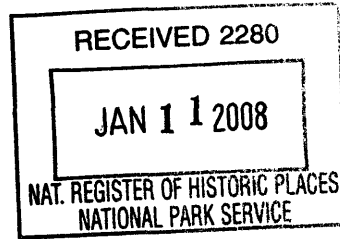


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**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Emil and Hannah Johnson House
other names/site number Edward and Annie Johnson House; Arvid and Alma Johnson House

2. Location

street & number 117 Diggs Ave. N/A **not for publication**
city or town Milbank N/A **vicinity**
state South Dakota **code** SD **county** Grant **code** 051 **zip code** 57246

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Voigt 12-10-2007
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

SD SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Emil and Hannah Johnson House

Grant County

South Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

2.19.08

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

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)
Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation stone

walls wood clapboard

roof Asphalt shingle

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Emil and Hannah Johnson House
Name of Property

Grant County
County and State

South Dakota

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1895

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Emil and Hannah Johnson House

Grant County

South Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one (1) acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 685368 5010709
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Barbara Kooiman, Architectural Historian	date	September 2007
organization	Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at UW-La Crosse	telephone	608-785-6783
street & number	1725 State St.	zip code	54601
city or town	La Crosse	state	WI

Emil and Hannah Johnson House

Grant County

South Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Gerald and Arlene Lewno	date	September 2007
organization	owners	telephone	605-676-2300
street&number	15633 473 rd Ave.	zip code	57246
city or town	Stockholm	state	SD

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

Description

The Johnson House is a two and one-half story, frame front gabled Queen Anne style house. It was built in 1895. It sits on the north side of Diggs Avenue just west of where North First Street intersects at Diggs Avenue. The yard is large, extending back to the embankment to the north, which drops down to the creek below, the South Fork of the Whetstone River. The house is set back onto the yard, and a small carriage house, contemporary with the house, is set into the northeast corner of the lawn. There are few trees, other than a large weeping willow tree in the southwest corner of the lawn. There are other, smaller and less elaborate and more recent houses up and down the street.

The house is a two and one-half story, front gabled frame house, with a full front porch, supported by turned posts and balustrade. It has a cut stone foundation. The main gables of the house all feature returned gable ends and small dentils under the eaves. The porch has a shallow hipped roof and a shallow pediment over the entry portion of the porch. The second floor front/south façade features two sets of windows, each that are three parts, with a center sash, and two smaller windows flanking each side of the center window. The top level, where the attic is located, features a gable that has a half-round window inset into the center, with shingles decorating the raised portion of the gable, and the inner part shaped like the window.

The west side features a one story, three-sided bay window on the first floor. This façade, otherwise, is simple. A small, gabled dormer protrudes from the side of the roof on the attic level. The rear/north façade features a simple face, with a first floor one-story bump out from the back of the house, where the kitchen is located, and a second floor exit door, which lets people out onto the roof of the first floor extension.

The east façade of the house exhibits a two story three-sided bay window. Above that, a large gabled dormer, whose gable peak intersects with the spine of the front gable peak, extends out from the roof. A small portico porch exits from the kitchen on the east façade.

In the northeast corner of the property, a small, square, hipped roof carriage house with a small portico and returned eave mimics the façade of the house. It is built of wood frame with clapboard siding. Though in poor repair, the carriage house is fully standing, and is considered as a contributing building, presumed to be contemporary (ca. 1895) with the house.

The interior of the house features many of the elaborate hallmarks of the Queen Anne style as well. The front foyer brings the visitor through a large, beveled glass door. Once inside, one sees the elaborate squared newel post and the turned post balustrade. It ascends several stairs, stops at a

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Section 7 Page 2

Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

landing, and then turns 45 degrees before continuing the ascension. A small finial drops from the ceiling where the stair meets the first floor ceiling. The windows in the parlor are artglass.

One goes straight towards the back of the house, into the dining room, which is accented with a three-sided bay window on the east façade. On the north wall of the dining room is a built-in cabinet, with drawers on the bottom, glass doored shelves on the top and a mirror on the backside. This type of built-in is relatively common in Queen Anne style houses.

Across from the dining room, through pocket doors to the west, is the living room. A three-sided bay window accents this room as well. To the north of the living room is a small den. In the northeast corner of the house is the kitchen, which is currently gutted and in the process of being renovated. The kitchen exits out onto the small back porch.

One ascends the front stairs to the second floor. The second floor features a central hall, with three bedrooms on the west side, and three bedrooms on the east side, with two small bathrooms. A stair in the rear (north) end of the house allows the visitor to ascend to the attic.

The attic, though unfinished, features high rafters, and with two dormers and the large half-round window on the south side, allows plenty of light to enter.

Overall, the Emil and Hannah Johnson House exhibits a high degree of physical integrity, with all of the primary Queen Anne components of the house intact. It is one of the best examples of this style in the city of Milbank, and meets the criteria for being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Section 8 Page 1

Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

Statement of Significance

The Emil and Hannah Johnson House in Milbank, Grant County, South Dakota is a two and one-half story front gabled frame Queen Anne style house. It was built in 1895 by Emil Johnson, a Swedish immigrant who had made his success in the fledgling South Dakota town of Milbank. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places locally under Criterion C, as one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Milbank. It exhibits many of the classic features of the Queen Anne style, including turned-post porch, shingles in the gable eaves, artglass windows, elaborate newell and stair balustrade, and built in cabinets in the dining room.

Background

Grant County, South Dakota was organized in 1878, with the first county commissioners appointed by the governor. The first meeting of the commissioners was held in Big Stone City, as Milbank was not yet established. Though initially first Inkpa City, then Big Stone City were briefly each the county seat, by 1881, with a higher countywide population, the feeling was that the county seat should be more centrally located within the county, and despite fierce competition between Big Stone City and Milbank, the village of Milbank became the county seat.¹

The first pioneers came to Milbank in 1880. The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad started the community, initially calling it Milbank Junction, named after Jeremiah Milbank of New York City. Milbank was a director of the Hastings division of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. The earliest houses in Milbank, due to the lack of trees, were apparently soddies, until the railroad began bringing lumber to the area. The railroad platted a few lots, laid out streets and lots on the south side of the tracks, and began promoting commercial buildings to be constructed south of the tracks.²

Construction of buildings commenced in the fall of 1880, and continued until the great Blizzard of 1880 struck the night of October 15, 1880, lasting for three days. Rail service was extremely irregular for the remainder of that winter of 1880-81, due to snow drifts and more snow, thus the early settlers of Milbank had a difficult time. The railroad was completely blocked from reaching Milbank between

¹ Grant County Historical Society (GCHS). 100 Years in Grant County, South Dakota, 1878 – 1978. Pierre, S.D.: State Publishing Co., 1979: 35-36.

² GCHS, 1979: 36.

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Section 8 Page 2

Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

January and April 19, 1881, due to more snow. The settlers had to rely on green wood for fuel, brought to them by the Native Americans in the region.³

Milbank saw its share of hard times and natural disasters in its early years. On November 17, 1884, a fire broke out in a restaurant and billiard hall in downtown Milbank. By the time it was done, it had destroyed every building south of the tracks on the east side of Main Street down to Third Avenue. Then in 1897, seven buildings on the west side of Main Street were destroyed by fire. Finally, in May 1900, another seven buildings were destroyed by fire, again on the west side of Main Street. Fire also destroyed Grant County's original courthouse. On July 30, 1895, the entire courthouse burned to the ground. It was later discovered that the fire was intentionally set by a loan company assistant who was trying to cover a financial scheme. Though many county records were lost, some records that were locked in a fireproof safe survived.

As buildings were constructed and lost in Milbank, the community continued to grow and thrive, with many businesses and industries supporting the farming community around the region. It served as a community where a young immigrant could make a living and prosper, such as Emil Johnson.

The Johnsons

Emil Johnson was born in Vixion, Sweden in April 1856. He was the first of three brothers to immigrate to the United States and ultimately to Grant County, South Dakota. Though it is uncertain precisely when he came to the U.S., he came first to Quebec, then through the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Red Wing, Minnesota. In the 1880s, Johnson and a fellow Swede, Mr. Erlandson, decided to become partners in a general store in Milbank, South Dakota. At the time, Milbank was the westernmost terminus for the Milwaukee Road. The store, known as Erlandson & Johnson, operated in Milbank until the 1920s. Emil Johnson married Hannah Berquist of Minneapolis in December 1883. They had one daughter, Jennie Johnson.⁴

Emil Johnson's brother Edward Johnson came to the United States following his older brother's path. To avoid the Swedish military draft, Edward traveled to Minnesota in 1880, and worked for a couple of years in the woods near Brainerd, Minnesota. From there, he moved to Milbank, moving lumber across Big Stone Lake by oxen team. From there, he moved to Minneapolis, working for the Pillsbury Milling Company. He finally returned to Milbank and worked as an engineer for the Milbank Grist Mill. Edward Johnson married Miss Agnes Spors of Milbank in 1889. Agnes died in childbirth with

³ GCHS, 1979: 36.

⁴ GCHS, 1979: 357.

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Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

her second child, and Edward remarried Anna Carlson in 1897. They had four more children together. Edward's youngest son, Arvid, was the only one to remain in the Milbank area.⁵

Arvid Johnson, as a young man, worked for Louie Lovenstein in his general store in Milbank. In 1923, Arvid and his friend Harvey Maxfield purchased the store from Mr. Lovenstein, and continued for another five years in the same location. They moved the store to the Bentley Building in downtown Milbank in September 1929. Arvid married Alma Parker of Redwood Falls, Minnesota in 1935. Alma worked with Arvid, Harvey and Harvey's wife in the store. The partnership remained for 44 years, reportedly the longest business partnership in the state of South Dakota. After Harvey became ill, he sold the store to Arvid, and Arvid and Alma continued in the business until 1964, when they sold the business and retired.⁶

The House

The Emil and Hannah Johnson House was built in about 1895. The property (including three city lots, 9, 10, and 11) where the house is located was purchased by Emil Johnson from George and Amelia Wesbury for \$350, indicating that the property was probably yet at that time undeveloped. Emil apparently built his house shortly thereafter, but lived there only a short time, as he then sold it to his younger brother Edward in December 1897 for \$800. The house stayed in Edward's possession, with his wife Annie being added to the deed in 1926.⁷

The house continued to stay in the family, when Edward sold the house to his son Arvid in September 1928, one year before expanding his downtown business to a larger building. Deed records do not indicate a selling price, so it may have been a simple transfer of property from father to son. Arvid and his wife Alma continued to live in and own the house until 1948, when the house with two lots, 9 and 10, were sold out of the family for the first time in its history, to Leonard and Sarah Davis for \$11,000.⁸

⁵ GCHS, 1979: 357.

⁶ GCHS, 1979: 358.

⁷ Grant County Register of Deeds, Vol. 13, Page 496, 12 August 1895, warranty deed, George & Amelia Westbury to Emil Johnson; Vol. 22, Page 253, 6 December 1897, Quit Claim Deed, Emil and Hannah Johnson to Edward A. Johnson; Vol 51, Page 401, 2 July 1926, Edward A. Johnson to Annie Johnson, his wife.

⁸ Grant County Register of Deeds, Vol. 51, page 474, 21 September 1928, Edward A. Johnson to Arvid Johnson.; Vol. 67, page 274, 16 July 1948, Arvid and Alma Johnson to Leonard and Sarah Davis.

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Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

Leonard Davis and his wife lived in the house for several years as well. They continued to own it until they sold it to M.W. and Jean Wise, with an easement onto Lot 8, in September 1973. M.W. and Jean Wise owned it for only a short while, selling it to Dwight and Becky Raup in January 1974 for \$17,000. The Raups lost the house back to the Wises through a judgement, and the Wises sold the house in October 1982 to George and Carole Boos for \$22,000. The current owners, Gerald and Arlene Lewno, purchased the house in 2004. They are currently in the process of restoring it.⁹

The Johnson House is built in the Queen Anne style, which was so popular across the country in the last two decades of the 19th century. This style is sometimes constructed of durable materials such as brick or stone, but most common are the ones built of wood. The Queen Anne style was a late 19th century product of the Industrial Revolution, and thus takes full advantage of the mechanization of the wood processing methods available to builders. Machines could cut not only clapboard, but also fancy shingles that were square, diamond shaped, or fishscale shaped. Machines could take plain square posts and turn them, making more decorative designs and shapes along the post for balustrades and porch beams. Designers took full advantage of the variety of the Queen Anne style and often added multiple roof layers, decorative, wrap around porches, irregular floor plans, bay windows and decorative woodwork.

The Johnson House exhibits many of those features. With its full front porch, decorative posts, shake shingle gable ends, artglass windows, elaborate front stair and beautiful built in cabinet, the Johnson House exhibits many of the classic features of the Queen Anne style. It also establishes the status in Milbank's society that Emil Johnson wished to portray, but building on a large lot on the north end of town.

Though there are other examples of the Queen Anne style house in Milbank, the Emil Johnson house is perhaps one of the best preserved examples of that style. Others have gone into disrepair, or have been modified. In addition, in a town of about 4,500 people, most of the housing stock is modest, working class type houses. Thus, this house represents the desired status of the up and coming merchant class in Milbank.

⁹ Grant County Register of Deeds, Vol. 83, page 191, 25 September 1973, Leonard and Sarah Davis to M.W. and Jean Wise; Vol. 88, page 187, 15 January 1974, M.W. and Jean Wise to Dwight and Becky Raup; Vol. 179, page 712, 15 October 1982, M.W. Wise to George and Carole Boos.

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Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

The Emil and Hannah Johnson House is an excellent example the Queen Anne residential style constructed in Milbank, Grant County, South Dakota during the late nineteenth century and is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C.

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Continuation Sheet

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Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

Bibliography

Grant County Historical Society. *100 Years in Grant County, South Dakota, 1878 – 1978*. Pierre, S.D.: State Publishing Co., 1979.

Grant County Register of Deeds. Located in Milbank, Grant County, South Dakota.

Kant, Joanita, ed. *South Dakota, Our Towns: A Pictorial Review: Northeast Region Vol. 1*. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1988.

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Section 10 Page 1

Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 9 & 10, Block 59, Original Townsite, Milbank, Grant County, South Dakota.
Parcel No. 26.00.59.10, 26-20.

Boundary Justification

The current boundary of the Johnson House, including two city blocks, is very similar to the same boundary as when the house was constructed. Thus, the boundary for this nomination encompasses all land that was historically associated with this property, and gives the sense of location that is important to its integrity.

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Section photos Page 1 Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-3 except as noted:

Name of Property: Johnson House
County, State: Grant County, South Dakota
Photographer: Barb Kooiman
Date of Photographs: December 2006
Location of Original: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Pierre, SD

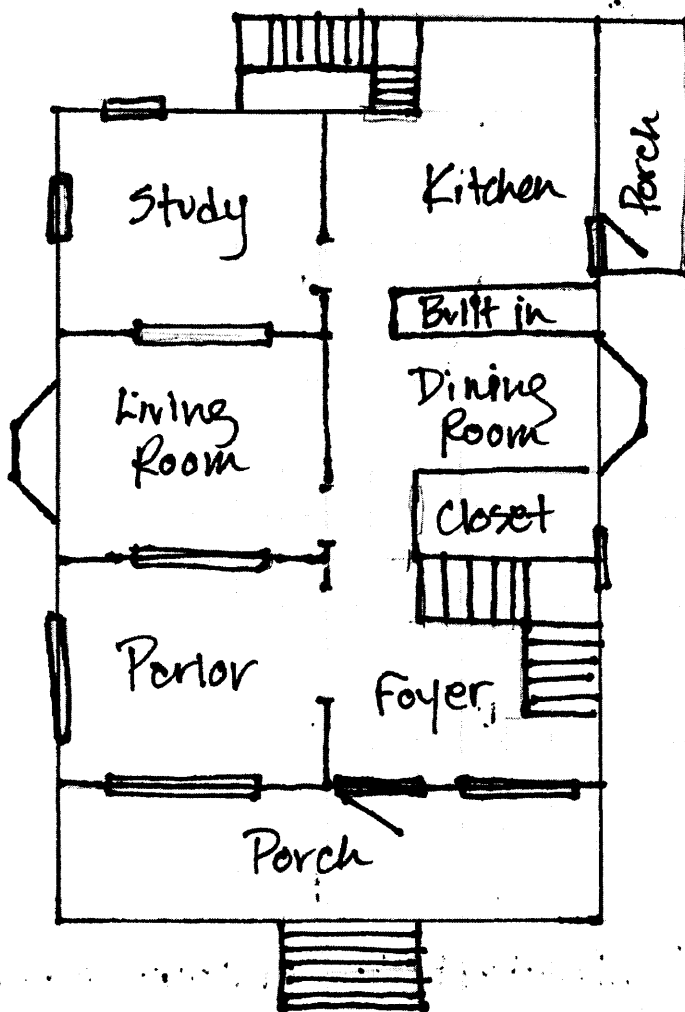
<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1.	Southwest façade, looking northeast
2.	Northwest elevation and southwest façade, looking east
3.	Johnson Carriage House, Southwest façade, looking northeast

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Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.



Emil & Hannah
Johnson House
117 Diggs Ave.
Milbank,
Grant Co., S.D.

First Floor Plan
Not to Scale

B. Kooiman, Sept 2007

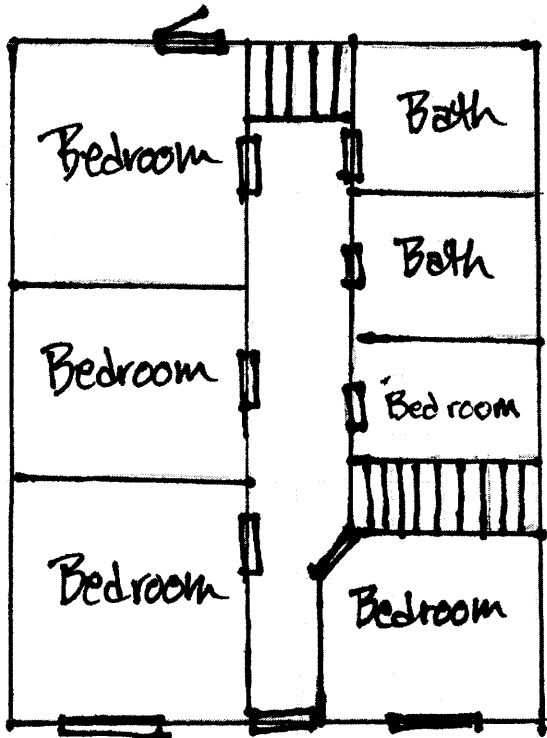


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Johnson, Emil & Hannah, House, Milbank, Grant Co., S.D.



Emil & Hannah
Johnson House
Second Floor Plan

Not to Scale

↑
North

B. Koosman, Sept. 2007