

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



514

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Pearson Cabin

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 1/3 mile SE of Junction of Radio Road and Highway 14

x

not for publication

city or town Deadwood

vicinity

state South Dakota

code SD

county LA

code 081

zip code 57732

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide   x local

Jay D. Voigt  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
SD SHPO

04-25-2012  
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

   determined eligible for the National Register

   determined not eligible for the National Register

   removed from the National Register

   other (explain:)

for Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

8.14.12  
Date of Action

Pearson Cabin  
 Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
 County and State

**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
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	<b>Total</b>

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

n/a

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

n/a

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not In Use  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Earth  
 walls: Wood: Log  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof: Wood, Metal  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

---

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The cabin is located approximately 1.5 miles east of Deadwood, Lawrence County, in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is built into a ridge located about 1/3 mile above Two Bit Creek. Most of the trees that surround the cabin are Ponderosa Pine and Black Hills Spruce, though ash trees grow below the ridge along the creek. Below the cabin towards the creek is a grassy meadow with a small man-made dam. The topography is rough around the cabin and there is no modern development in its immediate vicinity. An unmaintained, two-track trail leads to the cabin along a ridge from the west.

---

#### **Narrative Description**

The rectilinear cabin is a front gabled log structure that measures approximately 15 feet by 25 feet. The eave on the façade (east elevation) extends approximately 20 inches; the eave on the remaining elevations are approximately 6 inches.

The cabin is built into the side of the hill. Parts of the west and north elevations are built directly into the hill. The cabin has an earth foundation with a wood plank floor. The plank floor is unlevel in areas and covered with pine cones, twigs and other debris. The walls are log with a lime/sand based chinking. A small portion of the chinking has deteriorated and fallen out. The roof is supported by five ridge logs that run from gable to gable. Sawn lumber rafters spaced approximately 20 inches apart support a plank subroof. The original wood shakes have been covered with metal cyanide canister lids. There is a metal stovepipe extending on the north elevation about ¾ of the way below the ridgeline of the gable.

The façade (east elevation) has a five-plank wood door at the southeast corner and a rough-framed window opening north of the door. The south elevation has one rough-framed window opening towards its west end. The north and west elevations have no openings. The interior is an open room. There is a stove located toward the northeast corner (not original to cabin).

The joinery of the logs is non-standard. The logs are not notched, though some are flattened on the top and/or bottom to fit together better. The corners fit well together and are square, though the lack of notching leaves a wide gap in between the logs. This gap requires a considerable amount of chinking. Though the joinery is not notched and requires extra chinking, the cabin is structurally sound and has held together well over the years. This is likely a factor of its location abutting a side hill on the south side of the ridge, where it is protected from the weather.

The two window openings are built of rough-framed lumber. Both openings measure approximately two feet by two feet. There is little evidence remaining to say what, if anything, was in the openings. It is possible that shutters and/or glass windows once filled the openings, but nothing remains on site to confirm any of these materials.

There is a depression of an historic dump measuring approximately 10 foot by 10 foot directly west of the cabin.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

**.8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

**Period of Significance**

c.1876-c.1939

**Significant Dates**

c.1876

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

n/a

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in c.1876 when the first gold seekers arrived in the northern Black Hills and ends in c.1939. It is not known when the cabin was constructed or last occupied. Its log construction suggests it is from the earliest period of settlement in the Black Hills beginning in 1876. The roof is covered with cyanide canister lids, which would not have been available until after 1902 when the cyanide process of extracting gold was used in the Black Hills. This suggests an occupancy after 1902. How long the cabin was occupied after this date is not known. During the depression, many people without work returned to the hills to

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

prospect as way to make a living. Given the good condition of the cabin, it is possible that it was occupied during the 1930s. The end date for the period of significance is c.1939 to coincide with this revival. Economic recovery and the start of World War II ended this revival.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Pearson Cabin is significant locally under Criterion A for its role in **Exploration and Settlement** and under Criterion C for **Architecture** as a great example of a log cabin dating from the early years of the Black Hills.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Pearson Cabin is a great example of vernacular **Architecture** in the Black Hills. The log cabin represents the earliest Euro-American structures dating from the settlement of western South Dakota. Its high degree of architectural integrity allows it to convey its significance in a setting that has changed very little over the years.

The Pearson Cabin is also significant for its role in the **Exploration and Settlement** of the Black Hills in western South Dakota. The gold seekers who came to the Black Hills beginning in the mid-1870s spurred settlement and laid the foundation for a developing mining industry, which directly impacted the settlement of the Black Hills. Few resources from this early settlement period remain.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

**The Pearson Cabin**

Little is known about the construction of the Pearson Cabin, other than what can be observed today. It is referred to locally as the Pearson Cabin as the land that it sits on has been in the Pearson family for many years. However, the family does not know the origins of the cabin. It was built with a non-standard notching pattern with some joints squared flush. The cabin is relatively low, peaking at approximately six feet. This suggests that a single individual could have built the cabin, as a man by himself could only lift the heavy logs so high. The logs on the north and south elevation are also manageable, with a diameter that does not exceed ten inches, which are small enough to be handled by a single, strong man.

The logs are round and not hewn into flat surfaces. The ends of the logs and ridgepoles are straight, suggesting that they were cut, or finished cut, with a saw as opposed to an ax. Generally, logs for cabin construction were cut down on site and an important factor in selecting cabin location was the proximity of mature trees. However, it is possible the logs were hauled in from nearby as there was an early sawmill in operation on Peedee Creek just over the ridge to the west.

It is possible that the cabin was built to work a mining claim or to homestead. It is also possible it was built to do both or neither. There are no patented mining claims in the section in which the cabin is located. However, this area is directly north of Pillar Peak, an area identified through mineral surveys to contain a high concentration of minerals. Two Bit Creek flows from the south to the north, coming down from the Pillar Peak area passing just to the east of the cabin. It is possible that the cabin was constructed as part of a placer mining operation. It could have been part of an unpatented claim, which would explain why there is no record.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

It is also possible that the cabin was built as a homestead. If the builder was not engaged in the mining industry, chances are his/her work supported the mining industry. Agriculture and logging supported mining and were popular occupations in the Black Hills. Given the cabin's location, it is more likely a homesteader would have engaged in livestock production than crop production, though limited land below the cabin in the meadow could have been cultivated. However, no additional buildings or ruins associated with livestock production have been identified in the area of the cabin. Logging is another likely occupation for a homesteader in this area as the surrounding mines had high timber demands. For example, many men in this region worked for the McLaughlin Tie and Timber Company, who were the main suppliers to the Homestake Mine. Emanuel Goughnour also opened a saw mill in Two Bit in 1877.

The Black Hills were also full of failed miners. It is possible that the builder of this cabin was initially involved in placer mining on Two Bit Creek. When the placer gold ran out, it is possible that the builder engaged in another livelihood, such as working in one of the larger capitalized mines. Or it is possible the original builder abandoned the cabin. However, the cabin was likely occupied post 1900. The roof is shingled with the lids of cyanide canisters over the original wood shakes. Cyanide processing was a technological breakthrough in gold mining that occurred after 1900, so the lids would not have been available before then. This suggests an ongoing or continued occupancy of the cabin. The great condition of the cabin also suggests it was continually occupied and maintained for several years.

### **Log Dwellings**

The terminology used to describe log dwellings for human occupation, though not comprehensive, can be divided into two types of structures: log cabins and log houses. Size rather than architectural features seem to distinguish between the two with log cabins usually describing a one-room structure and log houses usually describing a structure with multi-rooms or stories.<sup>1</sup> Log cabins can vary in size, but most are modest. Some variations also have a steeply pitched roof, which allows for a large loft space.

Log cabins have a distinct American connotation, though they are not indigenous. Settlers from Scandinavia, Germany and Switzerland built the first log cabins in America based on the traditions they were familiar with from the Old World. Prevailing conditions in the New World such as climate, availability of building materials and social organization all influenced construction.

Settlers in the Black Hills built log cabins for several reasons. First, trees were available almost everywhere and a settler could cut down enough trees right in the vicinity of where a cabin was being constructed. This reduced the labor in procuring and hauling materials. Second, log cabins were easy to build. A good axe was all that was required, though a few other tools could make building even more efficient. Also, a single person could build a small cabin in a few weeks. Or, a group of people could build a cabin in a few days. In these group raisings, tasks would be divided up between tree fellers, haulers, corner-notching men, shake makers and other tasks.

The arrival of the railroad on the periphery of the Black Hills increased the variety of building materials, but the type and style of structure was influenced more by function and the personal influences of the builders. Prospectors and miners came from all over Europe as well as the eastern United States. The buildings and structures they constructed were heavily influenced by their backgrounds in the early mining period. Miner's

<sup>1</sup> C.A. Weslager. *The Log Cabin In America*. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1969), 57.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

construction styles in the Black Hills were influenced by everything from ethnic traditions to other mining structures they may have seen in the earlier rushes in places such as California or Colorado.

Log cabins, like other forms of folk architecture, were simple expressions of the fundamental need for human shelter. They were not constructed off of written instructions or professional counsel, but were techniques passed down orally through generations or from one neighbor to another. Different regions of the country tend to have vernacular differences.

One of the most recognizable construction differences is the type of notching used to join the corners of the walls. Notching techniques including saddle, V, dovetailing, square, half and double were common. All of these had variations as well with different levels of complication. For example, a full dovetail was a very complicated method that created a strong box corner. A square notch was a simple form, but did not have the interlocking quality of other methods. Simpler notching methods could be supplemented with nails, when available and affordable to the builder. If nails were added, though, they were often a later addition to supplement a failing joint.

Another construction difference is the shape of the logs. Logs could be left round or hewn roughly square. Hewn logs required more work in shaping the logs, but fit tighter against each other requiring less chinking. Other techniques, such as cutting grooves into the log's upper surface to allow for a flush fit with the lower log, could also be used.

A variety of log cabin techniques and characteristics were used in South Dakota. This was primarily a result of the number of different ethnic groups who came from both the New and Old Worlds arriving in the 1860s. However, log cabins mainly occurred regionally in South Dakota. Since most of South Dakota was treeless prairie, only limited parts of the state saw the construction of log cabins. Log construction was limited to areas near water and in the Black Hills.

There is no precise data on the number of extant log structures remaining in the state. Examples are found primarily in the Black Hills and on the homesteads of some of the western counties. The *South Dakota State Historic Preservation Plan* identifies "claim era resources" as an endangered resource due to the majority of them having poor architectural integrity and for being functionally obsolete. Since their use has diminished, several of these resources have deteriorated into complete ruins over the years.

## **Gold Rush and the Settlement of the Black Hills**

### **Black Hills Gold Rush**

Rumors of gold in the Black Hills went back for decades before George Custer's 1874 expedition made it official in the eyes of the United States' Government. Indigenous peoples knew of its existence for generations, though they had no particular use for it and could not understand why the white man coveted it so much. It is possible that trappers and explorers who entered the Hills in the early 1800s saw traces of gold in the streams and, perhaps, carried those stories with them. Stragglers surely slipped in and out of the Hills looking for and possibly finding gold in the years before Dakota Territory was established in 1861. However, it wasn't until 1861 that any organized group seriously considered the Black Hills as a credible mining venture.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

In Yankton in 1861, the Black Hills Exploring and Mining Association was formed, though the Civil War and Sioux uprisings limited the association's activities.<sup>ii</sup> The association was eager to depart for the Black Hills with a military escort, but was thwarted when Lieutenant-General William Sherman instructed Brevet Major-General Alfred Terry to halt the expedition as to not stir up the Sioux.<sup>iii</sup> Another group organized in 1867 but disbanded in 1868 when the Black Hills were made part of the Sioux Reservation in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty.

Even though the Black Hills were part of the Sioux Reservation, the lure of gold proved strong. Small groups of prospectors and Army deserters continued to enter the Hills. The Army turned back many of these groups, but could not completely stop the inflow. Reports continued to find their way to Yankton, South Dakota and Sioux City, Iowa, detailing discoveries of gold in the Black Hills. Indians at the Sioux Agencies confirmed these reports, or at least the reports that there were white men in the Black Hills.

General Sheridan ordered that the Black Hills be explored and a military post set up to protect the Montana goldfields.<sup>iv</sup> In 1874, Lieutenant-Colonel Custer set out from Fort Abraham Lincoln in Bismarck, North Dakota, with ten companies of cavalry and two of infantry to recon the Hills. Although the reports of gold were modest, they were sensationalized in the press.<sup>v</sup> This caused a flurry of activity in the towns surrounding the Hills who expected the gold-seeker's arrival.

This was bad news for the Army, who was tasked with keeping the speculators out. General Sheridan ordered General Terry at St. Paul and General Ord, commanding the Platte, to stop any expedition bound for the Black Hills. Detachments from the Lower Brule Agency and Fort Randall were immediately dispatched to patrol the wagon roads heading west.<sup>vi</sup> This cut down on attempts to enter the hills, but some groups inevitably slipped by.

The Gordon party arrived in December of 1875 and built a stockade near present-day Custer. The Army successfully evicted the mining party a few months later.<sup>vii</sup> The Gordon party was news, though, and word about their discoveries spread. More gold-seekers soon poured into the Black Hills.

The United States government had anticipated this problem. The Bureau of Indian Affairs realized shortly after Custer's expedition of 1874 that it must be determined how much gold existed in the Black Hills. They realized that if they were rich in gold, there would be no way to keep the miners out and that some agreement with the Sioux would be necessary.<sup>viii</sup> Acting under the authority of the Secretary of War, the Bureau appointed Walter P. Jenney and Henry Newton to conduct a geological expedition.<sup>ix</sup> The expedition left Ft. Laramie in May of 1875 with a military escort.<sup>x</sup>

<sup>ii</sup> Watson Parker. *Gold in the Black Hills*. (Pierre: SD, South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2003), 19-20.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid, 21.

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid, 23-24.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid, 26-27.

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid, 29.

<sup>vii</sup> Ibid 36-37.

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid, 63.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid, 63.

<sup>x</sup> Ibid, 63.

Pearson Cabin

Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD

County and State

Although Jenney reported modest gold discoveries, the enthusiasm for the Black Hills continued due in part to its promotion by newspapers at shipping points such as Yankton, Sydney, Nebraska; and Cheyenne, Wyoming, and others. The Army, however, continued to remove the trespassers. General Crook was able to peacefully remove hundreds of miners by promising them that every man who returned to his claim within 40 days after the Black Hills were opened for settlement would continue in possession.<sup>xi</sup> Miners also continued to enter knowing that, even if evicted by the Army, they would not be prosecuted and could return.<sup>xii</sup>

The bulk of the mining activity of 1875-76 occurred in the central Black Hills. President Grant ordered the soldiers out of the hills in late 1875 after negotiations to purchase them or their mineral rights from the Sioux failed, which increased the number of miners coming into the Black Hills. Activity eventually shifted to the northern hills, where richer strikes abounded. By 1876, Deadwood Gulch was booming.

Also occurring in late 1876 were negotiations to remove the Black Hills from the Sioux Reservation. The negotiations basically boiled down to this: the Sioux were to sign an agreement relinquishing their lands west of the 103<sup>rd</sup> parallel in exchange for assurance that the supplies already promised them under the Fort Laramie Treaty would not be discontinued.<sup>xiii</sup> The hand-picked chiefs had no choice but to sign or lose the food and supplies the Sioux were now dependent upon.<sup>xiv</sup> The agreement was signed and ratified by Congress in 1877. The Black Hills were now legally open for settlement.

The initial placer mining of 1875-1876 soon gave way to hardrock mining, especially in the northern Hills. By the end of 1877, hardrock mines produced \$1,500,000 a year compared with \$1,000,000 in placer gold. Now that the Black Hills were no longer Sioux Reservation, investors dared to risk capital in developing new mines.<sup>xv</sup> These men came to the Black Hills with cash, not picks and shovels, and tended to be experienced investors.<sup>xvi</sup> The capitalization era of Black Hills mining had arrived.

### Two Bit and the Gold Rush

The town of Two Bit was located just a few miles east of Deadwood. The origin of its name is disputed. One story says it was named because early prospectors picked up nuggets worth "two-bits" or twenty-five cents apiece. Another story says that there was a mine next to the creek that produced only twenty-five cents of gold a day. Yet another story says it was given this name because of its insignificant size. Finally, it is also possible that the name came from the early placer operations that were so rich that they produced "two-bits" a pan, a significant amount.

Two Bit Creek is a fair-sized stream that produced high quality placer gold. When the placer claims played out, prospectors began looking in the hills themselves and found small veins of gold. Some of these veins were super-rich, but were not extensive. In 1877, a prospecting party also found an old creek bed in the vicinity that produced \$20-\$25 gold dust a day.

Relatively little is known about Two Bit, primarily because it was located two miles from the much larger and legendary Deadwood. Emanuel Goughnour of Iowa arrived in the Black Hills in 1877 and took up a placer claim in Peedee Gulch at Two Bit. There is a record in the 9 November 1877 *Black Hills Daily Times* noting

<sup>xi</sup> Ibid, 67.

<sup>xii</sup> Ibid, 69.

<sup>xiii</sup> Ibid, 138.

<sup>xiv</sup> Ibid, 139.

<sup>xv</sup> Ibid, 185.

<sup>xvi</sup> Ibid, 185.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

Goughnour and fellow miners S.H. Marin, J.W. Rawsdall, J.S. Wilson, John Baggly, Fred Gaylor and Frank Geiger protesting the taking of water out of Two Bit Creek to another gulch. The population of Two Bit at this time is not known, but Goughnour noted that the town fronted the gulch for about one mile. Goughnour started a lumber mill at Two Bit Gulch by August of 1877 and imported machinery for a steam-powered lumber mill in December. He sold out in 1881.

### **The Pearson Cabin as a Mining Resource**

The limited evidence available infers that there is some mining connection to the Pearson Cabin, though the exact nature of that connection is not known. The cabin sits north of Pillar Peak on the ridges above Two-Bit Creek. Pillar Peak was a rich mining region with several patented claims and Two-Bit Creek has always produced placer gold. There is a strong possibility that it was built by someone connected to these mining areas. The cyanide canister lids used as shingles also lend support that the resident(s) of the cabin were involved in mining. However, this evidence is not conclusive.

The *Context for Historic Mining Resources in the Black Hills* evaluation criteria for isolated residences states that:

"Isolated residences are places of developed inhabitation that cannot be clearly tied to an industry or other pattern of subsistence because evidence is insufficient. Such resources lack characteristics or artifacts that can clearly associate the resource with prospecting, mining, logging, transportation, or agriculture. Determining whether a residence in a mining district is an isolated residence can be subjective since it may have served as base of operations for prospectors, hunters, or homesteaders. Isolated residences are simple and usually consist of a few residential features, generic and impoverished artifact assemblages, and no industrial or commercial attributes. If buildings stand, they are likely to be small cabins or frame houses vernacular in appearance and form.

By definition, isolated residences cannot be directly attributed to an industry or other pattern of subsistence. For this reason, their historical associations and Areas of Significance remain unknown until detailed studies or archaeological investigations provide clarifying information."

Since the Pearson Cabin cannot conclusively be identified with mining or a related industry, it has not been nominated under that area of significance at this time (2012). However, since there is a high probability that it is connected, appropriate context has been included in the nomination. For now, the cabin is nominated for its significance in architecture and for the role it played in the exploration and settlement of the Black Hills.

### **The General Mining Act of 1872 and Homestead Act of 1862 in the settlement of the West**

The prospectors who entered the Black Hills after 1877 operated under the General Mining Act of 1872, which governed the prospecting and mining of minerals on federal lands. This law was a reaction to the free-for-all rush that took place in California and Nevada beginning in the 1840s. The act gave all United States citizens over the age of eighteen the right to locate lode or placer claims on federal lands. Before 1877, the Black Hills were part of the Sioux Reservation, making the General Mining Act technically not applicable. However, miners treated them as if they were already federal lands.

Before the act, western miners made their own rules and settled mining disputes themselves. Roughly organized associations of miners would band together to lay out the rules or "mining law" that would be followed in their camps. These rules varied from camp to camp, with variables such as claim size and the amount of time a claim would remain valid without being worked, but followed consistent concepts that spread across the West.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

Many of the prospectors who entered the Black Hills were familiar with the act. Many of them were veterans of the Montana, Colorado and other western gold fields. The act allowed them to stake a claim and file a patent on the land. They also had the option of working the claim and not patenting the land.

Patented land gave the miner the mineral, water, timber and surface rights to the land. It was essentially a deed that allowed ownership and control over the entire claim. An unpatented claim gave the miner the mineral, water and timber rights for the benefit of the claim, but did not give surface control or the deed.

The gold rush in the Black Hills was over by 1879. However, the 1880 Census showed around 16,000 people living there. Many of these stayed to work in the mines and support industries such as logging, ranching, farming and merchandising. The lure of gold brought these settlers to the Black Hills, but, in the end, other ventures kept many of them around.

Those who didn't patent land under the General Mining Act of 1872 often took advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862. It provided for the transfer of 160 acres of unoccupied public lands to each homesteader on payment of a nominal fee after five years of residing on and improving the claim. The land could also be acquired after six months of residence for \$1.25 an acre.

The lure of gold brought people to the Hills, but many settled and found work outside of the mining industry. However, mining was the trigger that drew people in and sustained many more in support industries as the Black Hills were settled in the 1870s. Mining was, by far, the biggest stimulant to settlement in western South Dakota.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Black Hills Daily Times.*

*Context For Historic Mining Resources in the Black Hills and South Dakota.* Draft. South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office.

Parker, Watson. *Gold in the Black Hills.* South Dakota State Historical Society Press, Pierre: SD, 2003.

Weslager, C.A. *The Log Cabin in America: From Pioneer Days to the Present.* Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick: NJ, 1969.

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 128578 4925006  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)  
See attached Map and Plan.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)  
Boundary includes only the cabin and associated dump.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title C.B. Nelson  
organization SD SHPO date 31 August 2011  
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone 605-773-3458  
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501  
e-mail Chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Photographs:**

---

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Pearson Cabin

City or Vicinity: Deadwood, vicinity

County: Lawrence

State: SD

Photographer: C.B. Nelson

Date Photographed: 10 July 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 4.

PearsonCabin_LawrenceCounty_SD_0001	W
PearsonCabin_LawrenceCounty_SD_0002	SW
PearsonCabin_LawrenceCounty_SD_0003	NW
PearsonCabin_LawrenceCounty_SD_0004	NW

---

**Property Owner:**

---

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

name Bill Pearson

street & number 20826 Radio Tower Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

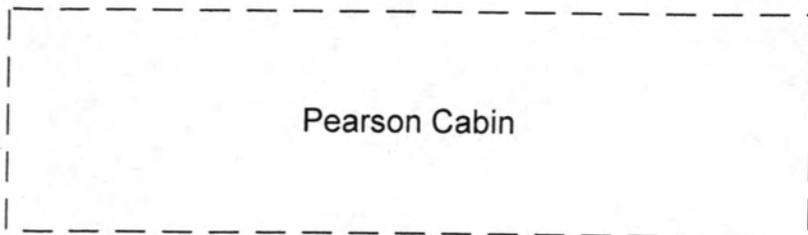
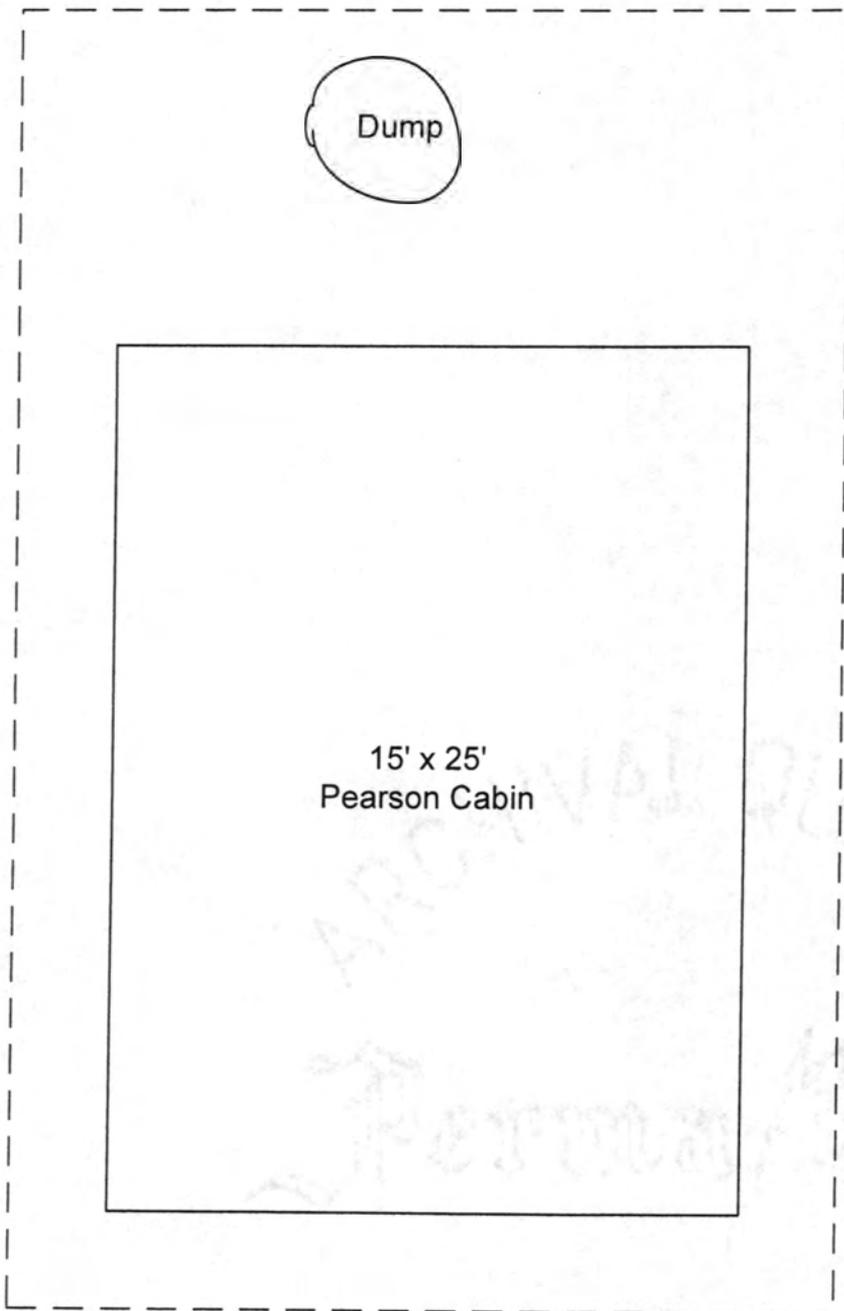
city or town Deadwood state SD zip code 57732

Pearson Cabin  
Name of Property

Lawrence County, SD  
County and State

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pearson Cabin  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH DAKOTA, Lawrence

DATE RECEIVED: 6/29/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/27/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/15/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000514

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 8.14.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Pearson Cabin - Lawrence County - SD - 0001



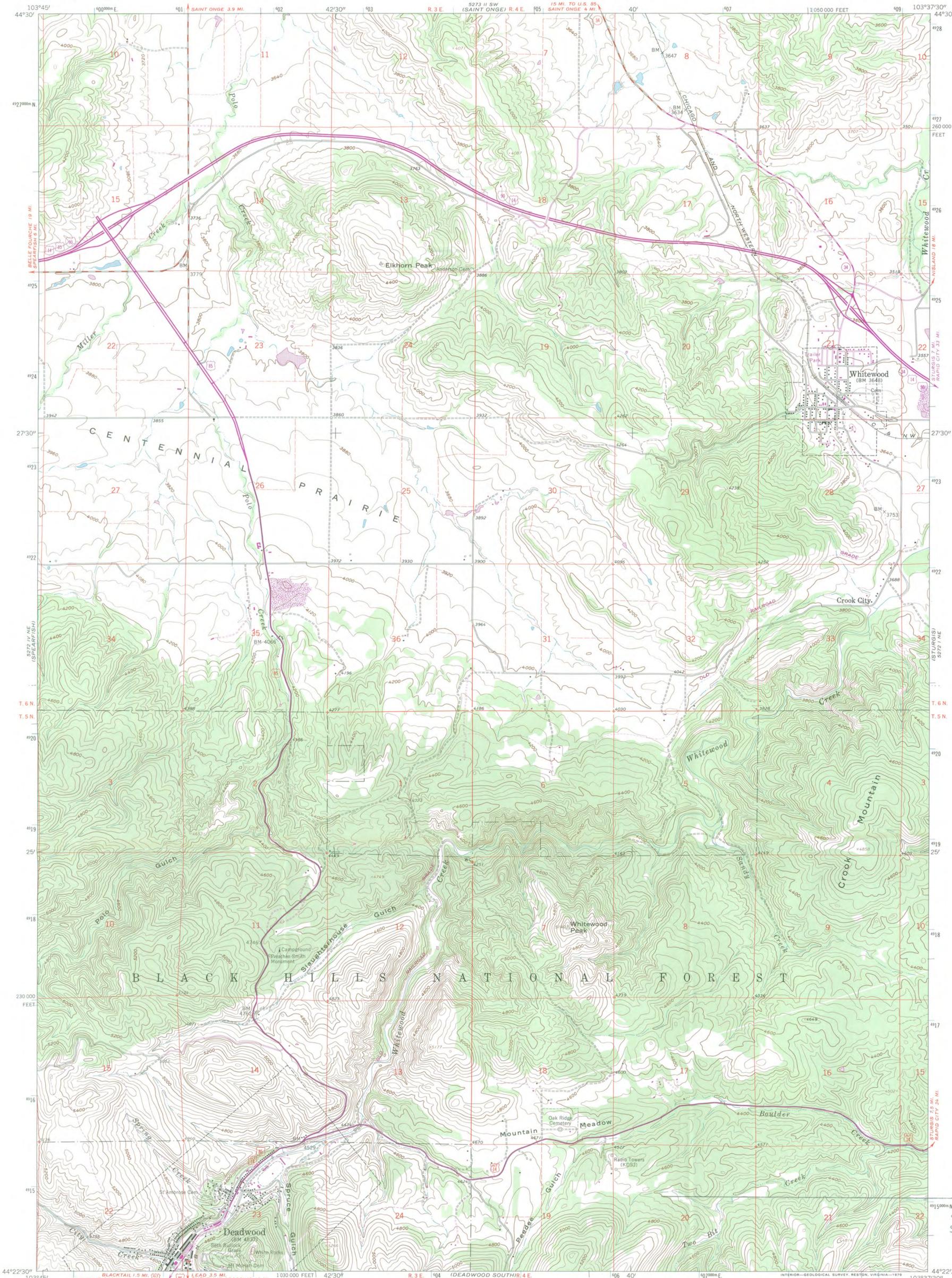
Pearson Cabin - Lawrence County - SD - 0002



Pearson Cabin - Lawrence County - SD-0003



Pearson Cabin - Lawrence County - SD - 0004



Pearson Cabin Lawrence County South Dakota Z 14 E 128578 N 4925000

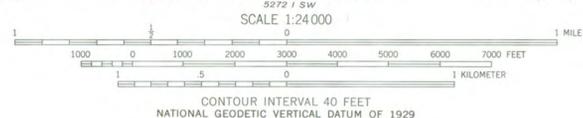
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1961 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on South Dakota coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION table with categories: Primary highway, all weather, hard surface; Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface; Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface; Unimproved road, fair or dry weather; Interstate Route; U.S. Route; State Route

DEADWOOD NORTH, S. DAK.

N 4422.5 - W 10337.5 / 7.5

1961

PHOTOREVISED 1979

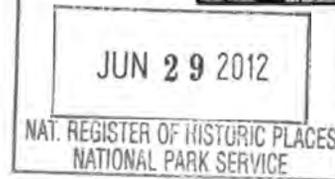
AMS 5272 1 NW - SERIES 8783

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





  
**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM



26 June 2012

Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Parks Service  
1201 Eye St NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Keeper of the National Register:

Enclosed is one National Register nomination: *Pearson Cabin*.

If you have any questions regarding any of these submittals, please feel free to contact Chris Nelson at 605-773-3103 or at [chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us](mailto:chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us).

Sincerely,

Chris B. Nelson  
Historic Preservation Specialist