

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 26 1987

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number HN-7 Page 1

SITE HN-7

NAME Oliver O. Stokes House

LOCATION Harding, Harding County (063),
South Dakota (046)

OWNER Ramona Hight
Box 24
Buffalo, South Dakota 57720

CLASSIFICATION Building, private, NA acquisition,
occupied, restricted access, private
residence

DESCRIPTION Very good condition, altered (very
slightly), original site

The Oliver O. Stokes House, built in 1889, is located in the town of Harding, South Dakota (1985 population 2). The house is located on the west side of the north-south section road, the only street in town. It is on a well landscaped lot and surrounded by mature trees.

A two-story rectangle, this residence is of frame construction. A one-story shed projection and a gabled-roof projection is on the west, and another one-story shed addition was added in the L space formed by the two projections to house a laundry. The gabled-roof of the main house is clad with corrugated metal. All other roof sections are clad with composition shingles.

A shed-roofed porch with a small pediment over the central doorway spans the front of the house. The roof of the porch is clad with composition shingles. Six square wooden columns support the porch.

Fenestration includes a variety of large rectangular two-over-two light double-hung windows. No significant fenestral changes have occurred, excepting the removal of a double-hung window and the installation of a large plate glass picture window in the in the first floor of the south (side) facade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number HN-7 Page 2

Since its construction the clapboard covered exterior walls of the structure have been stuccoed. Originally, the clapboard was painted a pale cream color with contrasting trim.

The first floor is spaciouly divided into a living room, kitchen, dining area, bedroom, bathroom and laundry. Additional bedrooms are located on the second floor.

A wood-frame outhouse (contributing) with a pyramidal roof covered with wood shingles is off the northwest corner of the house across the driveway.

Several other modern non-contributing structures are located at the site and include a large rectangular metal horse barn, a small rectangular metal chicken coop with a shed roof, and a small plywood storage building and a shed-roofed wood frame outbuilding covered with corrugated metal.

SIGNIFICANCE 1800-1899, settlement, architecture

DATES: 1889

BUILDER: Oliver O. Stokes

The Oliver O. Stokes House is architectually significant to the town of Harding and Harding County as the first frame house built in the county. The only frame house of this age and size located during the survey, the house retains its architectural integrity. The house is historically significant to Harding County because Oliver O. Stokes, in addition to being a successful and admired businessman, served in both the South Dakota State House of Representatives and the State Senate. The Stokes House was a local showplace where many prominent people were entertained by Mrs. Stokes, who was known for her hospitality.

Oliver O. Stokes first came to the Harding vicinity in 1885 and visited the area between the East Short Pines and the West Short Pines. In 1887 he returned to Iowa and later that spring he moved his family to Harding.

Shortly after his arrival Stokes started a general store and the Post Office was moved from Nashville to Harding. Stokes became the Post Master.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number HN-7

Page 3

In 1889 Stokes built the two-story frame house where he and his wife raised their three girls, Florence, Delmar and Maude. During these years while he operated the Stokes-McCoid Hardware and General Merchandise Stokes earned a reputation as one of the best merchants in the county.

Stokes served in the State Legislature in 1905 and 1907. In 1909 he was elected to the State Senate. (1) In 1911 the state legislature passed a new apportionment law that created a new district of Harding County which permitted it to elect one representative to the House of Representatives. Stokes was elected to the House of Representatives without opposition in 1913 and served until 1915. (2) After he retired from his business Stokes moved to Belle Fourche about sixty miles south of Harding where he was elected mayor.

QUADRANGLE NAME Harding, SD UTM 13/591360/5027480

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000 ACREAGE Less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property consists of a set of four imaginary lines. The northern boundary is formed by a line that lies ten feet from the northern exterior wall of the outhouse, that intersects an imaginary line that lies fifteen feet from the western exterior wall of the outhouse, that intersects an imaginary line that lies fifteen feet from the exterior southern wall of the house, that intersects a line that lies fifteen feet from the eastern exterior edge of the front porch. The site is located in the NE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 35, Township 17 North, Range 2 East in Harding County, South Dakota.

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number HN-7

Page 4

