecture continued in South Dakota long after its popularity waned on the east and west coasts. Although greatly simplified from Nineteenth Century models, these late examples retained a variety of the characteristic elements of the style. On the Harris House, these elements include: asymmetrical facades, an irregular floor plan, an irregular roof line, a two-story bay window, a small balustrade, a wrap-around porch, a large picture window, and a diamond-shaped window.

Butte County was created in 1881 and organized in 1883. It consists mostly of a treeless plains region dotted with several prominent hills or buttes, from which the county takes its name. Several wouldbe prospectors, merchants, and speculators homesteaded in the county and adjoining Wyoming and Montana counties after the Black Hills placer mines were no longer profitable. It became a region of cattle and sheep ranches and widely-scattered support communities. One of these settlements, Belle Fourche was founded in 1890. The city soon became the seat of government and the major transportation and retail service center of the Butte County.

Fred S. Harris was born on a farm near Keokuk, Iowa in 1865. He came to the Black Hills with his parents in 1877. The Harris family soon homesteaded a ranch in nearby Wyoming. In his teens, Fred Harris became a cow hand on several area ranches until he was able to acquire his own herd and establish a ranch in Carter County, Montana. In 1891, he married BIRTHA BAXTER in Riverton, Wyoming. He became a prominent cattle and sheep rancher and agricultural promoter in the Belle Fourche area. In 1907, they moved from the ranch to the house they built at 826 State Street in Belle Fourche. Mr. Harris continued to be active in community businesses and civic affairs until his death in 1929.

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In 1932, Birtha Harris sold the house to Nena Suhr. In 1936, Suhr sold the property to John and Alpha Benjamin, who took in boarders. Many area people still tell about times that they stayed at the "Benjamin House". In 1967, it was sold to Ellis and Hazel Day, who restored the house to much of its present appearance. The present owners, Kenneth and Debra Mitchell purchased the property in 1982 and continue to keep in a good state of repair.

The period of significance of the nominated property does not extend beyond its date of construction in 1907.

4/15/88

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Deed Abstract. Lots 14 and 15, Black 22, Original townsite of City of Belle Fourche, Butte County, South Dakota.

"Fred S. Harris Dies Suddenly At His Ranch." Belle Fourche (South Dakota) Bee. November 8, 1929.

"Massie Family History." N.p., N.d. pp. 117-119, 123.

Pioneer Footprints. Black Hills Half-century Club: Rev.: Aberdeen, SD: North Plains Press, 1973. Passim.