

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Brown Palace Hotel

and/or common Brown Palace Hotel

**2. Location**

street & number 301 Main Street NA not for publication

city, town Mobridge NA vicinity of congressional district Second

state South Dakota code 46 county Walworth code 129

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>NA</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Raymond J. Grad and Gwendolyn G. Grad A.G. Kohlhaas  
Lorraine Kohlhaas

street & number 301 Main

city, town Mobridge NA vicinity of state South Dakota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Walworth County Courthouse

city, town Selby state South Dakota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NA has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<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	very slightly	

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

Located on the corner of 3rd and Main in downtown Mobridge, the Brown Palace Hotel is one of the most substantial buildings in the city. Measuring 50 feet by 300 feet, the brick veneered, frame structure is a reddish-brown color and has simple, arts and crafts details.

Constructed in 1918, the hotel is three stories in height. The Main Street facade is five bays, and the Third Street facade is twenty-five. There are two shop areas; one on the north bay of the Main Street facade and one on the Third Street side. A one-story drive-through bisects the building and provides access to the Third Street shops and the dining area. Among the exterior details are the corbeled brick cornice, and brick label molds surrounding the windows. Leaded glass is used in upper sashes and small windows. The overall design is very simple, yet polished.

On the interior, few changes have been made. The shop windows have been replaced with contemporary windows which match the original shape of the window. Tile floors in black and white, greyish-white marble wainscoting, black cast metal newell post and bannisters, and severe classical molding complete the decoration of the large, open lobby.

## 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 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 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** 1918 **Builder/Architect** Clarence L. Herges, Aberdeen SD

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brown Palace Hotel is significant to the commercial history of Mobridge. Built during the early prosperous years, the hotel has been integral to the city's business history ever since. Although the design is spare, the building has a certain finish.

Albert H. Brown, the man behind the Brown Palace Hotel, was one of the two major businessmen in Mobridge in the early years. The town of Mobridge was founded in 1906 at the foot of the Milwaukee Road bridge over the Missouri River. The bridge prompted a speculator boom in this remote area of South Dakota. In Mobridge: Its First 50 Years, Julius Skaug writes, "Mobridge's business future got a big push from Dame Fortune when Francais M Goodman and Albert H. Brown met up in French Lick Springs, Indiana - hundreds of miles from the town in which each would leave an imperishable mark."

In 1909 Brown came to Mobridge on a hunting trip at Goodman's invitation; he ended his vacation by buying two lots in Mobridge from the Milwaukee Road. Despite the fact that he intended to retire, as he was then 50 years of age, he began investing in one project after another. One major project was Brownsville, a small suburb of 32 rental homes. He built the Mascot Theatre and the Olson Building located on Main. Later, he presented the town with the A. H. Brown Library (listed on the National Register).

In December, 1912, Brown first announced plans for his hotel. He offered to invest \$40,000 in the building if the people of Mobridge would put up \$15,000 for the mortgage and the city would guarantee free water for ten years. In return, the citizens would have access to convenient public restrooms. The Brown Palace was eventually begun in 1915 at the cost of \$120,000. Three years later it was completed. A barbershop was located to the north of the main entrance, and the hotel featured a lunch room, dining room, eight apartments and 110 total rooms. The hotel was soon the social center of Mobridge.

Over the years many of the town's major events were celebrated at the Brown. Today the hotel stands in near original condition. Its many rooms are no longer filled by traveling people, however, it remains as the most conspicuous of A. H. Brown's commercial ventures and represents a vital period in Mobridge's history.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mildred Brown et al. Mobridge Diamond Jubilee, 1956-1981. Northern Oahe Historical Society.  
 Julius Skaug. Mobridge, Its First 50 Years, 1906-1956. Brown Lithographing Co.: Mobridge SD

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property one  
 Quadrangle name Mobridge

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

**UMT References**

A 

1	4	3	8	8	0	4	0	5	0	4	3	2	2	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**

The lot lines of the property form the boundary of the site, which lies in Lots 11, 12, & 13, Block 3 of the Original Plat, City of Mobridge.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

technical editing: Carolyn Torma  
 Historical Preservation Cen  
 USD Vermillion SD 57069

name/title Mrs. Irene A. Herzog and Robert T. Larsen

organization Northern Oahe Historical Society

date 10 Sept 82

street & number PO Box 457

telephone 605-845-3688

city or town Mobridge

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*James A. Johnson*

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation

date 12/13/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 1/27/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 21 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The A.H. Brown Public Library should be exempt from the fifty year rule because it was constructed in 1930 only twenty-four years after the town was founded. This town has a relatively young history which limits the number of potential Register Sites; especially those deemed architecturally significant. Therefore, the building is an early institutional structure that should be placed on the Register when the age of the town is taken into consideration.