

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 28 1984  
date entered AUG 1 1984

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

1. Name

historic Simmons House

and/or common Same, or Dakota Ring Neck Lodge

2. Location

street & number 1408 South Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Aberdeen

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

code 46

county Brown

code 013

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Milbert Mehlhaff, Trustee

street & number 806 - 17th Avenue S.E.

city, town Aberdeen

N/A vicinity of

state South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brown County Register of Deeds

street & number Brown County Courthouse

city, town Aberdeen

state South Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Aberdeen Survey

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980

federal  state  county  local

State  
depository for survey records Historical Preservation Center

city, town Vermillion

state South Dakota

# 7. Description

<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		

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

Situated on a corner residential lot on Main Street, the frame Classical Revival house is distinguished by its symmetrical composition. This large two-and-one-half story rectangular structure with a raised basement has two brick chimneys, rectangular windows and one-story wings flanking the north and south facades.

Fluted Ionic columns that have egg and dart enrichment support the large semi-circular portico. Dentils along the cornice highlight the entablature and pedimented dormers project from the hip roof. The second floor balcony on the east (front) facade has an outside staircase. On the west side of the building is a small one-story kitchen wing built in recent years. A two-story carriage house with clipped gable roof and a modern 5-car garage are located west of the house.

The central plan interior has been altered to accommodate classrooms. The spacious foyer remains relatively intact, however, with its beamed ceiling and open carved oak staircase.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1919 **Builder/Architect** N/A

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As one of the finest Classical Revival homes in Aberdeen, the Dakota Ring Neck Lodge (Simmons House) is an architecturally significant building. It is also important for its associations with a prominent Aberdeen citizen, John C. Simmons who helped to develop the south part of the city by donating land for schools, parks and residential areas.

John C. Simmons, a New York banker, came to Aberdeen in 1882 to work for the C. A. Bliss bank before going to Federick to organize his own bank. (1) In 1906 he returned to Aberdeen to give his attention to real estate and land interests. He served one term in the legislature in order to help Aberdeen in the fight for the county seat. In 1919, Simmons built the large Classical Revival building for his retirement home at the south end of the city on his previously owned land which was developed into a residential area known as the Simmons' Addition. Mr. Simmons and his wife resided here for many years.

In 1945, the Simmons home was purchased by Wallace R. and Irene E. Kromer to be utilized as a hunting lodge. Chartered planes flew in hunters to Aberdeen from throughout the country for "some of the finest pheasant hunting in the world." (2) The main house as well as the carriage house was used to accommodate the guests. The property was later sold and converted into a single family dwelling again. However, later owners converted the house into apartments. In 1978, Milbert Mehlhoff purchased to the building and leased the space to Northeastern Mental Health, the present occupant of the building.

Although the building has gone through many changes in function, its exterior remains today much as it did when it was built in 1919. As a fine example of Classical Revival architecture with its large semicircular portico supported by Ionic columns and its formal composition, the Dakota Ring Neck Lodge (Simmons House) is one of the finest - and largest - residential structures in Aberdeen.

1

Brown County History. History Committee of Brown County Museum and Historical Society, Northern Press, Aberdeen, SD, 1980, p. 288.

2

Dakota Ring Neck Lodge brochure (undated).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Aberdeen East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	5	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	2	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, 3 and East 60 feet of Lots 12, 13, 14, Block 12, Simmons' First Addition to Aberdeen, Brown County, South Dakota.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Milbert Mehlhaff, owner with the assistance of Melanie Betz

organization N/A date March 27, 1984

street & number 806 - 17th Avenue S.E. telephone Work: 605/225-8520  
Home: 605/225-3219

city or town Aberdeen state South Dakota

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

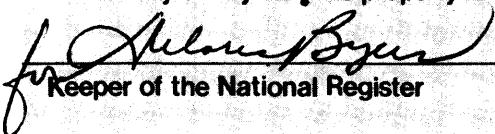
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date 06/30/84

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 8-1-84

Attest: Chief of Registration date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Simmons Flash; Bicentennial Issue. Aberdeen, SD, May 1976.

Aberdeen City Assessors, Tax Roles.

Dakota Ring Neck Lodge Brochure (undated).

Brown County History. History Committee of Brown County Museum and Historical Society. Northern Plains Press, Aberdeen, SD, 1980.

Early History of Brown County, South Dakota. Brown County Territorial Pioneer Committee. Western Printing Co., Aberdeen, SD 1965.