

# SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORIC INVENTORY

Historic Name Elks Building

Location 508-12 6th Street

Historic

Function Fraternal hall; bank; offices; theatre; retail shops

Historic Context(s)

Topic V. Depression and Rebuilding

Study Unit 1 A. Changing Urban Patterns

Study Unit 2 2. Rebuilding Commercial Centers in Larger Towns

Owner's Name Stephen F. McCarthy

Owner's Address RR8 Box 352-D R.C. 57732

and United Artists Realty Co.

113 Middle Neck Rd Great Neck, N.Y. 11021

Owner's Phone # McCarthy: 343 1165

Dates of Construction and Founding

1911-12 R.C. Lodge founded 4 February 1910

Roll # 3; 11 Frame # 18A-23A; 28-31

Attach Photos Here ↓

Site Number

<u>PN</u>		<u>RC</u>		<u>38</u>
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County

Township

City

Neighborhood

Number

U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name

W10' of Lt 13, All Lots 14-16 except 559.5' of Lts 13-16

559.5' of Lts 12-16 (this parcel owned by United Artists)

Legal Description

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Q1

Q2

Sec

T

R

Surveyors Michael Korp

Date June 1990

NR Eligible

Historic Significance

Local

Architect. Sign

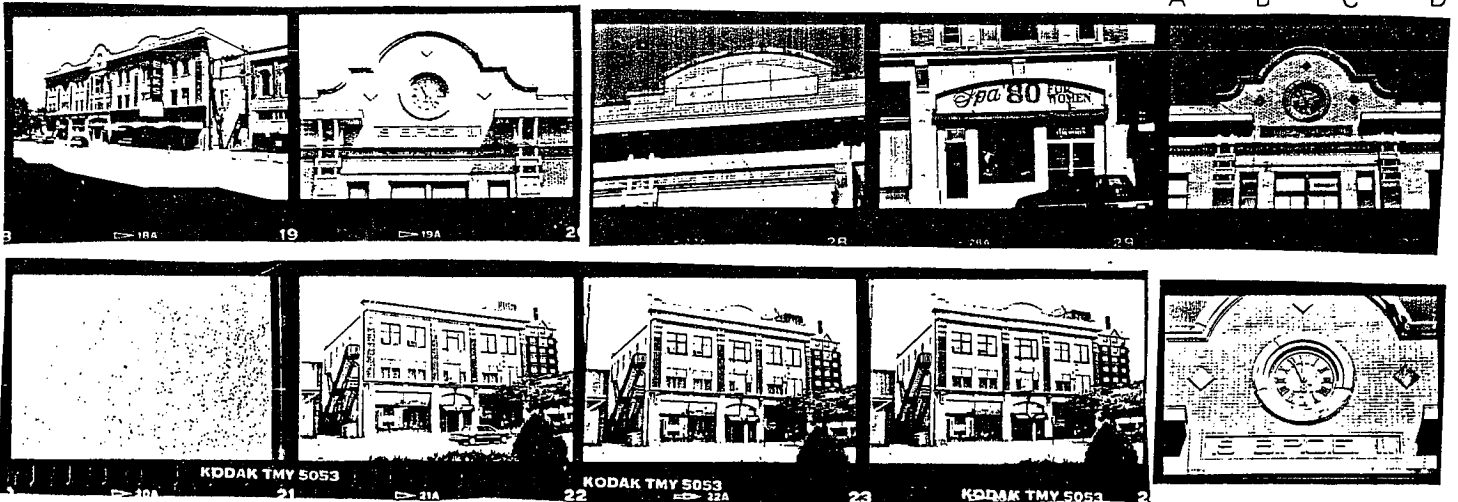
State

Archaeological Sign

Nat'l

Urban only

A B C D



## Floor Plans of Major Buildings; Indicate Room Functions

The Elks Building is a three-story brick and stone Neoclassical structure located at the southeast corner of Main and 6th Streets. Its symmetrical 6th Street facade is composed of 7 bays, with each bay divided by a brick pilaster of slightly darker brick than the buff-colored walls. Wide segmental and flat arches span the width of each bay on the left half of the first floor facade. The right side has been altered with modern materials. The second floor of each half has a Chicago style window flanked by two  $\frac{1}{2}$  double hung sash. The third level repeats this fenestration. The middle bay features Chicago style windows flanked by one  $\frac{1}{2}$  double hung sash on each floor above the entrance. A cornice with stone brackets separates the first and second floors. A more ornate cornice with dentils and paired brackets boldly projects near the top of the building. The parapet has a stone coping and shaped pediment in the center with a clock and stone name plate with "19 B.P.O. E 11." in relief.

The Main Street elevation is three bays wide with the same windows and construction details as the facade. The rear wall has several segmentally arched double hung windows on the third floor.

Preservation Strengths of Site

- In use and not threatened *some vacant spaces*
- In good structural condition
- Owners protecting site
- Appreciated by public
- Valuable to research

Preservation Threats

- Abandonment
- Deterioration through lack of resources
- Vandalism or looting
- Inappropriate alterations
- Inappropriate or poor maintenance
- Fragile or deteriorating construction materials
- Unsound fragile condition
- Lack of support (specify by whom)

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Environmental situation(s) effecting site (specify what; may include mining, flooding erosion, pollution, acid rain, weather, isolation, settlement, etc.)

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CONTEXT

Site Number/Code PN-RC-38

Statement of Significance As It Relates to the Context Topics & Study Units.

The Elks Building is historically significant in the context of Depression and Rebuilding, 1893-1929 because it represents one of the many buildings constructed during an important building phase during the second decade of the century.

Sources of Information

Oral Interview (name & dates) 11 February 1912  
Rapid City Daily Journal 7 June 1911 p.1; 8 June 1911 p.1; 15 June 1911 p.1; 1 July 1911 p.1; 27 July 1911 p.1; 27 June 1911, p.1; 29 August 1911 p.1; 24 January 1915;  
Black Hills Weekly Journal 16 February 1912; 19 December 1913; 28 October 1910

Atlas (date & publisher) R.C.D.J. 31 July 1928 p. 3

County History (name & pages)

Deed Abstract Building Permit

Tax Records Assessment in Equalization Office

Sanborn-Ferris Maps (dates) 1909; 1915; 1923; 1930

Census Records

Historic Photos (description & date) in Rapid City Public Library, # 44

Manuscripts (name & date)

Site Number/Code	Date of Bldg.	Function/Bldg.	Photo Info.	Date of Bldg.	Function/Bldg.	Photo Info.	Date of Bldg.	Function, Bldg.	Phot Info.
PN-RC-38	1911-12	Elks Building							
Materials	FOUNDATION	stone							
Method of Construction									
Design Details									
Condition		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		
Materials	WALLS	brick and stone							
Method of Construction		steel frame brick + stone veneer							
Design Details									
Condition		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		
Materials	ROOF	tar and gravel							
Method of Construction									
Design Details									
Shape		flat							
Condition		deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		
Interior Features - Moldings, Fireplaces, Org. cabinets, Wall decoration	INTERIOR								
Condition		deteriorated _____ altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____	deteriorated _____ altered _____	poor maint. _____		

HISTORY

Date of founding of institution or of settlement 4 February 1910 Rapid City Lodge founded

Previous owners of the site Land was donated by P.B. McCarthy

First owners \_\_\_\_\_  
and dates \_\_\_\_\_  
of ownership \_\_\_\_\_

Place of origin of owners \_\_\_\_\_

Date owners came to SD (& USA) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of owners \_\_\_\_\_

Historic owners: religious affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Historic owners: social (fraternal) affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Historic uses of the site (& buildings) fraternal hall, theatre, lunk, offices; retail shops

Builder's name J.M. Bett's Construction Co. (Huron)

Architect's name unknown

Date of commission \_\_\_\_\_ Date of construction 1911-12

History (attach research materials to file)

The right (or south) side of the Elks Building was originally used as a theatre for live performances and eventually motion pictures. The Bett's Construction firm was awarded the contract for \$59,115 and the contract stated that the building would be completed by April 1 1912 or a fine of \$25 per day would be levied. A \$25 bonus was to be granted for every day before April 1 if the building was finished early. Brick was furnished by Black Hills Pressed Brick Company, stone from a Hot Springs Quarry, and interior tile from the Black Hills Bricks and Tile Co. Crittendon and Wentworth Co of Rapid City completed the mill work, and someone named Foyle did the interior decorating. In late 1913 the building was offered at public sale because \$15,000 was owed on the property.

RCDJ

scribed by the ritual of the order. F. S. Emrick, exalted ruler, will start the opening colloquy and be followed by Chaplain H. L. Hutchins with invocation. At this point the box containing documents, coins and other articles will be placed in the stone, and the stone itself fitted in its place. W. H. Keller, tyler of the lodge, will hand Exalted Ruler Emrick a vessel of water and he will consecrate the stone.

The consecration will be followed by a cornet solo by Brother H. L. Hutchins, the selection being Madam Serenade, by Misses. The exalted ruler then spreads the mortar on the stone with appropriate words and the ritual and the chaplain again offers an invocation.

Music by the Elks band, the selection being from Madam Sherry, now, and then Hon. C. H. Dillon will deliver the oration. Another selection by the band "Woodland" will follow and the Elks sing a hymn, as follows:

Great Ruler of the Universe,  
All seeing and benign,  
Look down upon and bless our work  
And be all glory Thine!"

The exercises will conclude by the exalted ruler declaring the cornerstone in position.

# ORN EARS FOOT LONG IN HURLEY

## AN EXPERT GIVES OPINION ON CORN CROP IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

oux City, Ia., Aug. 29. The best part of South Dakota have a good corn crop according to John Zehnder, of Correctionville, Ia., who was in the city today on his return from Hurley, S. D., and his brother, Jake Zehnder, rates a 160 acre farm. Mr. Zehnder brought with him several ears of the corn from that field which are of an unusual size, averaging over a foot in length. He says that about 40 acres of his brother's farm will yield more than

# ELKS BUILDING CREDIT TO CITY

THE HANDSOME STRUCTURE AT  
MAIN AND SIXTH IS  
— VERY MODERN,  
— TO CONTAIN THEATRE, STORES,  
— OFFICES AND SPACIOUS  
— HOME OF ORDER.

"Hello, Bills" will have full possession of the city today, when the cornerstone of the handsome Elks building will be formally placed. The formation of the lodge less than two years ago, its rapid growth in membership, its haste to get a building and one which when completed will not only be an ornament to Rapid City but a credit to the order the country over, all stands as a monument to the push and enterprise of Rapid Citizens.

The new building, which stands at the corner of Main and Sixth streets will be three stories in height with stone and reinforced concrete foundation to grade. The first story will be faced with sandstone from the Evans quarry at Hot Springs, and the remainder of the structure will be of pressed brick and tile from the Rapid City Lime and Gypsum Co. and the Rapid City Brick and Tile Company.

The building is L shaped, having its main entrance on Sixth street and extends from the alley to Main street. The basement will contain a large storeroom, and at the street corner a barber shop. The first floor will have a theatre in the southern end with a seating capacity for 1,000 people. The incline of the parquett floor will be one inch to the foot giving those occupying the rear seats as good a view of the stage as those seated near it. A balcony will also increase the capacity of the house. In addition to this there are to be six boxes, four on the stage level and two on the balcony. The

Watson was the boy and what he told the jury upset the plan of the commonwealth to rest its case today. The revelation concerning the presence of more than one blood spot is in line with the conception of the defense that all the blood on the road oozed from the car in which Mrs. Beattie was shot. The prosecution's theory has been that the large blood spot in the road where Mrs. Beattie is alleged to have been killed resulted from a murder committed outside of the machine, and not in it as Beattie alleges. The defendant and Paul J. Beattie, his cousin, who yesterday told on the witness stand of the alleged confession by Henry concerning the murder were confined in separate cells in the county jail here tonight. Paul hitherto has been kept in confinement in Richmond in default of a bond, but today, after finishing on the witness stand, Judge Watson suddenly ordered his retention in jail here.

Walshes at Harney.  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walsh, of Pierre, are at the Harney, en route to Hot Springs. Mr. Walsh is interested in promoting the Midway Hotel Company.

# WOULD SAVE YOUTH FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR

## EXPERTS SAY MAY BELIEVED TO BE MURDERED DIED OF HEART FAILURE.

New York, Aug. 29. In a fight to save Paul Geldel from the electric chair, the defense today introduced testimony tending to show that William H. Jackson died of heart disease and not as the result of chloroform applied by the seventeen year old boy. Dr. Max E. Talmay, an expert witness for the defense, declared that he believed death was due to heart failure.

RED CROSS OFFERS SERVICES.

I have a good corn crop accord-  
 ing to John Zehnder, of Corvallis  
 county, Ia., who was in the city today  
 on his return from Hurley, S. D.,  
 where his brother, Jake Zehnder,  
 operates a 160-acre farm. Mr.  
 Zehnder brought with him several  
 samples of the corn from that vicin-  
 ity, which are of an unusual size, av-  
 eraging over a foot in length. He  
 states that about 40 acres of his  
 brother's farm will yield corn this  
 year an average of an ear to the  
 bush. The remainder of the property  
 will probably yield 60 bushels to  
 the acre.

#### Still Boosting the Black Hills.

John H. Johnson, Jr., is back  
 from an extended trip over the west-  
 ern states, including central Califor-  
 nia. He went with a view of locat-  
 ing. He says that he saw a lot  
 of fine country, but came to the con-  
 clusion "To let well enough alone."  
 He says that the Black Hills have  
 a good opportunity for a man as  
 any part of the country he visited.  
 Mr. Johnson owns a fine farm six  
 miles north of town on Box Elder,  
 known in the early days as the  
 Moore ranch. He started his farm-  
 ing operations on that place twenty  
 years ago, first as a tenant and af-  
 terwards purchasing it and they  
 have ever since been known far and  
 near for their hospitality and many  
 a weary traveler has found their  
 place a haven of refuge.

Mr. Johnson has had the same ex-  
 perience as many of the old settlers,  
 of hard times, crop failures, etc.,  
 but adding the lean years with the  
 fat ones, it averaged up fairly well.  
 "The Black Hills are good enough  
 for me," he says.

#### HARRY PASCOE OFF TO COLLEGE

Mrs. Pascoe Will Visit in Mitchell  
 Several Weeks.

Mrs. William F. Pascoe leaves  
 this morning for Mitchell, where she  
 will stay at the Widmann hotel for  
 several weeks. She will be accom-  
 panied by her son, Harry, who will  
 continue the journey to Notre Dame,  
 Ind., where he will resume his stud-  
 ies in the college with the opening  
 of the fall term. Young Pascoe has  
 already attended the college one  
 year.

#### Experiment Station.

Hot Springs, Aug. 20.—Prof.  
 Chilcott, head of the dry farming  
 section of the department of agricul-  
 ture, and John S. Cole of Denver,

will have a theatre in the southern  
 end with a seating capacity for 1,  
 000 people. The incline of the par-  
 quett floor will be one inch to the  
 foot giving those occupying the rear  
 seats as good a view of the stage as  
 those seated near it. A balcony will  
 also increase the capacity of the  
 house. In addition to this there are  
 to be six boxes, four on the stage lev-  
 el and two on the balcony. The  
 stage is 55 by 35 feet in dimensions,  
 making it large enough to play any  
 company that will visit the Hills,  
 even a big operatic attraction.

On either side of the entrance to  
 the theatre there will be an office  
 and a cigar store. The balance of  
 the ground floor will be given up to  
 a large store 65 by 54 feet.

On the second floor will be 20 off-  
 ices so arranged that tenants can oc-  
 cupy one or more as demand may  
 require.

It is the third floor which contains  
 the most interesting features of the  
 building, for here it is that the Elks  
 will have their home. The entire  
 space will be devoted to lodge pur-  
 poses. The lodge room will be over  
 the balcony of the theatre and con-  
 tain 2,750 square feet of floor space.  
 Then adjoining this room is a ban-  
 quet hall 46 by 24 feet. The social  
 room is 23 by 24 feet and in addi-  
 tion to all of this there is a billiard  
 and pool room, card room, buffet  
 and kitchen, and other rooms, includ-  
 ing lavatories and the necessary off-  
 ices of the lodge.

The building when completed will  
 have cost \$60,000. It was begun  
 June 15 by the Betts Construction  
 Co., of Huron and is being built un-  
 der the personal supervision of Mr.  
 Betts, who stated yesterday that he  
 expected to have his part of the work  
 completed by April 1, 1912.

The base stone is of granite from  
 Melrose, Minn., and the corner  
 stone is of Illinois monument  
 granite, which is susceptible of tak-  
 ing a high polish. The carving on  
 the street face of the corner stone  
 read on the Main street side "Elks  
 Building 1912." On the Sixth street  
 side there is chiseled the head of an  
 Elk, and in Latin, the order's motto,  
 "Cervus Alces" which translated  
 means a member of the deer family.

## HENRY BEATTIE IS PLACED IN JAIL

chair, the defense today introduced  
 testimony tending to show that Wil-  
 liam L. Jackson died of heart fail-  
 ure and not as the result of chloro-  
 form applied by the seventeen-year  
 old boy. Dr. Max E. Talmy, an ex-  
 pert witness for the defense, de-  
 clared that he believed death was  
 due to heart failure.

#### RED CROSS OFFERS SERVICES.

Hurricane Leaves Death and Sick-  
 ness in Its Path.

Charleston, S. C., Aug. 20.

Charleston is steadily recovering  
 from the disastrous results of the  
 hurricane. As far as can be ascer-  
 tained eleven lives were lost in  
 Charleston county, and a score or  
 more injured. The property damage  
 amounts to millions. In the low  
 country there is much suffering and  
 danger from sickness. The red cross  
 has volunteered to render any finan-  
 cial assistance needed.

#### Lights on St. Joe Street.

Last evening the incandescent  
 lights were turned on on St. Joe  
 street. During the summer Main  
 street has been illuminated and pre-  
 sented a beautiful appearance. St.  
 Joe people became tired of having  
 all the brightness on Main street  
 and took steps to have some lights  
 also. Last evening they were turned  
 on, but not quite as they will be by  
 the first of the month. The lights  
 made a great improvement and it  
 is hoped they may be kept shining.

## FAITH'S POTATO CROP ABUNDANT

ONE FARMER PRODUCES 875  
 BUSHELS ON 2 1/2 ACRES  
 WORTH \$1,925.

Faith, Aug. 20.—Potatoes worth  
 \$1,925 were this year raised on two  
 and one-half acres of ground with-  
 in eighteen miles of Faith.

Some of the potatoes have already  
 been delivered at local merchant,  
 who bought them eagerly as among  
 the best "spuds" on the market.

Mr. Oakland lives eighteen miles  
 southwest of Faith, on Bruchle  
 creek, and last spring planted two  
 and one-half acres of potatoes. The  
 patch was irrigated twice during the