

## Concrete Log Cabin

The Ellerman-Kreun house in Yankton, South Dakota, was built in 1911 by Arthur Ellerman and his brother as part of a family compound. Ellerman, an avid hunter and outdoorsman as well as a trained engineer, wanted to make a rustic structure out of modern materials. The house is composed of individual concrete logs cast on site in Ellerman's specially constructed molds. Two-by-fours were embedded in the concrete at the bottom of the molds; they became nailers to hold the lath and plaster. A foundation of native stone was covered by a rough subfloor. The logs were cast on the subfloor and put in



position. The house was painted dark brown, and the present owners, the Kreuns, intend to restore the original color. Even the ends of the logs were painted to resemble wood. The red tile roof was inspired by institutional buildings in Yankton. The interior is Craftsman style and has remained essentially unaltered. Stone flower pots on the front porch date from 1912, and were made of round river stones and concrete left over from the foundation. The love of concrete extends to an outbuilding, a concrete tepee, cast in 1932.  
—Jim Wilson, *historic preservation consultant, Vermillion, S. Dak.*

