

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Spearfish Historic Commercial District (Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: Various

City or town: Spearfish State: SD County: Lawrence

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	<hr/>
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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
 (Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
 Name of Property _____

Lawrence County, South
 Dakota
 County and State _____

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	
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 11

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Commerce: Business
- Commerce: Specialty store
- Commerce: Department store
- Commerce: Financial institution

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Commerce: Restaurant
Social: Meeting hall
Recreation: Music facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce: Business
Commerce: Restaurant
Commerce: Specialty store
Recreation: Music facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Italianate
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone: Sandstone; Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District is located in the downtown core of Spearfish, South Dakota and contains twenty-three commercial properties. The two-and-a-half block district is defined by its commercial storefronts, many of which date to the turn of the twentieth century. This district follows a traditional grid pattern with narrow, but deep, lots set on uncommonly wide streets. The buildings directly abut sidewalks with no setback. With a few exceptions on West Illinois Street, the buildings also abut each other forming large commercial blocks that

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

emphasize the linearity of the district. The buildings in the district are all one or two stories tall, allowing for significant views of the surrounding Black Hills.

Purpose of Amendment

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in January of 1975. The nomination is being amended for several key reasons. The first is to clarify which structures in the district are contributing and which are non-contributing. The previous nomination divided buildings into five categories: “exceptional,” “good,” “blending,” “distracting,” and “very distracting,” a system of categorization that is no longer used. The second reason for this amendment is to specify the period of significance for this district, which was omitted from the original nomination. The third is to provide additional documentation that speaks to the district’s historic and architectural significance. Finally, the nomination is recommending a boundary decrease. Two non-contributing properties are being removed. Also, a vacant lot that previously contained a contributing property is being removed.

Narrative Description

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District is located in Spearfish, Lawrence County, South Dakota and encompasses just over two blocks in area. The district is primarily located on North Main Street and West Illinois Street and also includes one building in the 700 block of 5th Street. The district is set in the original downtown center now surrounded by more modern commercial development. It contains twenty-three resources, eleven contributing and twelve non-contributing, all commercial buildings with the exception of one mixed-use building. The contributing buildings in the historic district were constructed 1893-1912, which is the recommend period of significance. Construction in the district decreased after this period and only seven of the buildings were constructed post-1912.

In this district, non-contributing properties outnumber contributing. However, this ratio is deceiving. The majority of non-contributing properties are small, one-story commercial buildings. Contributing buildings, such as Lown Mercantile, Wolzmuth Hardware, American National Bank, and the Matthews Opera House are large, two-story buildings that occupy a significant amount of space in the district. For example, the Matthews Block occupies two-thirds of a city block (604-630 Main), but is only counted as one contributing resource.

Architecturally, the district includes one-part and two-part commercial buildings, many with Italianate detailing. There are also some structures that break this typographic mode in favor of more modern forms. Buildings in the district, especially those lining North Main Street, are largely constructed of sandstone giving the district a stylistic unity. Another architectural theme of note is the storefronts themselves. Most of the buildings within the district have large display

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

windows that provide a visual consistency along the lower level of buildings. Within the district, the streetscape is enhanced by sidewalks and wide streets. Without exception, the buildings follow a consistent relationship to the street, abutting the sidewalks and often each other.

The non-contributing resources are considered such because they were either constructed outside the period of significance or have lost their historic integrity due to alteration. Many of the contributing buildings are constructed of brick or locally quarried sandstone. Other building materials commonly used in the district are concrete and wood. The contributing buildings retain integrity of materials or have used replacement materials that are in keeping with the historic character of the district. Many of the two-story buildings have altered first stories and intact second stories which is in keeping with trends of other commercial historic districts in South Dakota.

INDIVIDUAL DESCRIPTIONS

603 North Main Street

Lots 6B & 6C of Lot 6 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300036

1923

Contributing

This one-story brick commercial building sits at the corner of North Main and Hudson Streets and features an angled corner entrance. The southern elevation has four bays; the western two have been infilled. The other bays hold large commercial windows with simple aluminum surrounds. The main ornamental detail on this building is a series of brick corbelled arches that run above the recessed windows and basket weave brickwork above the entrance. The corner entrance has an aluminum frame door and window surrounds. Historically, the angled corner entrance did not exist. Based on photographic evidence, it was altered sometime between circa 1953 and 1975. Also using photographic evidence, the transom windows above four bay windows were added post-1976.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

605 North Main Street

Lot 6A of Lot 6 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300039

1900

Contributing

This two-story commercial building was constructed of brick in 1900. The brick first story features large commercial windows flanking the modern recessed entrance. There is an additional entrance to the north of the commercial storefront as well. The storefront is modern

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

infill, possibly from the 1960s. The original storefront had a recessed entry with large display windows up to the transom. It is not known if the transom windows remain and are covered with infill or if they have been removed. The metal beam above the transom has decorative metal features. The second-story windows are the dominant ornamental features on the building. The center window has a modern one-over-one double hung sash window at its center flanked by sidelights. Above this is another thin, rectangular window flanked by two quarter-fan windows that give the window a depressed arch shape. Above the window is a depressed arch lintel of splayed voussoirs at the center. Flanking this center window are one-over-one double-hung sash windows capped with the same contrasting splayed stone lintels as the center window. A stone string course running below the windows gives them their sills. Above the windows are corbelled bricks that runs beneath a pressed metal cornice. The cornice features brackets along the entire width with finials at the ends. Corner pilasters with rusticated stone quoins finish the edges of the building.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

611 North Main Street

Lot 5B of Lot 5 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300046

1910

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building was constructed in 1910 and is now faced with brick on the lower half and stucco on the upper half. Large commercial windows slant to a recessed, off-center entrance. The building has been remodeled and altered several times since construction leading to a loss of integrity and subsequent non-contributing status.

Listed as Very Distracting in original nomination.

615 North Main Street

Lot 5A of Lot 5 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300032

1900

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building was constructed in 1900 of concrete. The first story is dominated by large commercial windows canted at the recessed central entry. The lower level is faced with faux stone made of concrete. A course line divides the two stories and overhangs the first story. The second story has no windows, just a textured concrete face. The roof line contrasts in color and overhangs slightly. This building was considered “good” in the original nomination. It was a wood, false front building with its original storefront configuration. It has been significantly altered.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Listed as Good in original nomination.

617 North Main Street

S 25' of S' 7" of N ½ Lot 4 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300047

1926

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building was originally constructed in 1926 and has been substantially altered since. It features large, brick enframed commercial windows that slant to a recessed entrance and is covered by an awning that spans the width of the structure. Above the awning, the building façade is covered with a mid-twentieth century metal screen that obscures the original material.

Listed as Distracting in original nomination.

621 North Main Street

N 25' of (Ex S 7") Lot 4 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300048

1889

Non-contributing

This one-story commercial structure was originally built in 1889. The façade is an EIFS, fiber, or stucco material scored to look like sandstone block. This building was listed as “blending” in the original nomination. At that time, it appears to be stucco. It had a central recessed entry flanked by commercial windows. The transom had stucco and glass block windows.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

629 North Main Street

S 25' of Lot 3 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300041

1910

Contributing

This one-story commercial building was constructed in 1910 of sandstone that alternates between thick and thin rows. The lower portion of the façade features large plate glass aluminum display windows that angle to an off-center recessed entrance. One set angles from the south stone storefront enframement to the entry just north of center. On the other side of the door, one display window is flush with the façade, meeting a south-facing window that cuts back to the entry. At the edges, there are pilasters of sandstone that extend to the cornice. The ornamental cornice is made of pressed metal and has dentils over recessed rectangular panels set off by

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

rosettes as well as capitals for the pilasters. Under the metal cornice are two courses of stepped stone detailing.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

631 North Main Street
N 25' Lot 3 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300026

1910

Contributing

This one-story sandstone commercial building was constructed in 1910. The lower portion of the façade is dominated by large aluminum commercial windows that angle to a recessed entryway covered by an awning. One set angles from the north stone storefront enframing to the entry just north of center. On the other side of the door, one display window is flush with the façade, meeting a south-facing window that cuts back to the entry. At the edges, there are pilasters of sandstone that extend to the cornice. Underneath the windows, the building is faced with Roman brick veneer. Buffering this structure from its neighbors are sandstone pilasters that are capped with capitals set into a pressed metal cornice line. The cornice is also ornamented with dentils and rosettes. The sandstone façade is textured with alternating thick and thin courses of sandstone. There is an I-beam with rosettes above the storefront.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

635 North Main Street
S 25' of Lot 2 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300049

1900

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building was built in 1900 of concrete. The façade extends, but is a false front for the gable-front roof system behind. The lower portion of the façade is dominated by large aluminum commercial windows that angle to a recessed entryway sheltered by a large awning that spans nearly the entire width of the building. One set angles from the north storefront enframing to the entry just north of center. On the other side of the door, one display window is flush with the façade, meeting a south-facing window that cuts back to the entry. Below the windows, the building is sheathed with a Roman brick veneer while the rest of the building is covered with textured concrete.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

639 North Main Street

N 25' of Lot 2 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300051

1959

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building was originally constructed in 1959. It is sheathed in faux stone. It now has a flush central entry with modern windows.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

643 North Main

S 25' Ex 10' of Lot 1 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300054

1959

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building was constructed in 1959. The building has large commercial windows and a recessed angled entrance. This building currently (2017) is used as a business in conjunction with 645 North Main.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

645 North Main Street

E 78' of N 25' of Lot 1 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300023

1959

Non-Contributing

The building has large aluminum commercial windows, and a brick veneer. The building angles west at its northeast corner and is supported at this corner by an industrial metal pole. Along the east elevation runs a pent roof clad in wood shingles. The north, brick veneer elevation is unornamented. South of the windows is an aluminum door capped with a band of rowlock brick.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

703 North Main Street

E 50' of Lot 6 Blk 21 (B & B Bar) Original Town Spearfish

LA00300028

American National Bank

1906

Contributing

This two-story brick and sandstone corner block was constructed in 1906 and sits at the northwest corner of North Main and West Illinois Streets. The first floor has been altered since

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

its original construction and now has narrow horizontal and rectangular windows, flat metal awning, and has been refaced in scored brick. Another alteration is the reconfiguration of the south storefront into two storefronts which have large commercial windows angled to a recessed entry and are addressed to West Illinois Street. The westernmost storefront has a metal lintel with rosettes. The second floor retains integrity. A stone string course runs below the second story windows separating them from the first story. The paired one-over-one windows at the corner are arched with splayed stone lintels. The other windows on this level are rectangular in shape and include one Chicago window on the far west bay and have keystone segmental arch lintels. Framing the corner entrance are two stone pilasters that alternate thick blocks of smooth stone and thin blocks of rough stone. Another ornamental feature of note is the pressed metal cornice with dentils, brackets, and sunburst motif above which at the corner sits a date block that reads "1906 BANK."

Listed as Good in original nomination.

544 North Main Street
W 100' of N 41' of Lot 12 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300001

John Wolzmuth Hardware

1899

Contributing

This two-story rusticated sandstone commercial building was built in 1899 and is located at the southeast corner of North Main Street and East Hudson Street. The building, which is a typical two-part commercial block with a flat roof, faces west. The west elevation features large commercial storefront windows with a recessed entrance. These are not original. When the building was originally listed, the storefront consisted of plate glass aluminum windows and doors capped by wood infill. At some point post-1975, a more historically-appropriate storefront was built. The current storefront has a recessed, central entry with nine-light wood door surrounded by wood infill. Above the door is a fanlight window. Flanking the entrance are large windows framed in wood with wood kickplates. Historic photographs of the storefront could not be located. A sketch of the building found in *Spearfish Commercial Historic District: A Walking Tour* appears to show a central, recessed entry bay flanked by bays with large display windows. In the sketch, the storefront is covered with an awning, making it impossible to decipher any other details. It is not known if this sketch was based on a historic photograph or if it is an artist's rendition based on a typical storefront. The current infill appears more historically compatible than the aluminum/wood infill present at the time of nomination. On the second floor, modern one-over-one wood windows are spaced evenly across the north and west elevations. The center window on the west elevation is paired. These windows were downsized and include wood infill. These windows were present when the building was originally

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

nominated. The cornice line is ornamented with angular brackets beneath stone corbels. On the roof top there are short stacks of sandstone reminiscent of chimneys. Also on the roof top is a date block located on the west side that reads "18 V&W 89". The "W" stands for Wolzmut and the "V" for L.W. Valentine, and early partner. Other details on the data block include star, fan and cross pattee shapes. A secondary entrance leading to the basement is located on the north elevation and is sheltered by a wood structure with a metal, shed roof. To the east of this structure an arched opening with a two-part wood window. At the northeast corner of the building is an arched entrance. The entrance contains three-light wood double doors topped with a wood transom in the arch. It is not known if these are original, but are believed to date at least from the 1975 nomination.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

604 – 630 North Main Street
Lots 7, 8, 9 & 10 Blk 30 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300040

Matthews Opera House Block
Contributing

The Matthews Opera House Block, which dominates the eastern side of the 600 block of North Main Street, was constructed in three parts: the original block at 604 and 608 North Main constructed in 1900, the first addition at 612-620 North Main constructed in 1906, and the second addition at 622-628 North Main constructed in 1912. The following building description is separated into three sections corresponding to the original block and its additions. Note: all of the historic storefronts and upper floor windows have been replaced. Historic storefront included large display windows, wood kickplates, and recessed entries – all typical of the period. Upper floor windows were primarily one-over-one windows. Exact dates of window replacement are not known. However the current multi-light configurations are visible on a circa 1953 postcard looking north towards the Matthews Block. These may not be the windows that are present in 2017.

The entire block was listed as Good in the original nomination.

604-608 North Main
1900

Architect: Otho C. Jewett

This two-story sandstone commercial building was built in 1900. On the west, street-facing façade there are large commercial windows and two recessed entrances on the lower level for the two separate commercial businesses that now occupy the building. These storefronts are not original and date post-1975. At the time of nomination, both of these storefronts contained brick infill and aluminum windows. In 2017, the south storefront (6404) has two bay windows with

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

transoms to the north and a bay window with transom on the south elevation on the corner. The entrance to 604 is located at the southwest corner and has a sandstone pier of alternating smooth and rough blocks supporting the overhanging second story. The infill and kickplates are wood. The north storefront's (608) entry is recessed with bay windows with wood infill and kickplates. The original configuration of both storefronts is difficult to assess. Looking at partially-obscured circa 1930s photographs, it appears that both storefronts had arrangements typical of the era with large windows, transoms, and recessed entrances. The north storefront may also have had a multi-light transom. The current infill is viewed as more compatible compared to the infill present in the 1975 nomination.

A design of alternating smooth and rough blocks is seen on the pilasters that divide the eight-pane windows on the second story. The center window on the west elevation is paired, with two, shorter eight-pane windows capped with two rectangular windows. The multi-pane second-story windows are not original. These windows, or at least this configuration, dates back to at least the 1950s based on photographs. The original windows were wood one-over-one. The cornice line is supported by brackets and topped with a projecting date block that reads "T7 1900 NA MATTHEWS" with fanlight designs in the stone. There are also short sandstone piers on the roof line at the corners and along the south side. The south elevation has one-over-one windows on the second story of the south elevation. The original windows were one-over-one, but the current windows are post-1975 replacements as the 1975 National Register photos show multi-pane windows that match the west elevation. There is a storefront at the southeast corner of the south elevation. It is recessed with a modern metal door and three large metal-framed display windows and one smaller metal-framed window. Directly west of this storefront are two entrances. One is a modern aluminum door. The other is a wood and glass door with a sidelight. It is not known if this door and sidelight are original. The storefront and two entrances are covered by a cloth awning.

612-620 North Main

1906

Architect: Bartlett and Phillips, Deadwood

This two-story commercial building is part of the Matthew's Opera House commercial block and was constructed of brick and sandstone in 1906. The first story is dominated by a series of commercial storefronts each with large windows. A large red awning runs the entire length of the block. The second floor is divided into four separate sections defined by stone pilasters that alternate blocks of smooth and rough stone. Moving north, the sections appear as follows: The southernmost section has two, four-by-four rectangular windows. Above the windows, a band of sandstone molding becomes the lintel. Above the lintels are two recessed brick panels and a line of corbelled dentils. The next section is the narrowest and has two of the same rectangular

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

windows as the preceding section. These windows, however, have splayed stone lintels. Above the lintels is a block that reads "OPERA" followed by a series of stepped brick. This section is also distinguished because it has a wooden balustrade with simple turned spindles, extending in front of it (added post-1975). The third section is identical to the first with two windows and the same ornamentation. The fourth and final section has three windows of the same variety as the previous sections. Two of the windows are grouped on the north half. The same lintels and ornamentation are also present here as on the first and third sections. All of the windows on the second story have sills that are a string course that spans the entire width of the building. The entire building is capped with a pressed metal cornice piece that is ornamented by brackets, dentils, and modillions. A one-story addition to the roof is slightly visible from the street and is clad in siding and has a shallowly pitched gable-front roof.

The storefront for 612 Main is not original. Its recessed entrance is off center to the south. There is a large bay window to the north of the entrance with stone below it. To the south of the entrance is a smaller window with wood kickplate. The door is wood and glass. The storefront matches the redone storefronts of its neighbors 608 and 604. In the 1975 nomination, the entrance was centrally recessed and flanked by aluminum display windows.

614 Main is the entrance to the opera house. It is recessed and framed in a sandstone arch. This appears to be the original entrance, though the wood-and-glass double doors are likely replacements. Columns support a small second floor porch with balustrade, which was added post-1975. Due to obstructions and awnings in historic photographs, it is difficult to discern the original entrance. At the time of nomination in 1975, the entrance appears built out with a multi-pane window, single door, brick and a small triangular marquee.

The storefront for 616 Main is not original. It has a recessed angled entrance. In the 1975 nomination, it had large aluminum display windows. The window sizes and openings have been changed slightly since.

The storefront for 620 Main is not original. It has a recessed angled entrance with aluminum door and display windows with wood underneath. This storefront appears to be unchanged since the 1975 nomination.

622-630 North Main

1912

Architect: Bartlett and Phillips, Deadwood

This two-story building, constructed of bricks and sandstone, was built in 1912 and forms the northern terminus of the Matthew's Opera House Block. It is separated into four sections by

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

pilasters that alternate between blocks of smooth and rough stone. Upper story windows are four-over-four with transom. Moving north on the second story, the sections are described as follows: the southernmost section of this block has two arched windows capped with radiating voussoirs and keystones. Above the windows is a recessed brick panel and a row of brick corbelling. The second section has two rectangular windows with thick, flat, stone lintels. Above the windows is a recessed brick panel followed by a line of brick corbeling. The third section is the most narrow, barely fitting the single arched window that is the same as those described in section one. The same recessed panel and corbeling are above the window. The final section has three arched windows grouped at its center. Flanking this triptych are rectangular windows, same in description to those in the second section. The building is capped with a pressed metal cornice ornamented with brackets and dentils. At the far north end is a thin stone pilaster with a sandstone capital.

Moving north on the first story, the storefronts are described as follows: the southernmost section of this block has a storefront with recessed entrance and multi-light display window. This is not historic, but the storefront appeared this way in the 1975 nomination. The second storefront has an aluminum frame door at the northern corner and two display windows above brick. This is not the historic storefront, but is how it appeared in the 1975 nomination. The next section contains an aluminum frame door. The final section has a central, recessed entry with a wood and glass door with a transom window. The section south of the entrance contains two display windows with wood underneath. The section north of the entrance contains a display window with wood underneath. This is not historic. In the 1975 nomination, there was an aluminum frame door at the southern edge of the storefront with four large, aluminum framed display windows. Two metal columns appear were present on the storefront in 1975; in 2017, only the northern column remains.

638 North Main Street

Lot 11 Blk 30 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300029

1906

Contributing

This two-story brick and stone commercial building was originally built in 1906 of brick. The first floor is divided into three bays separated by narrow Corinthian pilasters made of iron from Paxton and Vielding Iron Work, Omaha. The center section is recessed and contains two doors and commercial windows. The side bays have large commercial windows as well. These three bays are sheltered by large, overhanging awnings. Above the awnings runs a metal lintel. The second story continues the three-bay pattern and the center section is taller than the others. Each section is flanked by smooth-cut sandstone pilasters and has two recessed brick panels just above

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

the course line. The two side sections have two recessed panels just above the course line followed by corbeling, another course line, and a corbeled cornice in a saw tooth pattern. The center section follows this pattern with an additional set of recessed panels below the cornice line giving it its additional height.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

644 and 648 North Main Street
Lot 12 Blk 30 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300050

1900

Non-contributing

This two-story brick and concrete commercial building was originally constructed in 1900. The first story is dominated by two store fronts, both with large commercial windows and two separate entrances covered by a large, rounded cloth awning. The second story has four, equally-spaced square windows with stacked bond brick veneer in between. The rest of the building is faced with brick on its western facade while the northern elevation is covered in stucco. At the top of the western façade, the word "Sparrow" is affixed in thin, metal lettering paying homage to the Sparrow Bakery that previously occupied the space. The building has been substantially altered and expanded leading to its non-contributing status. In 1967, 780 square feet were added and the west facade was refaced in brick; in 1976, 2140 square feet were added, and the building was again expanded in 1994, growing an additional 660 square feet.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

127 West Illinois Street
W 61' 9 ½ IN of N 25' of Lot 1 Blk 29 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300044

c.1960

Non-Contributing

This one-story commercial building extends to the west of 645 Main Street. The north façade has one door at the east end followed by three single-pane windows to the west. The spaces between the windows have been infilled with faux-wood paneling. The body of the building is covered in stretcher-bond brick. The western half has three large commercial windows to the east of the door located at the northwest corner that is covered by a domed awning. The north elevation has a parapet cornice.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

110 West Illinois Street

W 90' of S 20' of Lot 4 & E 65 1/2' of W 90' of Lots 5 & 6 Blk 21 (DANS BACK PORCH)

Original Town Spearfish

LA00300031

1900

Contributing

This two-story brick commercial building was originally constructed in 1900. The lower portion of the east façade is marked by large commercial four-light windows that wrap to a recessed entrance. Set in front of these windows is an imitation front that mimics a porch with turned wooden spindles and decorative valence work. This is all housed beneath an eave clad in wood shingles. Above the eave is a frieze with three painted panels. Brick dentils provide additional detailing at the cornice line. The lower portion of the west façade is dominated by a vehicle entrance which is flanked by two windows. Above the garage door, there is a string course and a large recessed panel. The only decorative detailing is a string of brick dentils at the cornice line.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

122 West Illinois Street

W 24 1/2' of Lots 5 & 6 Blk 21 Original Town Spearfish

LA00300042

International Order of Odd Fellows Building

1894

Contributing

This two-story sandstone building was constructed in 1894. A new, blue vinyl storefront that envelops the first story of the southern façade is the only major alteration to the exterior of the building. This modern storefront has a span of commercial windows flanked by two doors. The modern siding extends to the string course which continues around the western elevation. Two large arched windows with segmental arch lintels with keystones are the main feature on the second story of the south facade. Six windows are spaced evenly on the western elevation's second story and there is a first-floor rear entrance. The cornice line on the southern façade is decorated with brackets and dentils and overhangs the façade. Two triangular upshots along the west elevation add interest to the roof line.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

132 and 134 West Illinois Street
E 70' of Lot 7 Blk 21 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300045

1948

Non-contributing

This two-story mixed-use structure was constructed in 1948 out of concrete. The entrance is located at the east end of the south façade and has sidelights constructed from glass blocks. To the west of the door are two one-over-one double-hung sash windows with simple surrounds. A large cloth awning spans the width of the structure directly above the door and windows. The building has a mansard roof clad in wood shingles. Windows are set into the roof, three on each side. There is also a one-story addition extending from the west side of the building. A small shed sits directly to the east of the building on the property.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

146 West Illinois Street
W 70' of Lot 7 Blk 21 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300022

1947

Non-Contributing

This two-story commercial structure was originally built in 1947. It differs from the Italianate brick and sandstone buildings of the district being a modern concrete building. The building faces south and there is a large, semi-circular tower in the center of the southern façade. The entrance is located in the first level of the tower and there is a glass-enclosed extension to the west of the tower. To the east of the tower, there are two windows with contrasting red surrounds. The second story of the building was added in 1978 and has four one-over-one double-hung sash windows on the tower with an additional window to each side.

Listed as Blending in original nomination.

701 5th Street
S 40' Lots 5 & All Lot 6 Blk 22 Original Town Spearfish
LA00300038

The Lown Mercantile

1893

Architect: Swan Thompson

Contributing

This two-story commercial building was constructed of sandstone in 1893. The main entrance is at the center of the east elevation with another door at the north end. Large commercial windows with simple wood surrounds fill the remainder of the first story. These windows have stained

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

glass transoms. The southernmost window is angled and the overhanging second story is supported by an Egyptian-esque column. There are no windows on the first floor of the south elevation. The second story has a series of one-over-one double-hung sash windows with jack arch stone lintels; six on the south façade and eight on the east. The cornice line is decorated with rounded dentils. The building also has a short engaged second story tower that extends above the roof line. Along the southern elevation roof line are short sandstone piers. There is a modern addition to the rear of the building that is secondary in size to the main structure, constructed of similar materials, and not visible from the primary façade.

Listed as Good in original nomination.

PROPERTIES REMOVED FROM DISTRICT BOUNDARY

703 North 5th Street

Building is gone, now an empty lot.

535 North Main Street

This is a modern building.

143 W Illinois Street

This building is modern and does not contribute to the district.

CONCLUSION

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District retains a high level of integrity among its contributing resources, many of which date back to the early development of Spearfish. It is these turn-of-the-century sandstone buildings that provide the visual and architectural backbone of the district and give the district its architectural significance. Major architectural themes within the Spearfish Historic Commercial District are: commercial storefronts with large windows, the use of sandstone or brick as a building material, Italianate style detailing, and the relationship of the building to the street.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
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.)

- 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

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance

1893-1912

Significant Dates

1893, 1895, 1900, 1906, 1912

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Smith, A.H.

Thompson, Swan

Bartlett and Phillips, Deadwood, South Dakota

O.C. Jewett

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for the period of 1893-1912 for its contribution to the history of **Commerce** in Spearfish, South Dakota. Spearfish developed as a market town, providing goods and services to neighboring industrial towns. This wide economic base necessitated a strong commercial center. Developments in transportation and increased tourism brought more patrons to the Spearfish Historic Commercial District and have sustained it into the present.

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District is also significant under Criterion C for **Architecture** in Spearfish, South Dakota. Architecturally, the district includes one-part and two-part commercial buildings, many with Italianate detailing. There are also some structures that break this typographic mode in favor of more modern forms. Buildings in the district, especially those lining North Main Street, are largely constructed of sandstone giving the district a stylistic unity. Another architectural theme of note is the storefronts themselves. Most of the buildings within the district have large display windows that provide a visual consistency along the lower level of buildings.

The contributing buildings in the historic district were constructed 1893-1912. Construction in the district decreased after this period and only seven buildings were constructed post-1912.

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

Spearfish History

The city of Spearfish is surrounded by three major mountain peaks: Crow Peak, Spearfish Mountain, and Lookout Mountain, which form a sort of crown around the town earning it the nickname “the Queen City.”¹ Its location amongst the mineral rich Black Hills as well as the agriculturally fertile grounds of the foothills made Spearfish an ideal place for early settlers to establish themselves.

Before white settlers moved to the western Dakotas, the region had been inhabited by the Lakota people. The Black Hills had long been sacred to people of several tribes. As white settlers moved into the Dakotas, the Lakota were pushed further and further west.² In 1868, the Fort

¹ Paul Higbee and Kathleen Aney, *Spearfish* (Spearfish: Blackhills and Bighorns History Project, 2000), 3.

² Ibid.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

Laramie Treaty was signed which gave the Black Hills to the Lakota people forever, but that did not stop gold seekers from moving into the hills to mine.³ They argued that since the Lakota people hadn't been living peacefully, a stipulation of the treaty, the treaty was entirely void.⁴ The U.S. military was unable, and unwilling, to keep the miners out of the Black Hills and politicians realized that they needed the Indians to relinquish the Hills. In 1877, the Sioux people were given a choice to either sign a new agreement removing the Black Hills from the reservation lands, but allowing them to keep amenities and privileges promised under the 1868 treaty, or they could refuse to sign and lose their annuities which would lead to probable starvation. Enough people signed the treaty for it to be considered legitimate by the U.S. government, and the Black Hills thus became U.S. property.

The first white settlers to move into the Spearfish were part of the Centennial Party coming from Ames, Iowa in 1876.⁵ H. S. Burke then surveyed and platted a town of 640 acres. In 1877, however, the population of Spearfish only entitled it to 320 acres, and the town was resurveyed and platted.⁶ At this time, the official grid of streets was laid, and since there was so much room for expansion, the streets were built wide for the time at nearly eighty feet.⁷ These wide roads remain a character defining feature of the Spearfish Historic Commercial District into the present.

The Black Hills Gold Rush of the 1870s drew many settlers to the western Dakotas.⁸ In Spearfish, however, there was "more hope than profit" and it soon became clear that Spearfish did not have the vast mineral deposits that were in neighboring towns such as Lead and Deadwood.⁹ This demanded that Spearfish's economy diversify into areas such as commerce and agriculture in order to survive. One of the first industries to develop was the breeding of draft horses, which were then sold to Lead's Homestake Mine for profit.¹⁰

Spearfish then began to develop as a merchant town to serve the surrounding mining communities.¹¹ Due to the large influx of people, the prices of goods skyrocketed and more money could be made through commerce -- as David Miller and Nancy Veglahn describe it,

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ James D. Jelbert. Lawrence County: Dakota Territory Centennial: 1861-1961. (Lead: Seaton Publishing Co., 1960), 60.

⁶ Ibid, 60-61.

⁷ "Spearfish, South Dakota." 1887. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

⁸ John Cerney and Roberta Sago, *Images of America: Spearfish* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), 7.

⁹ Miller and Veglahn, 57.

¹⁰ Higbee and Aney, 6.

¹¹ David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 130.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

“mining the miners” – than by actually mining.¹² Since commerce was so profitable, it grew rapidly and began to shape Spearfish’s identity and purpose. This growing commercial industry demanded infrastructure and many buildings were erected in the late 1880s to accommodate the growing number of businesses. An 1887 article in the *Queen City Mail* stated that Spearfish was “preparing for a prosperous era. Buildings are going up by the dozens...[and] an air of progress and prosperity is scented everywhere.”¹³

In addition to attracting businessmen, Spearfish also drew farmers and ranchers who saw potential for profit in Spearfish’s fertile river basin.¹⁴ After seeing the struggles of other mining towns, these farmers knew that “a well tilled farm was a surer source of permanent prosperity than a mining claim” as P. H. Kellar wrote.¹⁵ Soon the agricultural industry had grown so large that there was more competition in the area for water rights than for mineral rights.¹⁶ As Spearfish was providing goods and services to area miners, it did the same for area farmers and this increased economic base helped the commercial district grow. Soon shops selling hardware, harnesses, and other goods necessary for ranching and farming began to appear.¹⁷ The first shops within the Spearfish Historic Commercial District sold practical goods; clothes, hardware, and food, and also provided necessary services like banking.¹⁸

In addition to agriculture and ranching, other industries also began to develop in Spearfish. A nearby sawmill was converted to a grist mill in 1879, further diversifying the economy. Two years earlier in 1877 the first formal store opened and in 1882 the Bank of Spearfish was built of brick on the corner of North Main Street and Hudson Street.¹⁹ Many more businesses began to open in the Spearfish Historic Commercial District including grocery stores, hardware stores, saloons, tailors, and ice houses to meet the needs of Spearfish residents and the surrounding communities.²⁰

A fire in late 1800s destroyed many wood buildings in Spearfish and prompted a shift in materials from wood to stone and brick. This shift became symbolic for Spearfish and its success. As Paul Higbee has written, the “stone structures were a vital symbol; Spearfish no

¹² David Miller and Nancy Veglahn. *The South Dakota Story*. Historical Preservation Center, 1985, 60-61.

¹³ Historical Preservation Center, *Historic Sites of South Dakota: A Guidebook* (Sioux Falls: Modern Press, 1980), 114.

¹⁴ Jelbert, 62.

¹⁵ P. H. Kellar, *Seth Bullock’s: The Founding of a County: From His Records of 1876 of the Founding of Lawrence County, South Dakota* (Deadwood: Dakota Graphics, 1986), 26.

¹⁶ Higbee and Aney, 5.

¹⁷ “Spearfish, South Dakota.” 1885. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; “Spearfish, South Dakota.” 1891. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

¹⁸ “Spearfish, South Dakota.” 1885. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

¹⁹ Jelbert, 62.

²⁰ “Spearfish, South Dakota.” 1885. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; “Spearfish, South Dakota.” 1897. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

longer viewed itself as a camp, but a place of permanency.”²¹ Thus, the construction of stone buildings in the Spearfish Historic Commercial District was a tangible symbol of success and economic stability in Spearfish that pointed toward a prosperous future.

The last decade of the nineteenth century saw even more growth. In 1898, the Spearfish National Fish Hatchery opened and was proof of continued economic growth and diversification.²² A smelter town also was established just outside of Spearfish in 1898.²³ Residents were excited about the economic potential of this development and the *Queen City Mail* reported that since a smelter town is “not liable to be very desirable as a residence town...Spearfish is bound to be immensely benefitted because it will virtually become the natural headquarters for a majority of the businessmen of the new town.”²⁴ As a result, Spearfish continued to thrive on the business brought to it by surrounding communities and industries.

Increased ease of transportation also fostered commercial development in Spearfish. Throughout the latter half of the 19th century, stagecoaches carrying goods and people ran regularly between Spearfish and Deadwood, which was immensely successful as a mining town.²⁵ But travel through Spearfish Canyon by stagecoach was rough and in 1893, the Burlington Railroad built a new line connecting Spearfish to Deadwood which greatly improved the speed and comfort of travel.²⁶ The railroad began as a method for transporting ore and goods, but it soon became a tourist attraction because of the scenic landscape it travelled through.²⁷ Soon, many people were making daytrips from Deadwood to Spearfish further widening the consumer base that the Spearfish Historic Commercial District could draw upon for continued success.²⁸

The 1890s also saw a great boom in new businesses. The Lown Store, a general store named after its owner, was built at 701 5th Street in 1893 and still stands.²⁹ The second floor office spaces were often cleared on weekend nights to hold dances.³⁰ This shows that the Spearfish Historic Commercial District was not only a center for commerce, but also an important center for entertainment. Just off North Main Street at 122 West Illinois Street, the International Order of Odd Fellows built their meeting house in 1894 of local cut sandstone and became the first

²¹ Higbee and Aney, 6.

²² James R. Chrismant and Linfred Schuttler, *South Dakota, Our Towns...A Pictorial Review: North Central Region, West Region, Vol. IV* edited by Jack Kilgore (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1989), 99.

²³ “The Year of the Boom,” *The Queen City Mail*, February 23, 1898, 1.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Higbee and Aney, 19.

²⁶ Chrismant and Schuttler, 99.

²⁷ Jelbert, 62.

²⁸ Higbee and Aney, 12.

²⁹ Higbee and Aney, 6-7.

³⁰ Ibid.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

fraternal order to base themselves in the commercial district.³¹ In 1890, Spearfish also replaced Deadwood as the home of the Lawrence County Fair.³² This brought more visitors than ever to Spearfish to partake in the festivities and watch the newly popular auto races and basketball games.³³ In addition to fulfilling the social needs of the community, the Spearfish Historic Commercial District also continued to provide the goods needed in the bustling town.

The first decade of the 1900s proved to be an era of growth for Spearfish. Two-thirds of the buildings comprising the Spearfish Historic Commercial District were built between the years of 1893-1912.³⁴ One of the most significant construction projects during this period was the Matthews Block and Opera House. The original block was constructed in 1900 and was home to owner and rancher Thomas Matthews' store.³⁵ After his business became successful, Matthew decided to expand his block and lease the spaces.³⁶ Renters for the store spaces and offices above were secured before the construction plans were even finalized which speaks to the profitability of downtown businesses in Spearfish at the time.³⁷ This new stone block replaced several wooden buildings that had previously occupied the site. These older structures were referred to as an "unsightly pile," and Spearfish residents were pleased to know that they were going to be replaced by a modern building befitting the prosperity of the area.³⁸ The Matthew's Block and the entire commercial district became a source of pride for the citizens of Spearfish. In a October 31, 1906 article in *The Queen City Mail*, the Matthews Block is described as being the finest theater in South Dakota in terms of "architectural beauty, interior decoration, . . . stage arrangement, etc. . . ." and that "Spearfish has good reason to be proud of the men who have expended their money in a building of this description for the pleasure of this community."³⁹

The Matthews Block welcomed in more clothing and grocery stores in addition to those that were already in other parts of the district.⁴⁰ More shops like confectionaries and toy stores that catered to disposable income began to appear in the district during this decade as well.⁴¹ A new bank building was also built in 1906 and was one of the first buildings in Spearfish to utilize

³¹ Spearfish Historic Preservation Commission, "Spearfish Historic Commercial District: A Walking Tour," 5.

³² Higbee and Aney, 18.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Historical Preservation Center, *Historic Sites of South Dakota: A Guidebook* (Sioux Falls: Modern Press, 1980), 114.

³⁵ Higbee and Aney, 16.

³⁶ "Another Stone Block," *The Queen City Mail*, January 24, 1900, 1.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ "Matthew's Opera House," *The Queen City Mail*, October 31, 1906, 1.

⁴⁰ "Spearfish, South Dakota." 1903. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.; "Spearfish, South Dakota." 1909. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

⁴¹ Ibid.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

concrete.⁴² At the same time, the lot next to this new bank was being prepared for more commercial buildings.⁴³ From this it is clear that the Spearfish Historic Commercial District was growing at such a rate that space was in high demand and construction frequent.

Transportation developments continued to impact the economy of Spearfish and the commercial district. As the automobile came into prominence in the 1920s, travel to Spearfish became even easier, and it was now possible for people to commute to work. Many, especially employees of the Homestake Mine in Lead, took advantage of this development and opted to live in Spearfish while working in neighboring industrial towns.⁴⁴ Automobile and truck transportation also made it easier to transport goods from Spearfish to surrounding industrial towns.⁴⁵

In the 1930s, tourism took hold of Spearfish. In 1938, Joseph Meier of Germany brought his play about the Passion of Jesus Christ to Spearfish and selected the town as the permanent home for his show. Opening night, over 150 people attended the production.⁴⁶ Soon, the Black Hills Passion Play gained more and more press attention that led to a commensurate increase in attendance. Over the course of its run, over 4.5 million people travelled to Spearfish to attend assuaging any fears that Spearfish was too remote for such a production.⁴⁷ This great influx of tourists only benefitted the commercial district as the additional patrons continued to broaden the economy of Spearfish. The commercial district of Spearfish was also lucky to have avoided the bank panic that accompanied the stock market crash of 1929, and the Spearfish National Bank continued to flourish throughout the 1930s.

Spearfish continued to diversify into the 1940s. In 1940, the Homestake Mine opened a sawmill near Spearfish which brought 48 new families into town.⁴⁸ Though some sectors of the economy were growing during this time the impact of World War II hampered other, arguably more profitable, facets of the Spearfish economy. Gas rationing prevented people from traveling and this effectively stunted Spearfish's tourism industry. With the war taking over daily life, citizens rallied to help the war effort and turned the Matthews Opera House into a temporary station for parachute assembly.⁴⁹ When the war finally ended, tourism returned to the Black Hills, the Passion Play ended their hiatus, and tourism began to return to Spearfish.⁵⁰

⁴² "Builders Are All Busy," *The Queen City Mail*, May 16, 1906, 1.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Higbee and Aney, 21.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Higbee and Aney, 31.

⁴⁷ Ibid, 33.

⁴⁸ Jack Kilgore, editor, *South Dakota, Our Towns...A Pictorial Review: North Central Region, West Region, Vol. IV* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1989), 100.

⁴⁹ Higbee and Aney, 33.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 39.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

Spearfish continued to grow through the 1950s, and by 1960, the population had reached 3,682 people.⁵¹ But even with a growing pool of patrons to draw upon, the Spearfish Historic Commercial District could no longer compete as successfully with surrounding towns.⁵² The citizens of Spearfish then decided to try to bring more routes of transportation through Spearfish in hopes that it would bolster economic development as it had in the past.⁵³ That proved ineffective, however, and Spearfish's commercial center did not return to its previous status as other cities in western South Dakota gained commercial prominence.

With increasing means and ease of transportation fueling tourism and industry, the Spearfish Historic Commercial District grew to become a major commercial force in the Black Hills. Though it has fallen some in status, it continues to serve the local community. The buildings within the Spearfish Historic Commercial District reflect the prosperity of the town in their form and function and remain evidentiary of the history of commerce in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Significant Architectural Types

The Spearfish Historic Commercial District includes good examples of turn-of-the century commercial architecture in Spearfish, South Dakota. These buildings reflect the prosperity of Spearfish as a merchant town supplying nearby industry. The majority of the buildings were constructed between 1893 and 1912, but some more modern buildings dating through the 1970s are also within the district.

There are several over-arching themes within the Spearfish Commercial Historic District. One is the use of Italianate style detailing. This was common for commercial buildings constructed during this time period. Another major theme within the district is materials; the use of local sandstone is common among contributing buildings in the district. This choice was in part a response to fires that destroyed many wood frame buildings in town. The streetscape of the district is also important to its character and the buildings share the same relationship to the street and to each other.

Commercial Architecture: Much of the character of commercial districts and commercial architecture comes not from the individual buildings, but from the streetscape and collective image the buildings create. It is common for commercial buildings to abut the street and each other in order to maximize land use, therefore maximizing business.⁵⁴ This leaves very little open space within commercial districts. It also puts all visual focus on the front façade since the

⁵¹ Ibid, 42.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture, Updates Edition* (Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press, 2000), 14.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

sides of commercial buildings are usually shared by their neighbors and not visible.⁵⁵ The front facades then become the only ornamented space on the exterior and these decorative details become the primary way to visually date commercial buildings since the form of commercial blocks does not change much over time.⁵⁶ The buildings within the Spearfish Historic Commercial District are mainly one and two-part commercial blocks.

Often commercial buildings were “modernized” in the mid-20th century. As improvements in engineering allowed for larger, single-pane windows, storefronts on older buildings were fitted with large commercial windows intended to better display merchandise and catch the attention of passers-by.⁵⁷ The windows with several panes of glass separated by mullions with bulkheads were not as efficient for window shopping and were replaced.⁵⁸ This alteration is common in the Spearfish Historic Commercial District and can be seen on several of the buildings on North Main Street.

One-Part Commercial Block: One-Part Commercial Blocks developed in the mid-19th century and were most often used for retail.⁵⁹ They are only one story tall, usually with large windows on the front façade to display goods. Since these buildings are relatively small, they were often used to stake a claim in urban land since they were cheaper to build than large commercial blocks.⁶⁰ Since the facades of these buildings are dominated by large store-front windows, there is little room left for ornamental detailing.⁶¹ Within the district, many of the one-part commercial blocks have been substantially altered, but 629 and 631 North Main Street are intact examples of this architectural form.

Two-Part Commercial Block: The Two-Part Commercial Block has historically been the most popular architectural form for small to moderately-sized commercial buildings from the 1850s through the 1950s.⁶² They are usually two to three stories high with the different levels serving different functions.⁶³ The first story is often where the store or business space is located and the upper zones function as private space for offices, apartments, hotels, and the like.⁶⁴ This separation of functions can be seen in the Spearfish Historic Commercial District with one good example being the Matthews Opera House Block. Often these taller commercial buildings have

⁵⁵ Longstreth, 16.

⁵⁶ Longstreth, 18.

⁵⁷ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870-1960* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009), 233.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Longstreth, 54.

⁶⁰ Longstreth, 55.

⁶¹ Longstreth, 62.

⁶² Longstreth, 24.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

some ornamentation at the roof line or around windows and doors that allows for visual dating.⁶⁵

On buildings with Victorian details, like many of those in the Spearfish Historic Commercial District, these details were prominent features and usually made of diverse materials.⁶⁶ The Matthews Block, the Lown Building, and the Wolzmut Building are excellent examples of this architectural form within the Spearfish Commercial Historic District.

Italianate: Italianate style detailing is common on the contributing buildings in the Spearfish Commercial Historic District. In the district, it is mainly seen in the decorative cornice lines and window hoods. The Italianate style gained prominence in the mid-1800s especially in the Midwest where towns were being built as well as towns along the coasts.⁶⁷ The Italianate style was one of the first architectural styles to be built from manufactured materials.⁶⁸ Common style-identifying features are: brackets beneath the large, ornamented cornice, flat or shallowly pitched roofs, and elaborate moldings above narrow windows and doors. Notable is the development and popularity of arched windows with decorative moldings.⁶⁹ Windows were often paired or tripled as well.⁷⁰ Within the district, the Matthews Opera House, the IOOF Building (122 West Illinois), and 701 5th Street all display elements of the Italianate style, especially at the cornice line with brackets, dentils, and rosettes.

Distinctive cornice lines are also typical of the Italianate style. Often these cornices are ornamented with brackets spaced and grouped in a number of different ways.⁷¹ These cornices are also often paired with a deep trim band decorated with panels and moldings.

In South Dakota, the Italianate style was commonly used on schools, courthouses, and homes.⁷² In fact, it was the first architectural style to be used commonly statewide.⁷³ The style reached its peak during the period between 1860 and 1910 which also corresponds to the first stone construction boom in South Dakota.⁷⁴ When it came to commercial architecture, these styles tended to only influence the detailing on building facades while the building forms themselves stayed relatively stable.

Sandstone: The use of locally quarried sandstone within the Spearfish Historic Commercial District is worth noting. The most bountiful local material in western South Dakota during the

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Longstreth, 35.

⁶⁷ McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2002), 212.

⁶⁸ Gottfried and Jennings, 238.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Erpestad and Wood, 46.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid, 25.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

late 1800s and early 1900s was stone, specifically sandstone in the Black Hills. Several quarries were active in western South Dakota with six in Fall River County alone.⁷⁵ There was also a quarry just outside of Spearfish that produced a specific kind of reddish sandstone called “Sundance Sandstone.”⁷⁶ Also near Spearfish was another quarry that mined a purple Minnekahta limestone.

Continuity is brought to the Spearfish Historic Commercial District through a shared use of materials, architectural styles, forms, and relationship to the street. These commonalities reflect the district’s peak period of development. The buildings that do not follow this rule speak to the continued development of the area.

Integrity of the Spearfish Historic Commercial District

Primary contributing buildings have excellent integrity with historic second stories and compatible infill on the first stories. The Matthews Block, Lown Mercantile, and Wolzmut Hardware are some of the best turn-of-the-century buildings in western South Dakota. One-story contributing buildings in the district have decorative sandstone and metal cornices between the top of the windows and the parapet. Non-contributing buildings in the district are clearly differentiated. Modernized storefronts of historic buildings and modern infill are easily recognizable. Overall district integrity is good, however, with the prominent, two-story sandstone buildings dominating the smaller, noncontributing buildings.

Additional Information/History on Significant Buildings

Matthews Block

Texas native Thomas Newton Matthews, who ran cattle in the area, built the first section of the Matthews Block in 1900. It was the sandstone structure on the northeast corner of Hudson and Main Streets. It housed shops, offices, and apartments.⁷⁷

About the time this first section opened, Matthews announced an addition to include a second-story opera house. However, this addition would not come into fruition until 1906. Lead, South Dakota, architects and builders Bartlett and Phillips combined sandstone and brick for the extension. On 31 October 1906, the *Queen City Mail* described the Opera House:

“The proscenium arch is a delicate, though massive, piece of work surmounted by a sounding board on which are paintings of the world’s greatest tragedians, Shakespeare, Booth, and Jefferson. Those three paintings alone cost \$200. On either side of the stage are boxes, four in all, decorated on the exterior with the prevailing color scheme of the

⁷⁵ Ibid, 30.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid, 16.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

opera house – red, gold, and ivory – with just a sufficient tinge of blue to give a soft and
exquisite effect.⁷⁸

Matthews expanded his building one more time in 1911-12, this time putting a Masonic Temple
on the second floor.⁷⁹

Lown Mercantile

William and Clara Lown opened their original hardware store in 1880. They built this building
in 1893. With the opening of the new store, the Lowns branched out from hardware into general
merchandise including food, clothing, and other products. They became the largest retailer in the
community.⁸⁰

The Lowns hired Swan Thompson to construct the building. The store's pink stone came out of
Higgins Gulch, five miles west, and the darker stone was quarried from Lookout Mountain to the
east. Lown Mercantile was in business for 70 years.⁸¹

Wolzmuth Hardware

J.W. Valentine and John Wolzmuth started building their store in 1895. With the Lowns
entering the general merchandise business, the two saw an opportunity to focus on the hardware
business. The partners eventually split, with John and Margaret Wolzmuth running the store.
Wolzmuth went on to serve in the state legislature. However, he is most remembered for his
work in establishing Spearfish Normal School, now Black Hills State University.⁸²

American National Bank

The American National Bank was built in 1906, a prosperous time in Spearfish. By the 1920s,
however, economic conditions had changed. Henry Weare, a successful local rancher, served on
the board of the Bank of Spearfish, which was the American National Bank's competitor. He
began buying stock in the American National Bank and in 1927, as the head of the Bank of
Spearfish, consolidated the two banks. After consolidation, the American National Bank
building housed Earl Hazledine's pharmacy and Dr. Lyle Hare's offices.⁸³

⁷⁸ Ibid, 16-17.

⁷⁹ Ibid, 18.

⁸⁰ Ibid, 6-7.

⁸¹ Higbee and Aney, 7; Spearfish Preservation Commission, *Spearfish Historic Commercial District: A Walking Tour*.

⁸² Higbee and Aney, 7; Spearfish Preservation Commission, *Spearfish Historic Commercial District: A Walking Tour*.

⁸³ Higbee and Aney, 27; Spearfish Preservation Commission, *Spearfish Historic Commercial District: A Walking Tour*.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Cerney, John and Roberta Sago. *Images of America: Spearfish*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2007.

Chrsimant, James R. and Linfred Schuttler. *South Dakota, Our Towns...A Pictorial Review: North Central Region, West Region, Vol. IV*. Edited by Jack Kilgore. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1989.

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Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture, Updated Edition*. Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press, 2000.

Miller, David and Nancy Veglahn. *The South Dakota Story*. Historical Preservation Center, 1985.

Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Map of Spearfish, South Dakota*. New York: Sanborn Map Company,

Spearfish Historic Preservation Commission. "Spearfish Historic Commercial District: A Walking Tour." n.d.

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property _____

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
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): various

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 5.5 acres

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification) _____
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota _____
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is a series of connected UTM reference points. Point #1 is located at the southeast corner of 544 Main. The boundary runs east to Point #2 along the lot line. At Point #2, the boundary runs north along the building line between 544 Main and 115 E Hudson to Point #3. (Note: 115 E Hudson is not in the boundary) Point #3 is in the middle of E Hudson Street. From Point #3 the boundary runs east down E Hudson Street to Point #4, which is at the alley. From Point #4, the boundary runs north through the alley to Point #5, which is in the middle of E Illinois Street. From Point #5, the boundary runs west down the middle of East Illinois Street to the middle of the intersection of Illinois Street and Main Street at Point #6. From Point #6, the boundary runs north in the middle of Main Street to Point #7, located just west of the northeast corner of the building at 703 Main Street. From Point #7, the boundary runs west along the north wall of the building at 703 Main to Point #8. Point #8 is where the property at 703 Main Street and 110 W Illinois Street intersect. From Point #8, the boundary runs north along the east wall of the building at 110 W Illinois Street to Point #9. Point #9 is the northeast corner of the building at 110 W Illinois Street. From Point #9, the boundary runs west along the north wall of the building at 110 W Illinois Street to Point #11. At Point #11, the boundary runs west along the north wall of the building at 122 W Illinois Street to Point #12. Point #12 is in the middle of the alley. From Point # 12, the boundary runs south to a point in the alley off the northeast corner of Lot 7 of Block 21 to Point #13. From Point #13, the boundary runs west along the northern lot line of Lot 7 Block 21, across 5th Street, and along the north wall of the building at 701 5th Street to Point #14 in the alley. From Point #14, the boundary runs south down the

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota

Name of Property

County and State

alley to the middle of E Illinois Street at Point #15. From Point #15, the boundary runs east down the middle of E Illinois Street to Point #16. Point #16 is at the alley. From Point #16, the boundary runs south down the alley to Point #17. Point #17 is a point in the alley just off the southwest corner of Lot 5A Block 29. From Point #17, the boundary runs west along the lot line of 5D and 5C of Block 29 to the northwest corner of Lot 5B at Point #18. From Point #18, the boundary runs south along the western line of Lot 5B Block 29, transverses a small portion of the northern eastern lot line of Lot 6D and then runs south along the western lot line of Lot 6C to Point # 19 in the middle of W Hudson Street. (Note: no portion of Lots 5A, 5D, 5C, 6F, 6E, or 6D Block 29 are within the boundary). From Point #19, the boundary runs east to the middle of the intersection of Hudson Street and Main Street at Point #20. From Point #20, the boundary runs south to connect with the original starting point at Point #1.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is a reflection of what the 1974 nomination intended to include. There was minor conflicting information in the 1974 boundary map, 1974 Section 7, and 1974 verbal boundary description. This was due to imprecise methods available at the time and vagaries in verbal descriptions. It is the intention of the revised boundary to encompass the resources prescribed to belong in the district in 1974. The boundary has been constricted in two areas to reflect demolitions on the edge of the 1974 district boundary. The revised boundary, much like the 1974 boundary, includes commercial structures in Spearfish's historic Main Street area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rachael Peterson & C.B. Nelson
organization: SD SHPO
street & number: 900 Governors Drive
city or town: Pierre state: SD zip code: 57501
e-mail: chrisb.nelson@state.sd.us
telephone: 605-773-3458
date: 25 January 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)
Name of Property

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Spearfish Historic Commercial District

City or Vicinity: Spearfish

County: Lawrence

State: SD

Photographer: Ted Spencer

Date Photographed: 10 February 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 17.

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0001
Photo SE toward 544 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0002
Photo E toward 604-630 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0003
Photo NE toward 604-630 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0004
Photo E toward 638 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0005
Photo W toward 629-631 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0006
Photo NW toward 611-645 N. Main

Spearfish Historic Commercial District
(Boundary Decrease/Reclassification)

Lawrence County, South
Dakota
County and State

Name of Property

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0007
Photo NE toward 122 & 110 W. Illinois & 703 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0008
Photo NE towards 112 & 110 W. Illinois

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0009
Photo N toward 703 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0010
Photo E toward 604-630 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0011
Photo SE toward 604-638 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0012
Photo W toward 701 5th Street

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0013
Photo NE toward 146 & 132-134 W. Illinois

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0014
Photo NW toward 603 & 605 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0015
Photo SE toward 127 W Illinois & 645 N. Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0016
Photo S toward 535 Main

SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict_0017
Photo SE toward 146 W. Illinois

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 100 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
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10Page 1

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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8. Z=13	E=590689.43	N=4926960.95
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12. Z=13	E=590656.10	N=4926966.11
13. Z=13	E=590658.87	N=4926951.82
14. Z=13	E=590539.81	N=4926928.01
15. Z=13	E=590544.97	N=4926899.83
16. Z=13	E=590669.59	N=4926921.66
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 2

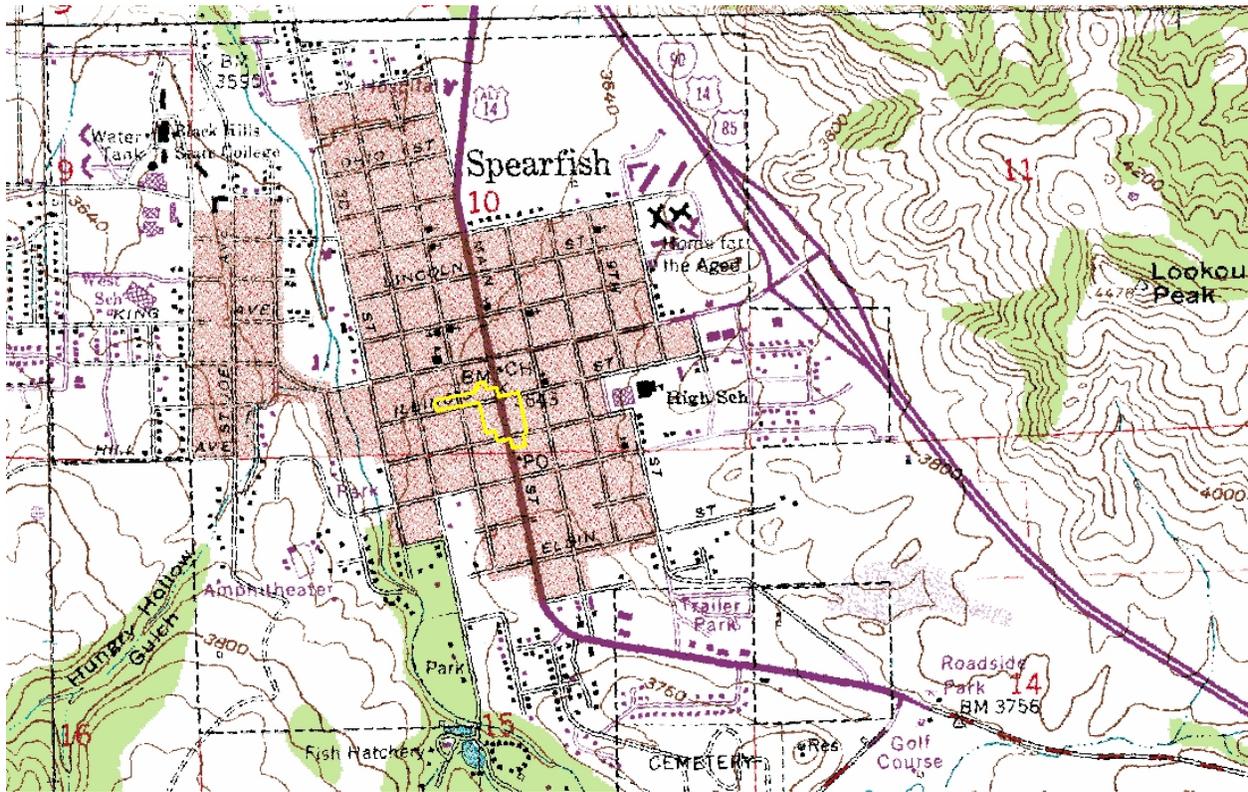


SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict: SW1/4, SE1/4, S10, T06N, R02E;
see UTMs on Continuation Sheet; 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map with FSA 2013 layer, 1:1,250;
produced in ArcMap 24 January 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3

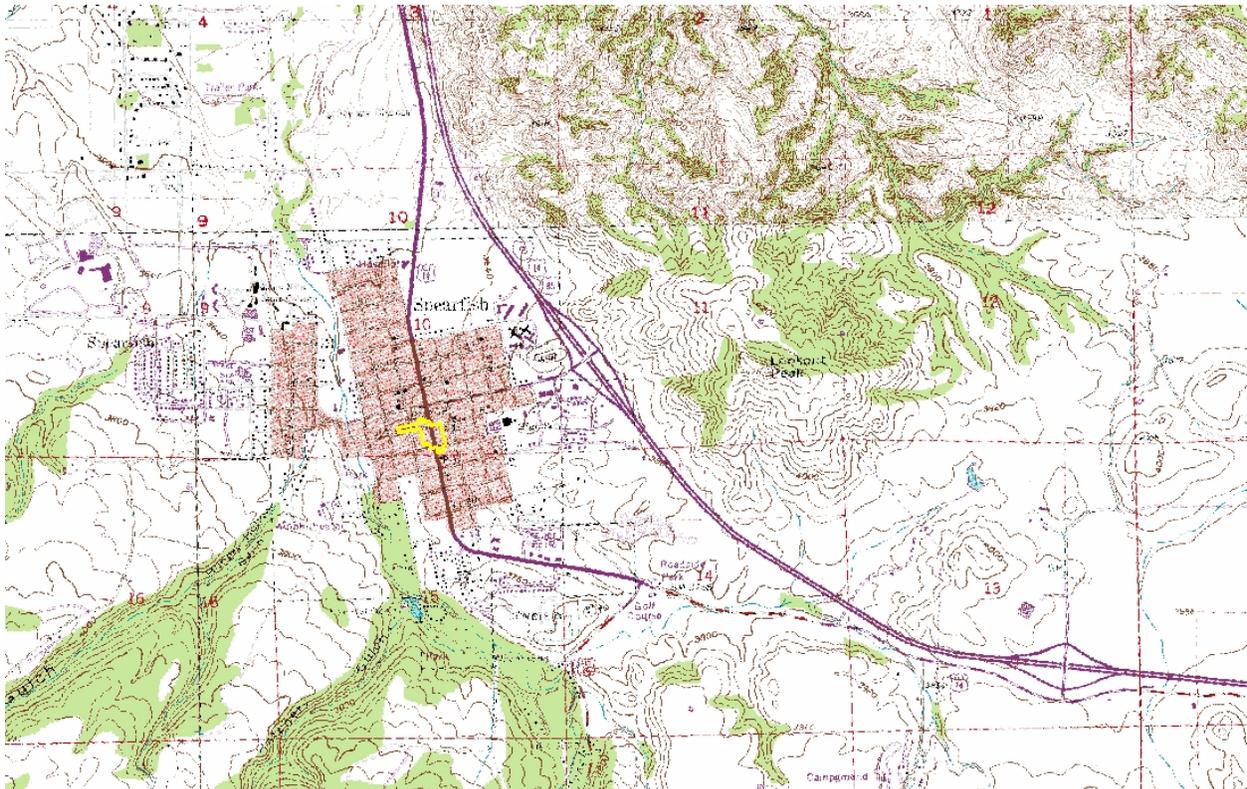


SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict: SW1/4, SE1/4, S10, T06N, R02E;
see UTM's on Continuation Sheet; 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map, 1:12,000; produced in ArcMap
24 January 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 4



SD_LawrenceCounty_SpearfishHistoricCommercialDistrict: SW1/4, SE1/4, S10, T06N, R02E;
see UTMs on Continuation Sheet; 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map, 1:24,000; produced in ArcMap
24 January 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 5

2017 Owner List

603 North Main	Desperado Investments, PO Box 1083, Spearfish, SD, 57783
605 North Main	Crain Family LLC, 19781 Hunter Rd., Spearfish, SD, 57783
611 North Main	Richard and Terri Dunwoody, PO Box 369, Spearfish, SD, 57783
615 North Main	Stan Sharp, PO Box 625, Story, WY, 82842
617 North Main	PDJ Holding Co., 1017 Flickerham Dr., Grand Ledge, MI, 48837
621 North Main	Spit Shine LLC, 2318 Windmill Dr., Spearfish, SD, 57783
629 North Main	Pink Blossom LLC, 629 Main Street, Spearfish, SD, 57783
631 North Main	Crain Family LLC, 19781 Hunter Rd., Spearfish, SD, 57783
635 North Main	Kazco LLC, 635 N Main, Spearfish, SD, 57783
639 North Main	Ry Rentals LLC, 11620 Body Shop Lane, St. Onge, SD, 57779
643 North Main	MLJ Properties LLC, PO Box 202, Spearfish, SD, 57783
645 North Main	MLJ Properties LLC, PO Box 202, Spearfish, SD, 57783
703 North Main	Leland Ruzicka, 703 Main, Spearfish, SD, 57783
544 North Main	Redstone Properties LLC, 2408 2 nd Street, Spearfish, SD, 57783
604-630 North Main	Kelley Block LLC, PO Box 1595, Dickinson, ND, 58601
638 North Main	Crain Family LLC C/O Dykstra Properties LLC, 1425 Hillside Drive, Spearfish, SD, 57783
644-648 North Main	Gloria Jean Sparrow Trust, 1003 Verdale Dr, Spearfish, SD, 57783

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 127 West Illinois | Stage Two LLP, PO Box 384, Spearfish, SD, 57783 |
| 110 West Illinois | Leland Ruzicka, 19272 Shear Road, Belle Fourche, SD, 57717 |
| 122 West Illinois | Alan and Nancy Hardin, 610 Custer St., Spearfish, SD, 57783 |
| 132-134 West Illinois | Sandra Gest C/O John and Phyllis Hart, 939 E Colorado Blvd.,
Spearfish, SD, 57783 |
| 146 West Illinois | Richard King, PO Box 86, Spearfish, SD, 57783 |
| 701 5 th | Todd Crowe, 12700 Willow Lane, Lakewood, CO, 80215 |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 7

Spearfish Historic
Commercial District
(map created 2017)



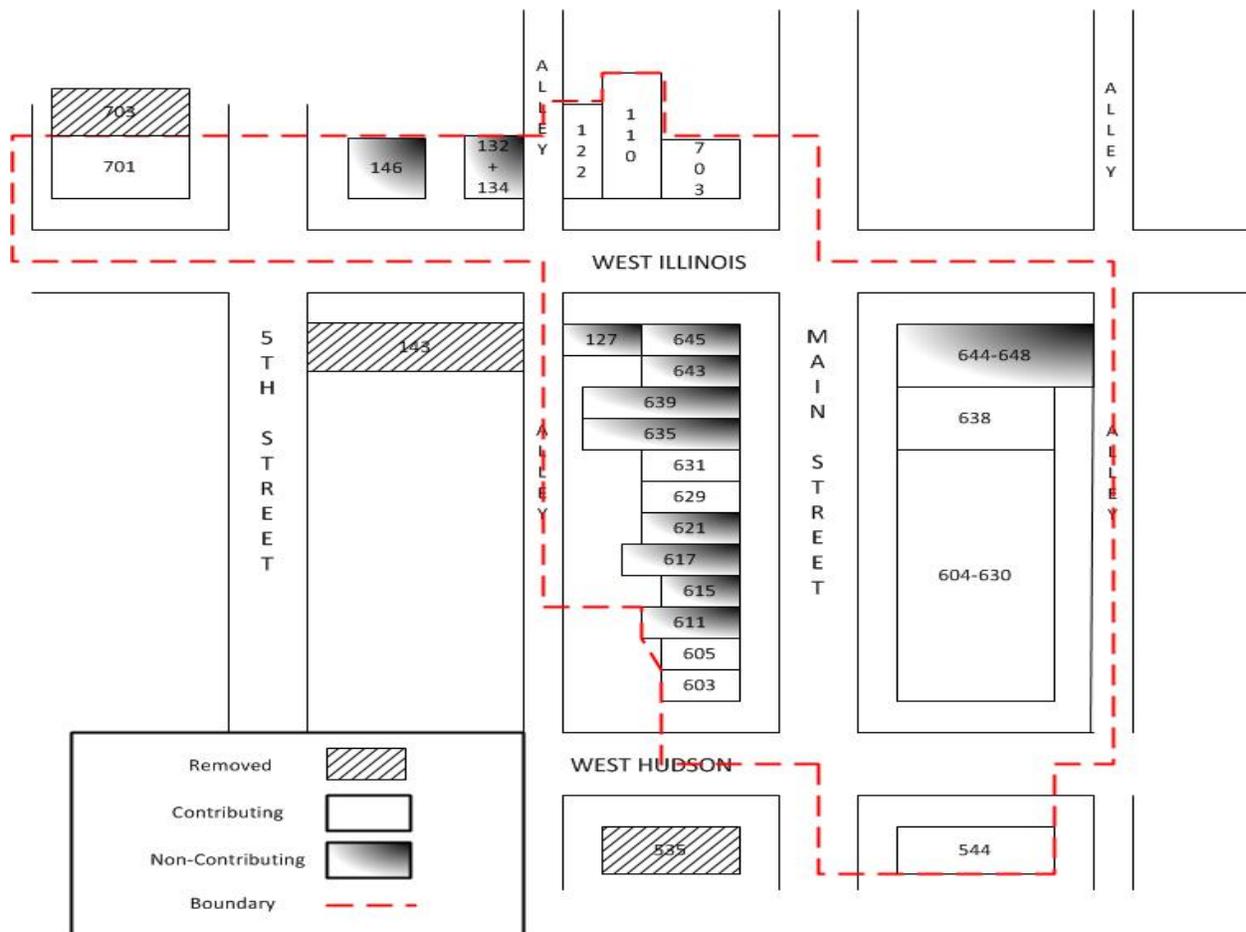
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 8

Spearfish Historic
Commercial District
(map created 2017)
With Removed Properties



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 8

Spearfish Historic
Commercial District
(map created 2017)
Photo Key

