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McMillan House in Sturgis listed on National Register of Historic Places

PIERRE, S.D. – The John and Elsie McMillan House in Sturgis has recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society.

Built in 1887, the John and Elsie McMillan House is listed on the National Register for its local significance in architecture. It is a good example of the Queen Anne Style and one of the few Victorian-influenced homes in Sturgis that retains high integrity. Both the exterior and the interior of the home have been minimally altered from the original construction.

In 1878, at age 32, John C. McMillan and his wife Elsie moved from Wisconsin to Sturgis. Upon arrival they took up a homestead claim near town, and he went to work for a trader at the nearby Fort Meade. Two years later, he successfully engaged in the shoe and boot business in Sturgis, which eventually led to the McMillan Mercantile business in 1881. He and Elsie had five children. John was also active in politics, serving as city councilman, mayor, and chairman of the state and county Republican central committees.

The National Register is the official federal list of properties identified as important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society works in conjunction with the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register program, to list the properties.

"South Dakota's history is rich in American Indian culture, pioneer life and change," said Jay D. Vogt, state historic preservation officer and director of the State Historical Society, headquartered at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. "Properties listed on the National Register are important for their role in South Dakota's culture, heritage and history. And when properties get listed, it shows that their owners take pride in their role in preserving that culture, heritage and history."

Buildings, sites, structures and objects at least 50 years old possessing historical significance may qualify for the National Register, according to Vogt. Properties must also maintain their historic location, design, materials and association. Listing on the National Register does not place any limitations on private property owners by the federal government.

For more information on the National Register or other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458 or website history.sd.gov/Preservation and click on National Register of Historic Places in the right column.

About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.