

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 09 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 20 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *BL-12*
Sturgis ~~Historic~~ Commercial District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1000 ~~to~~ 1028 Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN Sturgis

___ VICINITY OF

No. 2

STATE

South Dakota

CODE
046

COUNTY

Meade

CODE

093

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Sturgis

___ VICINITY OF

STATE South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assessor, Meade County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 1425 Sherman

CITY, TOWN Sturgis

STATE South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE 1974

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN Vermillion

STATE South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sturgis Historic Commercial District is located where Junction Avenue intersects with Main Street and is on the south side of Main. Of the nine structures in the district, two were built in the twentieth century: 1900 and 1903, one in 1888 and the remaining in the late 1890s. A couple of structures are two stories high while the rest are one story. All have the same width.

Six of the structures use cut stone for their main facing materials and this stone was hewn from nearby quarries. This material reflects the way many structures use to be built in the Black Hills but many such buildings have been destroyed making the dominance of the stone in the district important. Other materials used as facing include common bond brick, stucco, and modern tile. Of these structures, only two have been damaged enough to detract from their architectural character and both these could be restored. The others have only minor alterations and remain period structures.

The primary structures in the district are:

1008 Main - 1898. This one story structure uses cut stone facing with its doorway set back from the plane of the wall. The front also features three Romanesque arched openings with radiating stone and keystone lugsills. The building also features string cornice, a rectangular cresting on the flat roof, drip molds, and pilasters.

1012 Main - 1899. Another one story structure with almost identical features as 1008 Main with the exception that it has a triangular-cresting at the roof's edge. This building also has a few more alterations but nothing very distracting.

1016 and 1020 Main - 1899. These are two identical one story, cut stone structures. They have semi-modernized fronts, flat roofs, pilasters and vertical stone at the eaves.

1022 Main - 1900. This two-story building has retained its period flavor despite the removal of a small second story balcony. This also is constructed of cut stone and features a bracketed cornice. The windows have segmented arches and lugsills. The entry way is recessed from the front facade wall and the door features a light above. Another door offset to the right leads upstairs; also, it has a light above. Pilasters and stringcourse are also used.

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/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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic district is situated in downtown Sturgis which is located in a basin along the valley of Bear Butte Creek in western Meade County. Located on the eastern fringe of the Black Hills, this city became an important supply center during the gold rush of the 1870s. It is indeed a notable city in understanding the history of this area in South Dakota.

With the deluge of miners to the gold fields, the federal government decided military posts were needed to protect settlers from maurading Indians and to establish law and order. So Camp Sturgis was started in 1876-1877 and later a permanent post--Fort Meade--was set-up on the eastern side of Bear Butte. Along with the military came an entourage of camp followers and economic parasites to fleece the soldiers. They quickly set-up a settlement near the Fort to "scoop" or clean out the military personnel of their money; hence the dubious nickname for Sturgis, "Scoop city."

In 1877 a more permanent and substantial citizenry plotted a townsite of eighty acres. Title for this area was taken from the Valentine Script, a legal document stating that the federal government owes land to the bearer. These people believed Sturgis would be a supply center for the miners, the Fort, and a large cattle industry. Their judgment was correct and the town prospered for both types of citizens. The district reflects this commercial activity with the buildings serving many businesses such as hardware, groceries, saloons, dry goods, and newspaper offices.

Besides the district's importance in commerce, it is also significant architecturally. Most important is the utilization of locally cut stone as facing material on six of the nine structures including five in succession. Although none of the structures are of any particular style, the dominate use of stone and architectural features creates an atmosphere of a late nineteenth century commercial area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Waldman, Charles W., EARLY DAY HISTORY OF STURGIS, FORT MEADE IN THE BEAUTIFUL
BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA, I, 1964.