

SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORIC INVENTORY

Historic Name Elks Building

Location 508-12 6th Street

Historic

Function Fraternity 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 RR 8 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

| | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|----|
| PN | | RC | | 38 |
|----|--|----|--|----|

County Township City (Urban) Neighborhood (Urban) 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 Lots 12-16 (this parcel owned by United Artists)

Legal Description

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

Q1 Q2 Sec T R

Surveyors Michael Koop

Date June 1990

NR Eligible

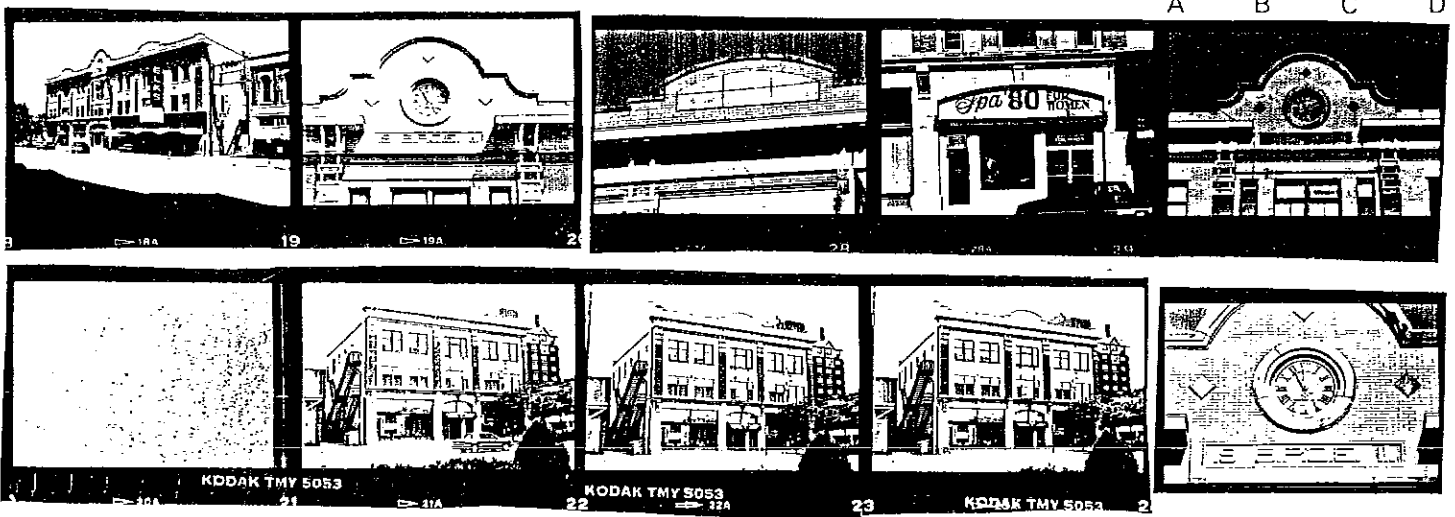
Historic Significance Local

Architect. Sign State

Archaeological Sign Nat'l

Urban only

A B C D



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)

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

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, 1893-1927
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) Rapid City Daily Journal ^{11 February 1912} 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.S. 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. | Photo Info. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | 1911-12 | Elks Building | | | | | | | | | | |
| PN-RC-38 Materials Method of Construction Design Details Condition Materials Method of Construction Design Details Condition Materials Method of Construction Design Details Condition Interior Features - Moldings, Fireplaces, Org. cabinets, Wall decoration | FOUNDATION | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Stone | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | |
| | brick and stone | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WALLS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| steel frame brick + stone veneer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | |
| tar and gravel | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ROOF | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| flat | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | deteriorated _____ altered _____ | poor maint. _____ | | | |
| INTERIOR | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| deteriorated _____ altered _____ | 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, bank, offices; retail shops

Builder's name J.M. Bet'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 Bet'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 Brick and Tile Co. Crittendon and Wentworth Co. of Rapid City completed the mill work, and someone named Foye did the interior decorating. In late 1913 the building was offered at public sale because \$15,000 was owed on the property.

...ed 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 "Magna Serenade" by Misud. The exalted ruler then spreads the mortar on the stone with appropriate words and the ritual and the chaplain then 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 oration by the band "Woodland" will follow and the Elks sing a song, as follows:

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

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

CORN EARS FOOT LONG IN HURLEY

AN EXPERT GIVES OPINION
ON CORN CROP IN SOUTH
DAKOTA.

... City, Ia., Aug. 29. The northern 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., to see his brother, Jake Zehnder, who owns a 160 acre farm. Mr. Zehnder brought with him several ears of the corn from that place, 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...

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 will be a masterpiece, 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 a good 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 Hurney.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walsh, of Pierre, are at the Hurney, en route to Hot Springs. Mr. Walsh is interested in promoting the Midway Hotel Company.

WOULD SAVE YOUTH FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR

EXPERTS SAY MAN BELIEVED
TO BE MURDERED DIED OF
HEART FAILURE.

New York, Aug. 29. In a fight to save Paul Helder 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. Talmy, 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 Corral
 Verde, who was in the city today.
 He has return from Hurley, S. D.,
 where his brother, Jake Zehnder,
 operates a 160-acre farm. Mr.
 Zehnder brought with him several
 ciphers 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 and 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
 good opportunities 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 blows, crop failures, etc.,
 but adding the best years with the
 best 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. 29.—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 33 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 inventory 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 monumental
 granite, which is susceptible of tak-
 ing a high polish. The carrying on
 the street faces 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 H. 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. 29.
 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. 29.—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 merchants,
 who bought them eagerly as among
 the best "spuds" on the market.

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