

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 13 1976

RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

MAY 24 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Inman House

AND/OR COMMON
University of South Dakota Alumni House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

415 East Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 1

STATE

South Dakota

VICINITY OF

CODE

046

COUNTY

Clay

CODE

027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of South Dakota

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pierre

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clay County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

January, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Preservation Center, USD Alumni House

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

After the disastrous flood of Vermillion, South Dakota, by the Missouri River in 1881, the town rebuilt itself above the bluffs to the north. The home erected by Darwin M. Inman and his wife, Adele, was one of the numerous construction projects in the years following the flood.

In 1882 Inman moved a small two-story house to Main Street and a year later erected a larger two-story addition, which demonstrated Italianate influence with brackets decorating the cornice. Its airy gingerbread trim was dwarfed by a peaked rectangular belvedere set above the front door.

Inman made extensive changes to the front section of the house at the turn of the century, enlarging it and replacing the ornate trim with a stately Neo-Classical facade. Inman concentrated his remodeling on the north and west sides. The north fronted Main Street and the west faced his brother-in-law, M.D. Thompson's Shingle style home. A circular driveway serviced both families.

With the exception of the balcony railings, no apparent changes have been made to the front section since that time. The front has an extended pediment projecting over a wide balcony and porch with wrought iron railings. The pediment is supported by four giant Ionic columns. Three identical columns reoccur on the west side. To achieve symmetry, a fluted pilaster is located on the northeast corner.

The lunette decorated low triangular gable above the front columns is copied on the east and west rooflines. Modillions appear beneath the eaves, as well as on the entablature.

The windows on the north and west are especially ornamental, compared to the flat topped windows on the east and south. To the east of the front door is a large square window with sidelights of beveled and leaded glass. The transom and windows flanking the front door exhibit similar glass. The northwest corner features bow windows on both stories, which with the aid of niches on the interior creates a circular effect for the rooms on this corner. The west displays an interesting arrangement of circular and rectangular leaded and beveled windows, producing the impression of two round headed windows side by side, one rather squat and the other lengthy. On the interior these windows highlight the open staircase.

The most distinctive feature of the rear section is the flat-roofed double-storied sunroom extending east from the main body. Although the front section has not been altered, the rear has undergone several changes; in the 1950's a screened porch was built on the southeast corner and the kitchen and garage were enlarged.

The Inmans very elegantly decorated the interior of their home in a classical motif. Outstanding elements were the hand-painted murals on the walls and ceilings of the parlor, the cherry woodwork, and the wallpaper trimmed in 14 kt. gold.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1882 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Darwin Inman/unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Inman House, the most outstanding example of a Neo-Classical style home in Vermillion, stands as an eloquent reminder to the State of South Dakota and to the local community of the pioneer businessman, politician, and educator who constructed it.

Darwin M. Inman, a native of New York state, was a school teacher prior to his move to Vermillion in Dakota Territory in 1874. Soon after his arrival, Inman opened a private bank, the Bank of Vermillion. Besides the usual services offered by private banks on the frontier, Inman engaged in extensive farm mortgaging and real estate investing, thus providing capital and land to the settlers entering Dakota in the Land Boom years.

Inman received a national charter for his bank in 1891; the First National was the earliest chartered bank in Vermillion and Inman served as president until his death in 1913. The bank retained its tradition of judicious management and investment after Inman's death, merging with the Vermillion National in 1929 and becoming a member of the National Bank of South Dakota in 1937.

Besides his entrepreneurial talents, Inman was a prominent Democratic politician in the Republican dominated territorial and early statehood period. He was elected for three terms to the territorial legislature and for one term to the state legislature. While in office, Inman was a member of various educational committees, on which he continually supported the University of Dakota in Vermillion.

It was for his association with the University that Inman was best known in the territory. Although the college had been authorized in 1862, it had never been established. Inman, an adamant believer in higher education, intended that the school should be located in his home town. Fearful that the territorial legislature might place the institution elsewhere, he and three other prominent townsmen labored in 1881 to establish the University as a private corporation in Vermillion before the next legislative session. Inman successfully campaigned for passage of a bond whereby Clay County citizens financed the school's initial operating expenses and construction of its first building. In 1883, the territorial government recognized and assumed control of the University, the first school of higher education in the territory.

Inman took an even more active role in administering University affairs when he became chairman and president of the executive committee of the school in 1887. In the following years, he personally hired and fired University presidents and instructors and supervised the curriculum. At times it was thought that he carried his authority too far, as for instance in an incident in 1891, when he declared "the University in a state of rebellion" and dismissed seven students. Inman continued as trustee for the school until 1895. On the unsettled frontier higher education was often put on the waiting list of priorities, and it was through the far-sighted, albeit often personal, interests of local leaders such as Inman, that higher education was initiated and administered.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

It was appropriate that after the deaths of Inman and his wife, a member of the family donated their house to the State in 1941 as the official residence for the President of the University. It served that purpose until 1968. Since then, it has been the University of South Dakota's Alumni House. The first floor contains the Alumni offices and a reception area for returning graduates; the Historical Preservation Center occupies the second floor.