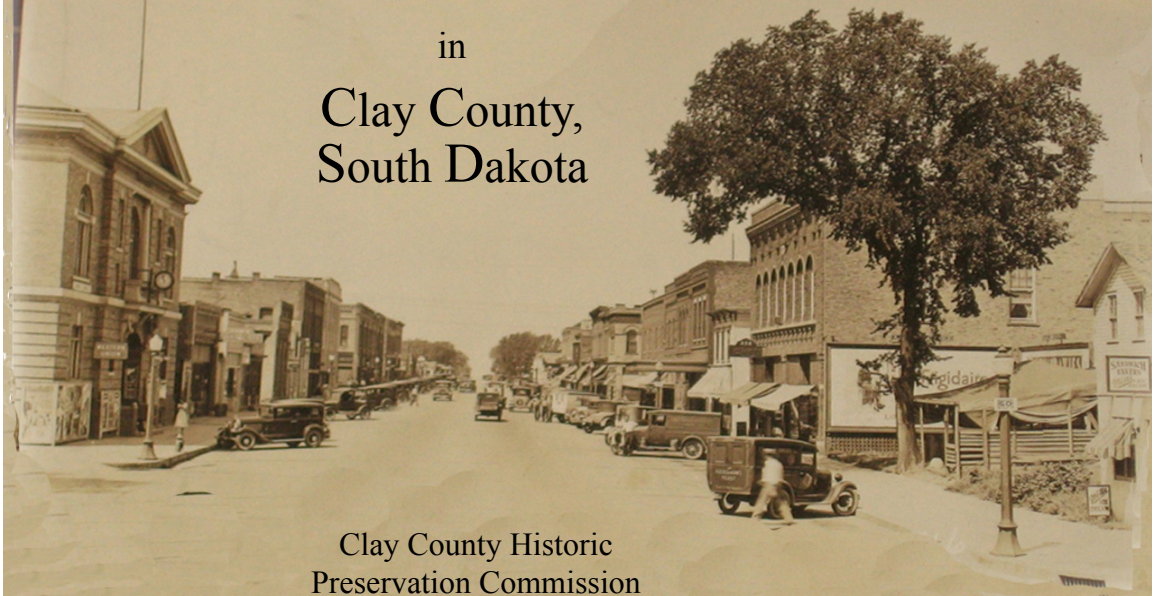
GUIDE

to

NATIONAL REGISTER of HISTORIC PLACES

in

Clay County, South Dakota



Clay County Historic
Preservation Commission
2011

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National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, the Register was authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources.

The Guide

Thirty-eight sites in Clay County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 2007. In this small book, a summary of each site is presented, along with photographs, a description, and, where possible, personal information of historic relevance. Places in Clay County include homesteads, farmsteads, churches, schools, libraries, a courthouse, banks, a variety store, a township hall, bridges, districts, a park and a cemetery chapel, all built within the past century-and-a-half. All structures have been carefully documented for preservation. Commentaries articulate the particular architectural history, give voice to the lives of the builders, and honor the care extended to the Places from generation to generation.

Notes regarding the Places were derived by various Preservation Commission members from a variety of sources, including interviews, historical texts, relevant web sites and National Register documentation. A bibliography at the back references certain text and digital resources used in the compilation, but no footnotes are used. Photographs range from pictures on vintage postcards from the Clay County Historical Society to digital images recently taken by Preservation Commission members. This project was collectively undertaken by members of the Preservation Commission in an attempt to provide a record of the circumstances of these Places at the present time. There are a great many historical and archeological sites in Clay County, and it is hoped that in the future, many more Places will undergo the rigorous documentation process required for a nomination to the National Register.

Clay County

Clay County has a rich heritage. Glacier-molded lands and Missouri River meanders enticed generations of plants and animals, insects, birds and fish to build up this beautiful landscape. People have moved along the river for millennia, leaving remnants of themselves or their lives. Honoring of Spirit Mound in Clay County with a designation on the National Register of Historic Places harkens to a time before white settlement, to a sacred place of native awe and understanding, and to a Place of great geologic and botanic interest.

From earliest times, the Missouri River and its tributaries have served as highways. Archeological evidence indicates that several different cultures have called this area home over the millennia. In a more recent time, the Lewis & Clark Expedition documented the area when the Captains and several men made the overland hike from the River to explore Spirit Mound. They left lyrical descriptions of what they saw here in 1804. Later in the 19th century, fur traders and native people would form

what Herbert Hoover calls the Missouri Valley Culture. But it was only after the Ihanktonwan ceded much of what would become eastern South Dakota to the United States, and moved to the land that the Yankton people had reserved for themselves, that contemporary settlement of the valley and uplands would begin in earnest. It is information about Places built by those settlers that fill the bulk of this book.

Vermillion was "founded" in 1859, at the Great Bend of the Missouri when it ran beneath the bluff, in an area where people had been congregating for many years. In 1861, the Territorial Land Office established in Vermillion had the distinction of entering one of the first homestead entries under the Homestead Act in Dakota Territory.

Dakota Territory area drew many of the Swedes, Norwegians and others of northern European ancestry who made up the melting pot of early pioneers. Their architectural influence is seen in the surviving farmsteads and home constructed in the various rural settlement areas in Clay County. Some early settlers chose rich lowlands, such as those fertile bottomlands in Norway Township, to farm in community with kin. Others chose the highlands and congregated near such places as Alsen. Still others, businessmen and town folk, would rebuild Vermillion above the bluff after the 1881 flood. Whether a quaint Queen Anne on Forest Avenue or a rugged Danish barn on a farm, these structures were built to last.

If the succeeding generations took care of the structures, they are still standing solid after more than a hundred years. This is no surprise, as buildings using similar construction techniques may continue standing in the old countries for centuries.

We may merely be witnessing the early middle years for some of these wonderful buildings. This small book seeks to document them in our time and to celebrate their futures.

Please note: most of these Places are private homes which are not open to the public

2011 Clay County Commissioners

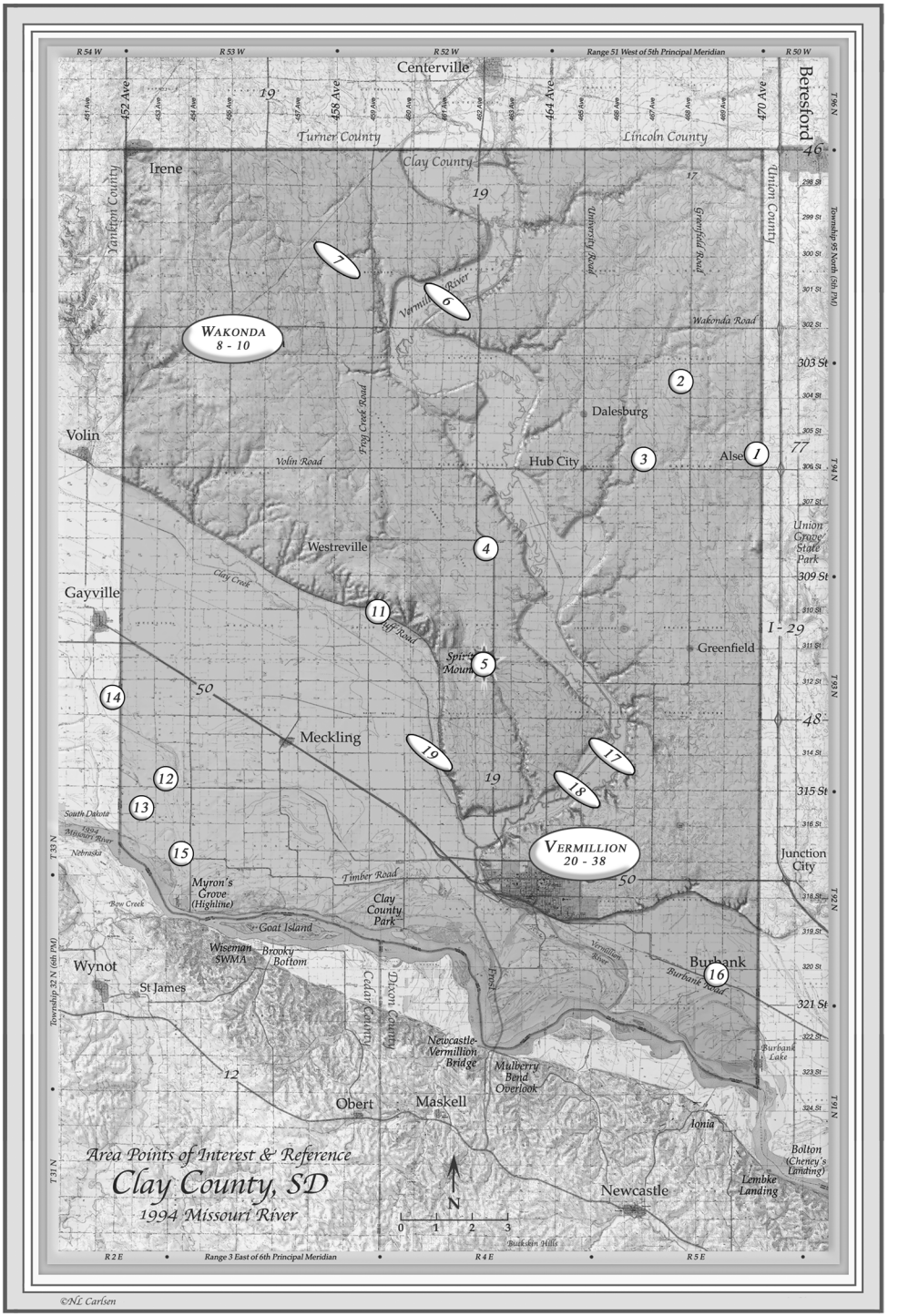
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Area Points of Interest & Reference
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1994 Missouri River
Centerville
Irene
Beresford
Volin
Dalesburg
Hub City
Alsen
Westreville
Gayville
Greenfield
Meckling
Junction City
Wynot
St James
Burbank
Obert
Maskell
Newcastle
Ionia
Bolton (Cheney's Landing)
Lembke Landing
Wakonda
8 - 10
Vermillion
20 - 38
Turner County
Lincoln County
Yankton County
Union County
Clay County
Dixon County
Cedar County
Wakonda Road
Volin Road
Timber Road
Burbank Road
Vermillion River
Clay Creek
Bow Creek
Goat Island
Brooky Bottom
Wiseman SWMA
Myron's Grove (Highline)
Clay County Park
Newcastle-Vermillion Bridge
Mulberry Bend Overlook
Burbank Lake
Union County State Park
I - 29
South Dakota
1994 Missouri River
Nebraska
N
0 1 2 3
R 54 W
R 53 W
R 52 W
Range 51 West of 5th Principal Meridian
R 50 W
R 2 E
Range 3 East of 6th Principal Meridian
R 4 E
R 5 E
T 33 N
T 32 N
T 31 N
T 94 N
T 93 N
T 92 N
T 91 N
Township 32 N (6th PM)
Township 95 North (5th PM)

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The Uplands and Northern Clay County

1 Anderson Homestead and Historical District

30535 470th Avenue



The Anderson Farm, located in the village of Alsen in Section 13, Garfield Township, offers a glimpse of South Dakota's agricultural past. The site was first occupied by Olof & Ingeborg Erickson, Swedish immigrants who came to Dakota Territory in the 1870s. They built a simple frame dwelling on the property and called their new home "Alsen" after their home parish in Jamtland Province, Sweden.

The original house is still standing on the site, but most of the buildings date from the time when the Ericksons' son-in-law Solomon Anderson and his wife Margaret took over the 800-acre farm. Solomon drew upon his agricultural education and experiences in Sweden and the newest technologies to initiate many innovative operations on the farm. Among these were building the first silo in South Dakota, organizing a farmers' cooperative creamery, overseeing development of a rural telephone exchange and pioneering the breeding of purebred cattle in the state.

Built in 1901, the main house shows NeoClassical style with Georgian and Italianate characteristics. The Anderson family and their hired workers lived in the house in separate quarters. The Farm often served as a place of first employment for newly-arrived immigrants. Until 1925, the Alsen Telephone Company occupied the third floor, where the telephone operators also lived.

Twenty-one outbuildings on this site contribute to its additional listing as a District on the National Register. It is also distinguished as an historic Century Farm. Built in 1894, the horse barn is an elaborate clapboard, two-story barn with a symmetrical facade. The silo is a square wooden structure built in 1894 to store what could be salvaged from a drought-damaged corn crop. Other structures include granaries, sheds, silos, a chicken house, stone cellar and summer kitchen.



Listed on the National Register in 1978, the Anderson Place is a reminder of the contributions of Scandinavians to Clay County's and South Dakota's agricultural heritage.

2 Messler Homestead / Bylander Farm
30337 Greenfield Road



Daniel Messler came to Dakota in 1868. His daughter married John Bylander, and one of their descendents still lives in the main house. She cherishes the original homestead patent, signed by Ulysses S. Grant. The site was listed on the National Register in 2002.

The main house, now painted Swedish yellow, was built in 1902 as a Swedish manor house by Daniel Messler. Wagons from Beresford delivered the lumber for building, and if Messler judged a piece of lumber as imperfect, he rejected the entire wagon load and sent it back to Beresford. The hired man's room was on the west side of the house where the full bath and bedroom now stand. It could be shut off from the rest of the house and the hired man could access the room by a utilitarian, steep stairway in the back.



Built in the 1870s, the smaller house adjacent to the main house was the first wooden dwelling on the homestead. Later generations would refer to as "Grandma's House". This house was originally a typical immigrant house with the livestock, i.e. chickens, in the back. It was "cut" in half, one half remaining in the current location and the other half becoming a base for the toolshop. The house was also built after the barn was raised in the 1870s, evidence of the primary importance of providing shelter for the livestock.

Between the two houses is the structure that the Bylander children have referred to as the washhouse because their mother used it in the 1950s for washing clothes with a Maytag wringer washer. The proper term for the building was the summer kitchen because the family cooked there in the summer to keep the main house as cool as possible. The washhouse has been restored, painted in barn red and accessorized with a traditional Swedish green door.

There is also a two-hole outhouse currently in a state of disrepair. Papered with Sears' catalogues, the outhouse was used by all in the 1950s for emergencies when the septic tank was "on the fritz" or when the children did not have time to make the trip to the house! Consideration is being given to rebuilding the outhouse and to stabilizing the barn's rock foundation.



3 Garfield Township Hall
46696 306th Street



Garfield Township Hall is a reminder of past rural activity on the government, school and community level. The hall was originally built in 1908 and served as a meeting place for the local township government and as a polling location for general, primary and special elections.

The Garfield Township Hall also served as a venue for local country school programs, and community and traveling theater and musical productions. The hall provided space for public meetings for the presentation and discussion of current issues in the township, county and state, and it served as a gathering place for anniversaries, bridal showers and social events. It was placed on the National Register in 2004.

Constructed of wood with a concrete foundation, Garfield Hall has a false front and an ocular front window. Common elements of the rest of the building are the two-over-two double hung windows. As part of a 1936 WPA project, a one-story three-sided, gable roof entry and porch were added. The WPA project also included the addition of a wing on the north side of the building for the construction of the present elevated stage area, and an open basement. The open area on the main floor served as the auditorium with a balcony on the south end. The ceiling and walls of the auditorium are covered in pressed metal.



Of the twelve townships in Clay County, only four had township halls. Garfield, Prairie Center and Bethel Township Halls are some of the few remaining halls in the entire area. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, places like the Garfield Township Hall could no longer be used unless they were modified. The Hall was abandoned for more modern facilities, and today stands only as a reminder of an active rural life in Clay County.

4 Yusten House

30831 SD Highway 19

The Yusten House is located on SD Highway 19 at the curve some three and a half miles north of Spirit Mound. This house is an elegant example of the Prairie Box or American Foursquare.

Ed Yusten purchased the land in 1918 and the home was built soon after. Mr. and Mrs. Yusten lived in the house until 1955 and their son, Howard, resided in the home until 1972. The Yusten's owned a car dealership in Vermillion.

The Yusten house embodies the Foursquare house-type popular for the first quarter of the 20th century. The two story house is in cubic form, two rooms wide and two deep (with the exception of the rear wing). It has the common central dormer, nearly pyramidal roof, raised basement and a rear stoop.



The home's facade faces east and the house has a hipped asphalt-shingled roof, clapboard and wood-shingle siding, a field stone and mortar foundation and a central brick chimney. The front-door entrance has beveled glass and is adorned with beveled glass sidelights. There are two eight-over-one picture windows, one on either side of the entrance, that feature federal-style trim. The second floor facade features the same type of windows with a decorative oval window between.

The interior of the home contains impressive oak cabinetry with oak bookcases which divide the living-room from the den. Still in place are the original French doors that divide the living-room and den. There are wooden doors with beveled glass in both the living-room and den that open to the front foyer. All floors in this home, with the exception of the kitchen and bathrooms, are of the original hardwood with oak baseboards. The staircase with its oak-spindled railing and the walk-up attic are also original to the house.

The Yusten House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.

5 Spirit Mound/Paha Wakan

SD Highway 19 north of Vermillion



Spirit Mound, or Paha Wakan, located on SD Highway 19 about seven miles north of Vermillion, is the highest point in Clay County. Although there are other hills nearby, the mound is striking in its relative isolation. Geologists call this kind of formation a roche moutonee, a bedrock knob that was shaped but not leveled by the last Pleistocene glacier between 10,000 and 13,000 years ago.

Prior to getting to this area, Lewis & Clark had heard that the local Omaha, Oto and Yankton tribes believed the mound to be occupied by little spirits with "remarkable large heads" who shot any human who came near. On August 25, 1804, Captains Lewis and Clark with several men and their dog Seaman set off from their camp near the mouth of the Vermillion River and walked the nine or so miles to the mound. As they climbed to the summit, the men of the expedition were deeply impressed by the view. According to Clark's journal entry, "from the top of this mound we beheld a most butifull landscape; Numerous herds of buffalow were Seen feeding in various directions..."

This is one of the few remaining sites where it is certain that Lewis and Clark actually stood.

Since pioneer times, the mound had been privately owned. A farmhouse, cattle feedlot, concrete trench silo, and tree shelterbelt had grown on the original homestead located on the eastern slope of the mound. Most of the site was farmed, with the remainder in pasture.

In 1986, a local group formed the Spirit Mound Trust, dedicating its efforts to saving the mound as a public resource. By 2001, through the efforts of the Trust and the National Park Service, South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation and South Dakota Deptartment of Game, Fish, and Parks, the 320-acre Spirit Mound site was purchased and became part of the state park system. The aceage has now been cleared of buildings and most trees, and the land has been reseeded with native prairie grasses and flowers.

The Spirit Mound site was placed on the National Register in 1974.



6 SD Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-090-042
461st Avenue over the Vermillion River

Bridge No. 14-090-042 is a pony truss bridge 6 miles east and 0.8 miles north of Wakonda. It carries a minimum maintenance road across the Vermillion River on 461st Avenue just north of Riverside Street.



The bridge was probably built in 1912. Clay County Commission records show that the Federal Bridge Company of Des Moines, Iowa, was awarded the construction contract in November, 1911, for the bid of $1,546.

The South Dakota Historic Bridge Inventory describes the bridge as having three spans, with two timber stringer approaches on each end, and one riveted 5-panel Warren pony truss in the middle. A pony truss is defined by the lack of cross braces across the top of the two trusses. The bridge rests on steel cylinder piers and the deck consists of wood planks.

Bordered by wood railings, the approach spans rest on timber pile abutments with plank back walls and wing walls. The truss span has angle section railings. The bridge is in a heavily wooded part of the Vermillion River valley, and the approaches to the bridge are poor in wet weather.

This bridge was placed on the National Register in 2000.

7 SD Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-060-032
458th Avenue over Spring Creek

Bridge No. 14-060-032 is a concrete arch bridge 3 miles east and 1.8 miles north of Wakonda carrying a gravel road across Spring Creek on 458th Avenue just south of 300th Street.



Although the date of construction for this bridge is not known, the style is consistent with the period 1900 to 1924. According to Clay County Commission records, the county began building concrete bridges as early as 1914. The likely dates of construction are between 1914 and 1919.

The South Dakota Historic Bridge Inventory describes this bridge as a single span deck and concrete arch, with solid concrete railings ornamented with four recessed panels. The arch is semicircular in configuration and about 25 feet in clear span. The abutments have sloped, flared wing walls.

The bridge is oriented north-south. Spring Creek flows east to join with the Vermillion River, about four miles to the southeast. The concrete arch is not readily apparent as the bridge is approached, so one would have to leave the vehicle to see the entire structure.

This is the only concrete arch bridge remaining in Clay County, and one of only 18 surviving in the state. The bridge was placed on the National Register in 2000.

(Bridge No. 14-120-222)

Three bridges have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in northern Clay County. However, one of these bridges was replaced because of necessary road improvements for the county.

The replaced Bridge No. 14-120-222 was a Pratt pony truss spanning Ash Creek on 464th Avenue, about 9 miles east and 3 miles north of Wakonda. The bridge had been built by the Iowa Bridge Company of Des Moines in 1906and repaired in 1917. IOn the National Register since 1999, the bridge was replaced in 2001 because the load limit was inadequate for the traffic on that particular road.

Wakonda


Clay
Sioux Street
302 Street
1st Street
2nd Street
3rd Street
Arcade
Iowa
Minnesota
Ohio
Kansas
Dakota
Yankee
4th Street
5th Street
435 Avenue
A Street
Prairie Drive
Chester
Maple
N

Wakonda

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8 Wakonda Variety Building
125 Ohio Street

The Variety Store was built circa 1907. A nice example of the Commercial style utilized in small towns, this brick building is one of the few structures that survived the 1917 Wakonda fire which destroyed eight buildings in the commercial area.

Wallace Wright purchased the lot from Thomas Dowthill of the Western Town Lot Company. The building, constructed by Wright, housed a meat market, drug store, variety store, local newspaper, and a casket storage facility.

The building at 125 Ohio Street had housed a pharmacy since the late 1930s when Neil Chancellor moved his drugstore from the north half of what was known as the "Hatch" building to this site. Some ten years later, Chancellor sold the building to Glen and Mae Sample, who were both pharmacists.



Later, the Samples sold the building to Kenneth and Myrtle Hatch, who operated the place as a Variety store. Wilfred and Ann Doty purchased the building in 1968, and continued the store until 1980, at which time it was again sold. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steffen were the last operators of a variety store in the building.

The building then stood empty for some years until it was purchased by Jerry Johnson, who uses the building for storage and for supplies for his dry wall work.

The building was listed on the National Register in 2002.

9 Sample-Lindblom House / Odile Babb House
410 Idaho Street



The Sample - Lindblom - Babb House is a Westchester Delux Lustron built in 1948. Lustron houses were designed and constructed entirely from prefabricated porcelain-enameled steel. Enough two-foot-square steel panels for an entire house were shipped and the homeowner would have the house assembled on site. These houses were designed to help with the severe housing shortage faced by returning WWII soldiers and their families.

Of the approximately 2500 Lustron homes built in the United States, some 38 of them were constructed in South Dakota. Many have been placed on the National Register. The Westchester Delux was the most popular model.

This three bedroom house measures 31' x 39'. The interior walls are primarily gray with a yellow kitchen and bathroom.

Features of this Lustron model include built-in bookcases and cabinets in the living-room, a kitchen combination dishwasher / clothes washer, an automatic water-heater, a built-in vanity in the master bedroom, a radiant panel heating system and many other features. All the owner needed was refrigerator, stove and furniture.

This special house has been a home for only three owners. The first owners and builders were Mr. & Mrs. Glen Sample. The Samples had two children, Dale and Richard. The family left the area shortly after Dale graduated from high school in 1965, and the house was purchased by Eric Lindblom. The next owner purchased the place in 1984.

Mrs. Odile Babb continues to live in this notable house which was placed on the National Register in 1998.

10 Wakonda State Bank / Wakonda Library Building
118 Ohio Street



Fires in 1906 and 1917 destroyed many of the historic wood frame buildings from the original Wakonda settlement. After the first fire, brick construction became favored and resulted in the erection in 1913 of the brick bank building which now houses the Wakonda Library.

During the bank crisis in the mid 1920s, the Wakonda State Bank went into receivership and by 1931, the Bank of Wakonda closed its doors. Local stockholders and Ed Eystad worked to open the Security State Bank in the same building which had housed the Wakonda State Bank. It remained a bank under a number of names until 1961.

The Wakonda Community Library, developed after 1928, had occupied a public library room since the 1940s. When the bank left, the community turned the building into the Wakonda Library. As of 2006, the building is under private ownership and houses a business, Dakota Screen Works. The business has carried out interior remodeling, but there have been few other alterations to this brick building,.

The structure remains a well preserved example of the Colonial Revival style utilized in commercial building of that period. Architectural details exhibited in the building which are common to that style include columns, pediments and dentils.

The building was added to the National Register in 2003.

The Lowlands and Southern Clay County

11 Rice Farm / Severson Homestead
30998 Bluff Road



The Rice Farm, also known as the Severson Homestead, is located along the Bluff Road just east of its junction with Frog Creek Road and two miles south of Westreville. Tucked near the bluff and beside a little creek, the one-and-a-half story log dwelling built by Inglebrigt and Syrena Severson about 1869 is the oldest house still standing in Clay County.

Constructed of unchinked, squared, tongue-in-grove logs joined at the corners by dovetail notching, the house was built to last. Pegs secured the logs vertically along each wall. Clapboard siding, which had been added in the 1920s to cover the exterior walls, was removed in the 1970.

The front facade of the log home displays two symmetrically arranged windows. The second floor dormers, ornamented with a sunburst pattern, appear to have been added at a later date, suggesting that the second story originally had no front openings. The joists supporting the second story are visible from the exterior. Both east and west facades have a double set of windows on the first floor and a single window on the second. A frame ell was later attached to the rear. There is a north door opening into the addition, which opens east.

The stove chimney forms a centrally located partition and divides both floors into two rooms. The front door enters just to the right (east) of this partition. Although the stairs to the second floor are now located in the ell, their original location may have been near the cabin's east side. The foundation is of hewn Sioux quartzite, which until recent times stood straight without mortar. The joists are unplaned 2x4s and the house has a full basement.

Of the two barns and three sheds still standing when the site was nominated to the National Register in 1978, only one barn now remains. The frame barn to the north of the cabin rests on a stone foundation and carries a gable roof. The walls and roof were recently patched.

The farm represents an important aspect of the Norwegian immigrant settlements in South Dakota. The cabin displays some Scandinavian features, including the use of squared logs which were notched on both sides, no interstices, and logs instead of boards at the gable end tops. However, Inglebrit Severson incorporated other features which weren't characteristic of Scandinavian log

structures, such as full dovetail notching and floor boards placed three to five inches below the plate. Perhaps he learned these building techniques during his intermediate stay in Nebraska, making the Rice Farm log cabin an example of a structure built by a Norwegian immigrant who adjusted his native building technique to fit the American Plains environment.

Inglebrit and Syrena Severson came with their baby daughters to homestead in Clay County in the 1860s. Severson claimed as his homestead the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 5 in 1869, patented it in 1870, and added more land to the farm over the years. Syrena died in 1875-6 and is buried on the place (as is perhaps Inglebrigt). In 1883, John Rice married Gurina, one of the Severson daughters. In 1889, Severson divided his farm, selling half to Gurina and John, and half to his other daughter, Martha. Some discrepancies exist in the record as to which sister received title to which half of the farm.

Regardless of paper title, Gurina and John Rice eventually moved into the house. There they raised eight children, and the place would become known as the Rice Farm. John modernized the house by covering the logs with planed boards and asphalt siding that resembled bricks. Harry and Johnny, two of the Rice sons, remained in the house until the 1960s, the third generation of a family that made the log house its home for 100 years.

Few early settlement log structures erected on the Missouri River bottomlands in southeastern South Dakota remain. The Rice Farm / Severson Homestead survives as an excellent example, thanks to roof repairs and stabilization by Ellis and Mary Ellen Jensen, who owned the land in the 1970s, and to the thoughtful conservation and sensitive replacement of deteriorated logs by the present owners, Jerry and Norma Wilson.

The Rice Farm / Severson Homestead was added to the National Register in 1978.



12 Johnsen, Calle Nissen / Hansen Farmsead
31494 453rd Avenue

The Calle Nissen Johnsen Farmstead is located in Section 32, Meckling Township, between Meckling and Gayville in southwestern Clay County. One of the first Danes to settle in the area, Calle Nissen Johnsen emigrated from Schleswig, Denmark and purchased a land patent on 160 acres for $200 in 1869. Eventually, the family of Carl Hansen, the Johnsens' grandson, would call the Place home.



This farmstead is classified as a rural historic district. It consists of eight structures contributing to the Register listing, including the main house, original log house, barn, grain scale platform, livestock feeder, cattle shed, artesian well and farm landscape. There is one non-contributing structure – a corn dryer bought in the mid 1970s.

The house was constructed in 1946-1947 in the same location as the original brick and wood frame house (circa 1870s), which burned in 1933. This "newer" one-and-a-half story residential structure has a brick veneer on the first floor's exterior walls. The second story walls are cedar covered in aluminum siding. The east side of the house has a breezeway that connects to a one-car garage. As is common in this period, the house's first floor interior is dominated by the kitchen. The stairway, located in the living room, has a curved rail with curved cedar spindles. On the second floor, the most interesting features are the built-in closets that resemble dressers. All but the kitchen and bathrooms have cedar flooring. The house's interior has not received major alteration.

The first log house, built in 1869, was replaced by a second log house moved from the Lake Myron area in 1869. This log house, the first home of Calle and Marie Johnsen, is constructed primarily of vertical cottonwood planks and cottonwood shingles. A shed addition on either side of the main portion was added in 1930 for storage and kitchen area. In 1947, a garage door replaced a small overhang and entryway.

The most distinctive feature of this rural historic district is the clay brick barn, thought to be the only remaining brick barn from the 1870s in the area. With unique walls constructed of clay brick manufactured on the property, work on the barn commenced in 1870 and was completed in 1878. The T-shaped barn measures 47' wide and 111' long with a foundation built of stone rising a little over 1 1/2' in height. The roof is constructed with cottonwood framing, notched from hand tools and held together with wooden pegs, and is covered with cottonwood shingles. It has two simple cupolas; the original cupola on the front portion was removed during a wind storm.

The facade's main entry is centered and shaped in a rounded arch, with two doors that are approximately 11' tall and 6.5' wide. They open inward and can be locked with a rotating wood arm. Above the door is a soldier course decorative arch. There are four pilasters on the facade of the barn: one on each side of the main door and one at each corner. Between each of the pilasters, roughly three quarters of the way up the side of the barn, is a number reflecting the date of completion, 1878. Soldier brick arches are above the brick barn's other doorway and four-over-four window openings.

Inside the brick barn, the south portion of the front part of the barn consists of three horse stalls with six hinged doors. The finger holes in the pen doors are in the shape of hearts. A calving pen is situated next to the horse stalls while wood feed troughs run along the wall of the horse stalls and calving pen. The northwest corner of the barn has two enclosed grain storage closets that extend from floor to ceiling. The upper story of the barn has a hay loft in the rear portion.

The grain scale platform is the most notable feature among the other contributing structures on the Calle Nissen Johnsen Farmstead. The scale was brought onto the property in the 1920s when area farmers had to travel too far to get good prices for their grain crops. The weigh scale also reflects a trend in agriculture – that of farmers not trusting merchants. Farmers would come onto Calle Johnsen's property and drive their grain wagons onto the scale. By doing this, farmers could then go to the merchants and know for certain how much grain they had.

The housing of the scale is cottonwood planks. The box rests on two metal posts that are bolted to a cottonwood platform and the wood platform is secured to a concrete pad which runs on a metal arm. The Winslow Government Standard Scale from Terre Haute, Indiana, has a 40,000 pound limit but had additional weights for adding increments. The weigh-in area is 39' long and 11.5' wide.

The Calle Nissen Johnsen's land, houses and farm structures are significant for their role in settlement, architecture and agriculture. The buildings are architecturally significant as highly intact examples of typical South Dakota farm structures. Not only are they good individual examples of various building types, but they are also noteworthy because of the high degree of integrity in the farm complex. The barn is rare due to its Danish style and use of brick made on-site. The buildings on this property reflect the integrity, workmanship and history of rural life in the center of a thriving Danish community in the late 1880s.



The Calle Nissen Johnsen / Hansen Farmstead was added to the National Register in 1999.

13 Junker / Jepsen Farmstad and Historic District
45248 316th Street

The Junker / Jepsen Farmstead, located south of Meckling in Section 6, Norway Township, is an example of the building style and method used by the Danish-Americans in Clay County. The farmstead represents the combination of Old World techniques and American Dakota prairie building practices. It is classified as a rural Historic District because it consists of four structures which contributed to its National Register listing. These include the house, barn, chicken coop, and granary. There are additional buildings on the site which do not contribute to the listing.



Built in 1906-1907, the house dominates the farmstead and is a mixture of Queen Anne and Danish styles. It is a two-and-a-half story frame structure composed of two intersecting gable-roofed rectangular units. A Queen Anne semi-octagonal tower is located at the intersection of the two roof sections. Other Queen Anne details include a projecting, rectangular bay window on the west side, fish scale shingles in the half-story gables, and a curving porch trimmed with classical revival details.

The first floor is arranged in five nearly square rooms with a small entryway located in the tower. The second floor contains six bedrooms and was originally divided into two parts: the family's quarters and the farmhands' bedrooms each had its own stairway. The farmhands may have been young Danish men and women whose passage to America had been paid in exchange for working on the farm.



The barn was built in 1898 and exemplifies Danish-American folk construction. It is long and rectangular in shape, and is covered with a gabled roof. Entrance is gained through the east and west gable-ends and through a passageway about one-fourth of the way back from the front (east) wall. The barn originally provided stalls, with each area lit by a small window. Although the stalls have been removed, evidence of their location remains.

The barn is one of four recorded Danish barns in the area. It is thought that Junker's neighbor, Calle Nissen Johnsen, designed or erected all of the barns. The style is a modified version of the fully-articulated wood framing system, seen at the nearby Sylvester Fargo barn. Unique to the Junker / Jepsen barn is the use of 15.5" wide diagonal boards for the wall skin. The lumber for the barn, and possibly the house and granary too, was cut at a small saw mill once located on the farm site.

The large loft over the ground floor is one open space used for hay and feed storage. A half-wall creates a larger and taller loft than found in other ethnic folk barns of the Finns, Czechs, and German-Russians in South Dakota. The interior of the barn contains abundant evidence of handmade gates, mortar joints and hardware used throughout the building.

The chicken coop was built during the 1920-1929 period and is of wood frame construction. The structure is covered with a gable roof and has a bank of windows under the eave along the south wall. An off-center door is located on the east gable-end side.

The granary, built between 1890 and 1920, is of wood frame construction with a gable roof, and has a prominent elevator shaft head rising above the roof. The interior is divided into two large storage areas, with the elevator and sorting apparatus in the middle. Large, diagonal planks form the walls, which are covered with a smaller exterior horizontal board siding.

The original farmstead owners were Nissen and Karen Junker, who came to Dakota Territory from Denmark with their three children in 1870. The present house and barn date from the time their son Jens and his wife Anna Logon Junker operated the farm.

Hans Jepsen purchased the farm in 1936, and it is now owned by Hans' son Johnnie and his wife Marge.

The Junker / Jepsen Farmstead was added to the National Register of Historic Place in 1988.

14 Andre House
31256 452nd Avenue

The William Andre House is a two-story brick house situated on the border of Clay and Yankton Counties. It is an excellent example of the Italianate style, exhibiting such distinctive characteristics as two stories, low pitched roof, decorative brackets beneath the eaves, tall narrow windows and elaborate window crowns.

The style dominated American house construction from 1850 to 1880 in eastern states, and was popular in the expanding towns of the Midwest until the turn of the century.

William Andre came to America in 1867 from Germany. He lived in Nebraska until 1874, when he purchased the property in the Gayville vicinity.

In 1896, William Andre constructed the large brick home. Built for his second wife, the home consisted of eight bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, library, sitting room, parlor, and five basement rooms.



The two-story house is constructed of brick with a brick foundation. The house consists of a rectangular truncated hipped roof main section with a two story gable wing on the rear.

The primary / front facade historically had a large porch on the first floor which was removed sometime before 1980. The first floor has a central entryway with an arched stone lintel. Most of the window openings on the house contain one-over-one double hung windows with arched stone lintels and stone sills. The roof's truncated portion has chimneys on either side. There is also a chimney through the gable portion.

In the house interior, the first floor has a grand central oak staircase to the second floor. The first floor also has extensive wood trim throughout the front four rooms and the second floor has decorative stenciling in the front two bedrooms. The rear gabled portion of the house was used as the servant's quarters. The William Andre House was added to the National Register in 2002.

15 Lincoln School No. 12
45352 Timber Road



It is believed that the Curt Sorenson family donated the original land for a school, begun by 1870 and formally organized in 1887. First named Western for its location, the school was later named for President Abraham Lincoln. Sometime prior to 1902, the school had been moved to its present location, two miles northwest of the original site.

The present school house was built in 1914 and served as a school until it closed in 1969. Area students were thereafter bused to Vermillion. From sometime after 1969 to about l986, the building was largely unused, except as a hunting lodge by some people from Nebraska.

Josette and Ron Lindahl purchased the building and surrounding land in 1991. In June l994, the Lindahls moved into the school and lived there for three years, until they built the log home on the north half of the property.

They moved the kitchen area into what was once one of the cloak rooms and improved the bath that was in the other cloak room by adding a shower. The old furnace was replaced, plumbing and electrical were upgraded, and a bedroom was built in the basement. Additional renovations included redoing the ceiling in the main room, painting, and removing the vinyl overlay floor to expose the original fir floor.

More recently, the building was jacked up and the old basement was refurbished with new historically correct windows in the original locations. In the original schoolhouse area, the floor was refinished and the tall windows replaced with historically correct new ones, including storms and screens. Period memorabilia are being added to the school, which retains its chalkboard ledges, chalkboards and original doors.

The grounds outside the school area have been landscaped, and period playground equipment is being collected.

The building was placed on the National Register in 2000.

16 Burbank School No. 10
469th Avenue, Burbank

When the town of Burbank was first platted in 1873, Block 4 was set aside for a school. The first school building was erected in 1881, with Alma Maynard as its first teacher. By 1910, bonds were issued to build a larger school on the same site, and the current 1910 building was used as a school until 1970.

The building is a one-story rectangular structure, measuring 32' x 60' with a bump-out in the building's center front face to accommodate an entry foyer and the school bell tower area above. The building's center is divided into a lobby and elevated theater stage. To the lobby's right and left are two halls, leading to classrooms. The north classroom has a stage curtain that serves as the south wall and remains in excellent condition, with an outdoor scene and bordered with the names of businesses in Burbank and Vermillion. This room was used for school plays, and more recently for community productions after the district was consolidated with Vermillion. The slightly larger south classroom contains a tall built-in trophy display wall with a glass-front cabinet.

The entire main floor has tongue-and-groove maple flooring. Wall and ceiling surfaces are original plaster and lathe, and picture hanging molding is placed on the walls approximately 2' below the 12' high ceilings. Chair-rail moulding is found throughout the main floor, below which is varnished pine wainscoting and floor mopboard. Each classroom retains the original slate chalkboard and the large, original, two-pane double hung windows.



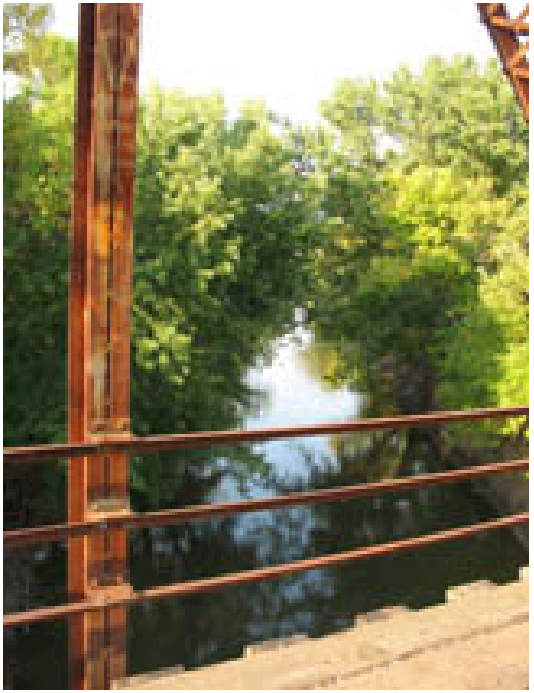
The basement is accessed by a stairway in the lobby, while a large double door at the foot of the stairs leads to the original dining and kitchen area, modernized in the 1960s. The cupboard that held dishes for the children's meals and the serving counter are still in place.

The building's exterior, with cedar shingles and brick foundation, remains essentially unchanged since 1910. However, the school's bell tower was enclosed in the 1960s after removal of the bell, and the bell and belfry now stand at the southeast corner of the property.

The school property also contains a ball diamond, school playground equipment, basketball court, picnic area and parking lot and the Place continues in use today as a public meeting space and center of community life.

Burbank School #10 was placed on the National Register in 1996.

17 SD Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-133-170
314th Street over the Vermillion River



Bridge No. 14-133-170 is a Warren through truss bridge standing 3 miles north and 1 mile east of Vermillion.

It carries a minimum maintenance road across the Vermillion River on 314th Street, one half mile east of 465th Avenue.

The date of construction and the builder have not been determined. State Highway records assigned the bridge a 1930 date, but the style is more compatible with the period 1910 to 1920.

The South Dakota Historic Bridge Inventory describes the bridge as consisting of three spans: two timber stringer approach spans, and one riveted, 3-panel, Warren through truss. The substructure consists of steel cylinder piers and timber abutments with plank wing walls and back walls. The deck is wood planks.

The bridge is built on a pronounced skew, with one of the side trusses further to the east than the other one. The bridge is oriented east-west, and crosses a channelized portion of the Vermillion River.



Only five bridges of this type remain standing in South Dakota, and one of them is located only a mile southwest on the same stretch of the Vermillion River. Pictured on the following page, SD DOT Bridge No.14-130-176, is a similar bridge but built on the opposite skew and with a north-south orientation.

The bridge was placed on the National Register in 2001.

18 SD Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-130-176
465th Avenue over the Vermillion River

Bridge No. 14-130-176 is a Warren through truss bridge that carries a minimum maintenance road across the Vermillion River. It is located 2 miles north and one half mile east of Vermillion, on 465th Avenue, three-quarters of a mile south of 314th Street.



The date of construction and the builder have not been determined. State Highway records assigned the bridge a 1930 date, but the style is more compatible with the period 1910 to 1920.

The South Dakota Historic Bridge Inventory describes the bridge as consisting of three spans: two timber stringer approach spans, and one riveted, 4-panel, Warren through truss. The substructure consists of steel cylinder piers and timber abutments with plank wing walls and back walls. The deck is wood planks.



One of only five of its type still standing in South Dakota, this bridge was placed on the National Register in 2001. The bridge is built on a pronounced skew, with one of the side trusses further to the south than the other one. The bridge is oriented north-south, and crosses a channelized portion of the Vermillion River.

The companion bridge, identified as SD DOT Bridge No.14-133-170 and shown on the preceding page, is built on an opposite skew. It is located 1 mile to the northeast on the same stretch of the Vermillion River.

19 SD Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-088-170
314th Street over Clay Creek Ditch

Bridge No. 14-088-170 is a Pratt through truss bridge that carries an unimproved road across Clay Creek Ditch, on 314th Street just west of Bluff Road. It is now located 3 miles north and 2 miles west of Vermillion



Also known as the Russell Bridge, this bridge was built by the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. It originally spanned the Vermillion River in the southwest corner of Vermillion, and was named after local resident Miles Russell. In 1912, the county commissioners decided to replace the bridge, and it was moved to its present location over Clay Creek ditch, thereby satisfying repeated petitions from Spirit Mound Township for a crossing at that site. The exact construction date is not known, but the style is consistent with the period 1890 to 1900. Surviving work of the King Bridge Company is very rare west of the Mississippi River. This bridge was placed on the National Register in 2000.

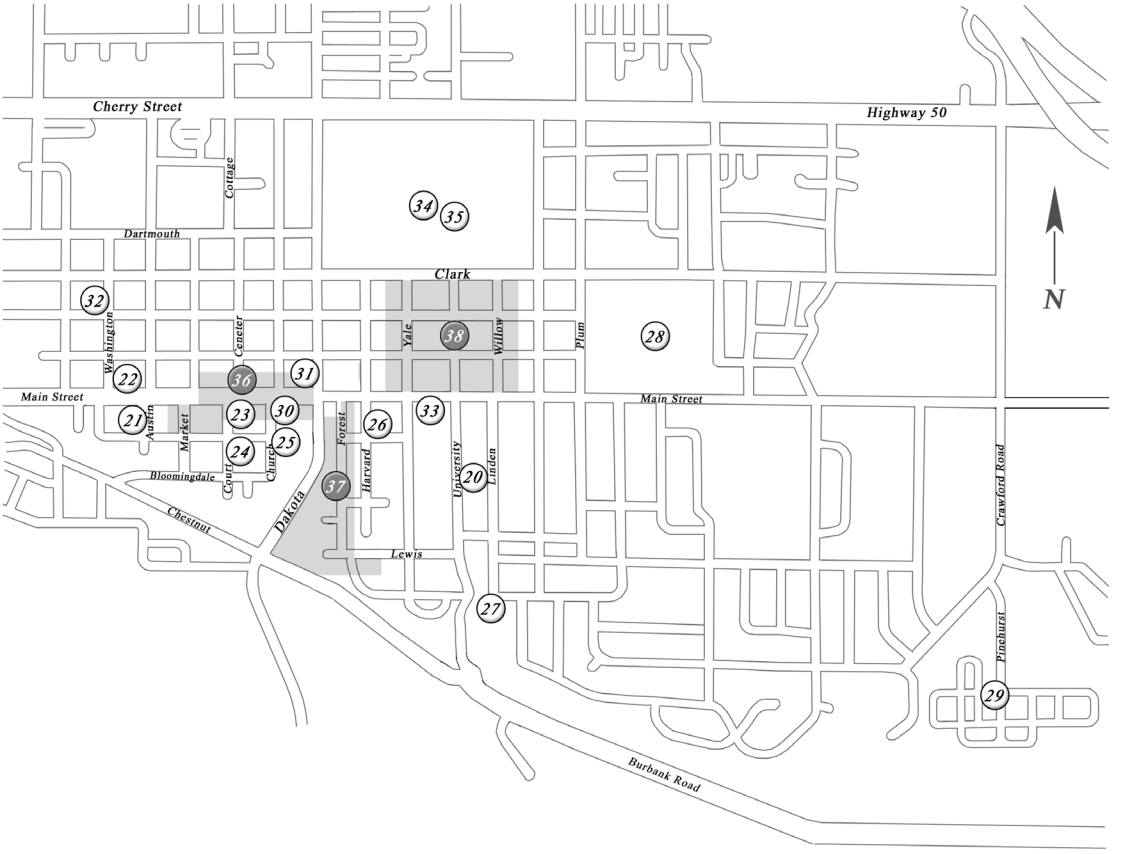


The South Dakota Historic Bridge Inventory describes the bridge as a single span structure, pin connected, 6-panel, Pratt through truss with angle section railings. Overhead struts connect the two side railings. The deck is wood planks, and the portals at each end are ornamented with a cluster of three circles, each circumscribing a cross. When the bridge was inventoried in 1989, the west portal was crowned with an ornamental plate inscribed "King Bridge Company, Cleveland, O." Sadly, the west portal has been damaged by an implement and only a portion of the ornamental plate remains.

Bridge No. 14-105-209

Four bridges have been listed on the National Register in southern Clay County, but one of them was replaced for necessary road improvements. The replaced bridge (Bridge 14-105-209) was a three-span concrete and steel girder bridge on the west side of Vermillion that had crossed the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Rail Road. The bridge was built in 1935 as part of the South Dakota Highway Department state road system when the road was part of SD Highway 50 linking Vermillion with Sioux City and Yankton. The bridge was replaced in 1996 when Vermillion's West Main Street was reconstructed and realigned to comply with new federal regulations.

Vermillion


Cherry Street
Highway 50
Cottage
Dartmouth
Clark
Washington
Cemeter
Yale
Willow
Plum
Main Street
Main Street
Austin
Market
Court
Church
Forest
Harvard
University
Linden
Bloomingdale
Chestnut
Dakota
Lewis
Crawford Road
Pinehurst
Burbank Road
N
32
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20 Colton House
402 South University Street

The Colton House located at 402 S. University is the only example of French Tudor architecture in Vermillion. It was built in 1938 by noted local contractor Andrew Meleen for the Dr. Winfred C. Colton family. Dr. Colton was the first Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of South Dakota and is credited with convincing the South Dakota Board of Regents to upgrade the Music and Fine Arts Department to the College of Fine Arts in 1931. The Colton family was prominent socially and the house was the site of many faculty receptions and other college events.

The house is timber frame covered with tan stucco accented with brick trim. The brick trim accents the entry door with a gentle arch while the two large french doors have the brick squared off. The arched windows on the second floor are emphasized by their placement in dormers and fronted by small wrought iron balconies. The windows are all divided light windows. The roof consists of red asbestos shingles which provide an attractive contrast to the tan stucco.

The house sits very low to the ground with little of the foundation visible and the single brick water table emphasizes the verticality of the house. There has been one small kitchen addition on the rear elevation which does not significantly impact the historic appearance. The interior floor plan has not been significantly altered and the present owners have maintained and emphasized the important architectural features.

The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.



21 Austin - Whittemore House
15 Austin Street



Horace J. Austin moved to Dakota Territory in 1859 or 1860. He was a prominent local surveyor and politician who laid out part of the town of Vermillion. His wife Rachel Ross taught in the first log school in Vermillion. The house they built on the bluff in 1882 was designed by Andrew Pickett. After Mr. Austin's death, Mrs. Austin built an addition to the house that included a dining room, a conservatory south of the dining room and a large bedroom on the second floor.

The original Italianate Villa-style brick structure includes a cupola, low-pitched roof, projecting eaves, large scroll brackets, arched windows and an ornamental porch. The foundation is made of Sioux Falls granite.

The building has been altered several times. Initially the property was fenced in and a granary stood west of the house. In the 1890s, a small playhouse was built behind the house and a gazebo was built south of the house. Until the 1920s, a stable was located northwest of the building. The only remaining structure outside the main building is a gazebo that was built in 1978.

The Austins adopted Helen (Pansy), Andrew Pickett's daughter. She married Arthur Whittemore, and that family made the house their home, where Helen lived until her death. Their son, Arthur Jr., (Bucky) donated the house to the Clay County Historical Society in the 1960s. That group has lovingly renovated and cared for the house, adding Victorian period furniture and memorabilia. The house is now a museum and the home of the Clay County Historical Society.

Placed on the National Register in 1972, the Austin-Whittemore House is open to the public.

22 Clay County Courthouse
211 West Main Street

Clay County was officially formed in 1861. Completed in 1882, the county's first court house above the bluff was a wood-framed building located at the present site of the Post Office on Court Street. In addition to the County Commission offices and the court, the building also served as the home of the University of Dakota for a short time.



Planning for a more substantial courthouse began in 1906 and the cornerstone for the present building was laid in 1912. The structure was dedicated upon completion in 1913 at a cost of $95,000. Lloyd D. Willis of Omaha, Nebraska was the designer of this fine example of the Neoclassical Style from the early 20th century. It is built of yellow stone capped with a cornice and parapet. The south facing front portico has a recessed story-and-a-half entrance with flanking columns.

The interior employs Classical and Greek Revival moldings. A circular light well opens from the third story to the second story, and a sky light provides natural lighting to the core of the structure.

In 1989, an addition to house the Vermillion-Clay County Safety Center was constructed on the west side of the original building. A veterans memorial was recently added to the grounds.

In 1983, the Clay County Courthouse was placed on the National Register.



23 First National Bank of Vermillion
1 East Main Street



The First National Bank of Vermillion was built of granite in the Romanesque Revival Style in 1893. A square tower, supported by a large polished-stone column, soared above an arched corner entryway on Main and Court streets. On the second story, transomed windows were set deeply into the stone walls.

After the bank's ownership changed in 1929 and it merged with Vermillion National Bank (Clay County Bank) across the street, the building was given a "modern" look. The unusual corner doorway, arches and tower were covered with a smooth stone facade with classical features, including four fluted pilasters. Decorative medallion blocks with a simple geometric design were located between the upper- and lower-level windows.

After the bank moved to a new location in the 1970s, the building was converted to offices and some parts of the interior were restored to their original appearance. Various businesses have since occupied the building, which was listed on the National Register in 1986.



24 Willey House
104 Court Street

The E. H. Willey House at 104 Court Street is essentially unaltered and is considered a vernacular version of the Queen Anne style.

The house was designed and built by Andrew Pickett in 1895, with a granite foundation built by Hans Becklin. Pickett also built the Austin-Whittemore House.

The Queen Anne style of architecture is exceptionally decorative and often features gabel roofs, porches that encircle or embellish one or more floors, decorative woodwork, and wall surfaces with varying textures.

Queen Annes were extremely popular throughout the country from roughly 1890 to 1910. Because woodworking mills could mass-produce such elements as mouldings, trim and turned porch posts, experiments in ornamentation abounded for a time. Often the imaginative work on the exterior would be highlighted in three or more colors. The name "painted ladies" was applied to some of the more exuberantly adorned houses.



E. H. Willey was a prominent citizen and the editor-owner of the *Dakota Republic* from 1883-1903. A leading Republican paper, it served as the conservative voice in regional and state politics. The E. H. Willey house is significant not only for its architecture, but also for the role Willey played in the newspaper business and in the political life of both Vermillion and the state of South Dakota.

The Willey House was placed on the National Register in 1982.

25 Andrew Carnegie Library / Old Library
12 Church Street

The town's first public library building was constructed in 1903-1904 at 12 Court Street in downtown Vermillion, with $10,000 in funds donated by Andrew Carnegie. Sioux Falls Architect Joseph Schwartz designed the compact Neoclassical structure built of light brown brick.

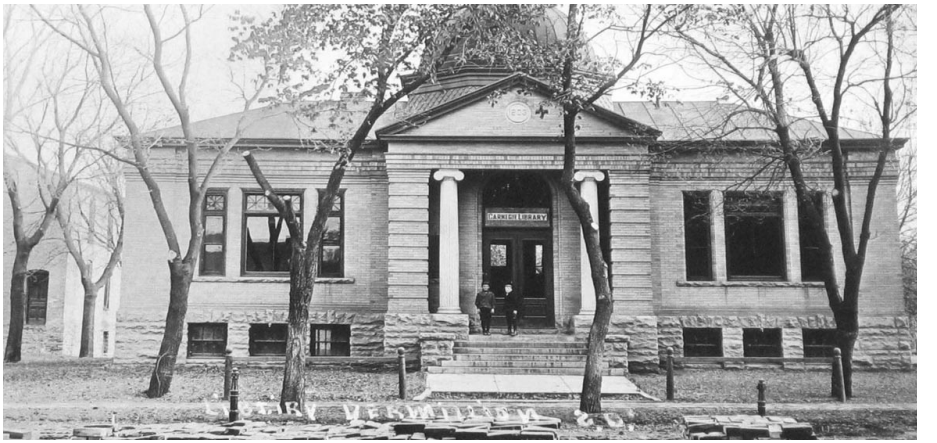


The Vermillion Library was a typical Carnegie Library and one of over twenty such libraries built in South Dakota. Vermillion was privileged to have two Carnegie Library buildings. The second building is on the University of South Dakota campus, and is now home to the National Music Museum.

The Old Library's most prominent architectural feature is the large octagonal metal dome with a sky light which provides illumination for the lobby. The central entrance bay projects into a portico beyond the front facade and the recessed door is flanked by two stone columns.

On July 15, 1904, the city installed its collection of books and appointed Mary Gunderson as librarian at a salary of $25 per month. The building served as the town library until 1976 when a larger modern library was constructed immediately to the south. It has been renovated to preserve its historic appearance, and is currently utilized as an attorneys' office.

The Carnegie building was placed on the National Register in 1983.



26 Gunderson House
24 South Harvard

The Gunderson House is located on South Harvard Street, one block west of the Forest Avenue Historic District. Surrounded by both early and late 20th century structures, the ornate home continues to provide a sense of architectural appeal that made it worthy of notice in 1895, the year the house was built.

The home is a well-preserved example of a Free Classic Queen Anne style of architecture. The Queen Anne style was most popular from roughly 1880 through the turn of the century, although it persisted into the mid-1920s in South Dakota. The style is typified by irregular, steeply pitched roofs, asymmetrical facades and decorative elements to avoid flat walls.

Harvey and Anna Gunderson had the house constructed five years before the turn of the century. Harvey Gunderson was a second generation Norwegian who had come to Vermillion from Wisconsin in 1869 and purchased a 160-acre farm for $186. The Gundersons put an addition on the back of the house around 1928. The addition included a kitchen on the first floor and an additional bedroom on the second floor.



The Gunderson House is a two story, wood clapboard, asphalt-shingled single family structure. The house's primary facade contains a front porch that extends the full width of the front of the house and is enclosed on the lower portion with wood clapboards. Three slender classic columns at the front two corners, two columns beside the steps and one at each of the rear corners of the porch support the porch shed roof. The porch roof has an unornamented frieze.

The south side of the house has a three-sided projecting gable bay in its center. A chimney located on the exterior of the house divides two one-over-one double hung windows. A three-sided gable roofed sun-room, built in 1971, is situated in the southeast corner of the house. On the north side of the house, there are three windows on the first and second floors which follow the staircase on the interior of the house.

The south, east and north sides of the house have a band that separates the first and second floors. This feature, removed when aluminum siding was installed in 1978, was put back in place when the aluminum siding was removed and restoration began in 2000.

The Gunderson House was added to the National Register in 2001.

27 Linden House
509 Linden Avenue

The Linden House is situated on the edge of the bluff, designed to take advantage of the beautiful view over the Vermillion and Missouri River valleys. Built in 1950 and surrounded by both early and late 20th century structures, the home is an excellent example of a Post Modernistic building in South Dakota.

The Linden House was designed by the architectural firm of Hugill, Blatherwick and Fritzel of Sioux Falls, noted for their designs of public buildings in South Dakota. Most notable are the Hughes County Courthouse, DeSmet School, Clark County Courthouse, and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Pierre. A number of the firm's buildings in the state are listed on the National Register.



Building in the United States virtually came to a halt between 1941 and 1945. When construction began again in 1946, houses were based on new variations of the modern styles that had only begun to flourish in the pre-World War II years. The design of the Linden House exhibits this new trend of modern styles.

The Linden House exhibits many characteristics found in the Post Modernistic style. This style is strongly influenced by the earlier modernism of the Craftsman and Prairie style. The Post Modernistic style and the Linden House features overhanging eaves, surface treatments with brick, picturesque massings and the integration of the building back into the environment, versus the previous styles such as International and Modern which were to be set upon the landscape as monuments.

The primary facade of the house faces the bluff at the rear of the property. The main portion of the house is square, with a cedar shake pyramidal roof. There are one story wings on each side of the house except for the primary facade which is the two story portion of the house. Clad in roman brick with a poured concrete foundation, the house was certainly designed for durability. Reinforced concrete plaster is found throughout the interior of the house on the walls and ceilings, while the floors are poured concrete with steel beams.

The Linden House was added to the National Register in 2001.

28 Prentis Park
West of Plum Street between Main and Clark Streets



The City of Vermillion dedicated Prentis Park in 1923 on land donated by Charles E. Prentis, pioneer stockgrower, merchant and member of the firm of Lee and Prentis. The first grant of ten acres at the corner of Plum and Main was land originally homesteaded by A.A. Carpenter which had served as an apple orchard and part of a nursery maintained by the Carpenters for some thirty years. Various Prentis land donations and city purchases would eventually total 19.4 acres of park land, which has become a center of activities for the community.

The swimming pool was opened in 1929 and has been expanded and updated periodically. The park also contains lighted basketball courts, horseshoe, shuffleboard and a disc golf course, renovated picnic shelters, restrooms, playground areas, volleyball courts, baseball field, practice softball field, remodeled bleachers and a band shell.

Over the years, many local groups have contributed to park beautification and facilities. A Girl Scout log cabin was built in the park in 1933 by the "76 Club." The Club had been organized by Mrs. W. L. Collar and Mrs. Ida Russell in 1909 with membership limited to pioneers who arrived no latter than 1876. Membership was eventually opened to daughters of pioneers.



The band shell and amphitheater was built in 1937 as a WPA project. Rocks for the shelter came from five townships in central and western Clay County. One of the three embedded millstones came from the Bloomingdale gristmill. Certain picnic shelters and a rock grill that are typical WPA projects are still functioning. Located on the Prentis Street side is a caretaker's house and outbuilding built circa 1940. A monument to servicemen killed in action is found on the north side of the park.

Prentis Park was listed on the National Register in 2001.

29 Bluff View Cemetery Chapel
701 Cemetery Road

Overlooking the floodplain of the Missouri River, the Bluff View Cemetery was established as a burial place for the entire community on ten acres of land purchased in 1882 from Thomas Jordan. Pioneers buried in two previously-used Vermillion area cemeteries were reburied at the new site.

The cemetery area on the bluff expanded in 1917 to include the separate Calvary Cemetery on two and a half acres of adjoining land purchased from Carl Gunderson and consecrated for use by Catholic families. As need for community burial space grew, Bluff View Cemetery itself expanded with the addition of an adjoining parcel known as North Bluff View.

Bluff View Chapel was built in 1901 at the entrance to the combined cemetery grounds, .2 miles south of the intersection of Crawford Road & Pinehurst Avenue. Its design included a mixture of Neoclassical and Gothic Revival architecture that was common in certain churches of that period.



The chapel is 20 feet long and 18 feet wide, with a gabled height of 16 feet. A wrought iron sign with white lettering graces the stepped-parapet gable on the east facade, while six hexagonal columns provide support for a front porch covering the main entrance.

The gabled north elevation has a large window with gothic brick hood and glass windows that have been updated. The western elevation has a stepped parapet gable with an exterior basement entrance.

During its history, the chapel has been available for mourners and for quiet reflection. It also has served as a repository for bodies that could not be buried in the winter because of frozen ground.

The Bluff View Chapel has recently undergone restoration thanks to fund raising begun by Evelyn Peterson in memory of her late husband, Willard Peterson.

The Vermillion Cemetery Association owns and maintains the Chapel, which was placed on the National Register in 2006.

30 First Baptist Church
101 East Main Street

The First Baptist Church is the most prominent Richardsonian Romanesque building in Vermillion. Wallace LeRoy Dow, the territory's first major architect, was commissioned to design the building, which was completed in 1890. It contains the same Sioux quartzite used to construct University Hall (Old Main). The Dow building remains as the east wing of the current building. A newer portion of the church, designed by Beuttler and Arnold of Sioux City, was added in 1925.



The original church structure, built in 1871, was located at the foot of the bluff on Dakota Street. Following the 1881 flood, it was moved to the present site on Main Street, and continued in use until 1889 when construction began on the Dow building. A stone monument marks the site of the first building below the bluff.

The church building houses the outstanding William Schuelke organ, thought to be the oldest surviving pipe organ in the Dakotas and an excellent example of the late Victorian American organs. While maintaining its original bellows, the instrument has been refurbished to also include electric bellows.

The church is undergoing renovation to better fulfill its service to the Baptist congregation, one of the first religious organizations in South Dakota.

The building was placed on the National Register in 1982.



31 First Methodist Episcopal Church / First United Methodist Church
16 North Dakota Street

With the distinction of being the first appearance of organized Methodism in Dakota Territory, the Vermillion class was formed January 13, 1861.

The first church building, constructed in 1873, was located on the bluff near its intersection with Church Street. It served the renamed First Methodist Episcopal Church until construction of a new edifice in 1895. That original structure, which had housed the Lee and Prentis store for a time after the 1881 flood, was sold and moved twice. It housed a printing shop, laundry and law office before becoming a residence at 212 Willow Street. In 1895, the congregation built a new brick church on Main and Dakota streets. That building was destroyed by fire in 1927.



The current building, completed in 1929 on Dakota and National, was started immediately after the fire. The building committee, pastor and local architects worked to create an acceptable plan, and the services of Edward F. Jansson, a consulting architect from Chicago, were loaned from the Church's Bureau of Architecture. The new design was to include a sanctuary, Wesley Foundation offices, parsonage, kitchen and auditorium. The congregation changed its name to First United Methodist Church.

The architecture is Late Gothic Revival, sub-type castellated or parapeted, of red brick with cream stone trim. The Gothic arch windows can be found on each elevation of the chapel and the windows in the doors. The sanctuary windows are of beautiful art glass from the Gaytee Studios, St. Paul, Minnesota. Windows in the education and residential wings exhibit multi-pane steel casements, the other common type of windows found in Late Gothic Revival style buildings.



According to *Churches in South Dakota,* structures that were constructed as second and third generation churches, such as this one, exhibit an increased focus on stylistic interpretation of religion and a commitment to creating an impressive house of worship.

The church building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

32 Old St. Agnes Catholic Church / Washington Street Arts Center
202 Washington Street



The former St. Agnes Catholic Church is a fine example of Late Gothic Revival architecture. It was designed by Anton Dohmen, an architect known for church architecture in Wisconsin and North and South Dakota at the turn of the 20th century. The building was constructed by August Goetz Construction Company out of Yankton, South Dakota, starting in August of 1906. Karl Reimann designed the magnificent stained glass windows in the building. Parishioners donated the windows and bell. This structure is the only remaining example of Dohmen's style of small churches in South Dakota.

The building is elevated a half story above street level and faces east, with a gabled brick end wall that is capped by a pressed metal parapet. The floor plan of the building is cruciform and the structure includes a prominent three-story bell tower. The foundation was built of brown-red pressed brick with a molded concrete belting at floor level and at each of the two floors.

The interior of the church consists of plastered rib vaulting and high molded baseboards running along the walls of the sanctuary and foyer. On the second floor is the "choir loft" at the back of which is a magnificent stained glass window. Several large and small stained and painted glass windows in excellent condition are found throughout the church. These gifts from parish members when the church was erected are now protected by an additional glass backing. Most of these windows contain dedications to or by the individuals who donated them.



By the spring of 1974, the Place became too small for the congregation's 420 families, and a new St. Agnes Church building was erected across town. The church, the rectory, a building located north of the church, and lots west of the church were sold to the Dakota District of Church of the Nazarene. At that time, the building needed extensive renovations, both inside and out. In 1990, the nonprofit Vermillion Area Arts Council, Inc. (VAAC) purchased the building and lands, and the mortgage was paid off on April 1, 1997. Each year, the VAAC undertakes another task in the ongoing restoration of the building.

Now called the Washington Street Arts Center, the building is a wonderful venue for music, theater, arts displays and other local community functions. It was placed on the National Register in 1995.

33 Inman House / USD Alumni House/ President's House
415 East Main Street

The Inman House at 415 East Main Street is considered an example of the NeoClassical and Classical Revival style of architecture, and combines houses built in two locations. The older portion of the structure was originally built in 1873 west of Forest Avenue and was one of the first houses built on the bluff.

Darwin and Adele Inman came to Vermillion in 1874 and purchased the older part of the house from Finley McKerchner. It was moved to its present location in 1882 and the front NeoClassical addition and facade were added in 1883. At that time the walls and ceiling were embellished with hand painted murals and the woodwork trimmed with 14kt. gold.



D.M. Inman was influential in the banking industry, providing capital and land to those entering Dakota during the Land Boom years of the 1880s. As a territorial and state legislator, he was influential in locating the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and continued to support the University in a number of capacities through the years.

Annadell Morgan, the Inman's niece, gave the Inman House to the University of South Dakota in 1940. The home has served as the residence of Universty presidents and as the University of South Dakota Alumni House. After remodeling and refurbishing, the structure is again functioning as the President's House. It was placed on the National Register in 1976.

34 Old Armory / Dean Belbas Center

Center of campus, University of South Dakota



This architectural treasure on the University of South Dakota campus served as an armory and gymnasium from the time of its original construction in 1905 until the late 1970s.

Renamed the Dean Belbas Center in 2004, it now serves as the centerpiece of student services for the University of South Dakota, housing the offices of admissions, financial aid and registrar.

The building was designed by Frank Kinney and Menno Detweiler of Austin, Minnesota, combining Richardsonian Romanesque and Late Victorian styles. Its features include a heavy stone base of Sioux quartzite and red sandstone, brick upper walls, arched windows, and corner towers.

Through the years, the facility has served as a physical education center, arts studio, storage space, and as a dormitory for a flu-ravished Students' Army Training Corps (SATC) unit during the First World War. Historically, it has also been referred to as Armory, Old Armory, Women's Gymnasium, and Facilities Management Shop.

After the completion of the DakotaDome in 1979, the building was decommissioned as an academic and recreational facility and for many years was used primarily for storage and studios.

Spearheaded by Campaign South Dakota with donations from Dean Belbas and others, extensive remodeling of the interior resulted in adaptive reuse by 2002, the year it was placed on the National Register.

35 Old Main /University Hall
Center of campus, University of South Dakota

The first building of public higher education constructed in Dakota Territory, Old Main was designed by Wallace LeRoy Dow. The cornerstone was laid in 1883, with construction of the west classroom section completed that same year. The center section was opened in 1885, and the east wing was finished in 1887.



After a devastating fire in 1893 gutted the entire structure, it was immediately rebuilt, mostly using community funds. Many decorative features were acquired from the South Dakota State Building or purchased from the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition. The pink quartzite of the exterior walls was quarried near Sioux Falls.

Old Main served as the center of activity at the University of South Dakota for many years up until the late 1970s. The building then lay virtually dormant and unused for two decades until restoration on beautiful interior and stately exterior were begun in the late 1990s.

The building again houses classrooms, Farber Hall, and the Oscar Howe Gallery, home to the largest collection of work by internationally celebrated American Indian artist Oscar Howe. A life-sized statute of Dr. William O. Farber faces the front of Old Main, dedicated in recognition of Doc's lifelong leadership and accomplishments.

Old Main remains a well-known landmark on the campus and was added to the National Register in 1973.

Vermillion Historic Districts

36 Downtown Vermillion Historic District

Downtown area roughly bounded by Market and Dakota Streets





The city of Vermillion was initially established in 1859 along the Missouri River below the bluff. By 1871, the population had increased to 600 people. But the flooding of the Missouri and Vermillion Rivers in 1881 halted the prosperity of this floodplain settlement. Raging currents carried away 132 buildings and those remaining were too damaged to salvage. After the flood, the residents of Vermillion quickly rebuilt on top of the bluff overlooking the lowland below. Material progress continued throughout the 1890s despite the flooding, drought, and depression.

Business owners chose to establish their businesses along Market Street and Main Street between Prospect and Dakota Streets. Fires in 1883 and 1890, on Market and Main respectively, provoked the City Council to ban all wooden buildings in the business district. Originally called Ninth Street, Market Street was included in the first plat entered in the Vermillion townsite on January 23, 1869. Market Street was to be the "main" street when Vermillion moved above the bluff. However it was quickly found to be too short for the needs of a business district.





Between 1885 and 1893, commercial buildings were established along West Main along with the First Baptist Church and the First National Bank on East Main. Due to the Panic of 1893, no buildings were constructed between 1893 and 1899. During the next ten years, the rest of the district began to expand along Main and spread out to Church and Center Streets. This included the creation of a public library on Church with the help of a Carnegie Grant. From 1910-1930 the rest of Main Street was filled in, primarily by buildings that were constructed of brick and commercial in nature.

Buildings contributing to the National Register listing of the district were constructed between 1885 and 1942 and have maintained their distinct commercial character for more than a century. The architecture includes Romanesque Revival, Classical Revival, and Commercial. Buildings are constructed of both brick and stone. Many of the buildings have first floor changes to the storefronts and enclosing of windows, but also have intact cornices and historic fenestration patterns. Of the 50 buildings in the district, 32 were considered to be contributing structures.

The Downtown Vermillion Historic District was added to the National Register in 2003.



37 Forest Avenue Historic District
Forest Avenue and a portion of Lewis Street



Settlement of the beautiful Forest Avenue Historic District spans a period of over one hundred years. Rich in history and architectural assimilation, the street continues to retain much of the charm which characterized its beginnings. It was placed on the National Register in 1979.

The District begins on Forest Avenue one half block south of Main Street. It is enclosed by a line running from that point west to Dakota Street and following Dakota Street south to Chestnut Street below the bluff. The line leaves Chestnut Street at a point due west of one-half block south of the corner of Lewis and Canby Streets. From there the line runs one-half block east of the length of Forest Avenue, and terminates at its point of origin.

After the Missouri River flood of 1881 destroyed much of the town below the bluff, most of the Vermillion residents and the business community relocated to higher ground. One of the early street to become a residential neighborhood was Smith Street, named in honor of F. M. Smith. The street's name was later changed to Forest Avenue, possibly as a reflection of the forest feel of the adjacent ravine area on Dakota Street.



The area along the bluff known as the Forest Avenue Historic District was once known as "Quality Hill," due to the prominence of the early residents. The first five houses were built between 1873 and 1875 on the bluff at the end of Forest Avenue. Three of these were eventually relocated.

Between 1881 and 1899, seventeen homes were built in the area. Between 1900 and 1923, an additional seventeen were built, and the years 1935 to 1954 saw the construction of six more homes. Of the 40 homes built between 1881 and 1954, three have been moved and five have been torn down.

The earliest residents of the area were primarily Vermillion merchants and business owners who wanted to live close to the Main Street business district. Eventually, however, the area became a sought-after location for the homes of professionals and for faculty and staff at the University of South Dakota. The District has been the home of many residents who have made significant social , economic, political and educational contributions to the Vermillion and to the University.



The District provides wonderful examples of the architectural styles utilized through the years. Among these are homes designed in NeoClassical, NeoColonial, Bungalow / Craftsman, Queen Anne, English Revival, Ranch and other styles. Some homes are relatively modest, while others range from stately to exuberant.



Many homes have remained single family residences. Some have been turned to other uses, such as apartment buildings. For example, 123 Forest Avenue was built in 1902 for J. W. Grange. It began and remained a single family home for forty-two years. In 1944, E. Wirth purchased the house and converted it to four apartments. It was rented during the mid 1940s to be used by Alpha Phi Delta and Chi Omega while the residents wintered in California. The house eventually was purchased in the 1980s by Donald and Virginia Monroe, who spent a number of years lovingly restoring the house to a one family residence.

There are a number of similar stories which emerge in an examination of the history of the Forest Avenue District.

The area and many of the homes within have been undergoing carefully-planned historic renovations, and the residents of the area should be commended for their efforts.



38 Vermillion Historic District

Roughly bounded by Willow and Yale Streets between Clark and Main Streets



The Vermillion Historic District is a rectangular area found directly south of the original University of South Dakota campus.

The area includes structures on both sides of Willow and North Yale Streets, as well as those on the north side of Main Street and the south side of Clark Street within the boundaries. In addition, homes on either side of East Cedar, East National, and North University Streets within the boundaries contribute to the historic character of the District.

Eighty–three places are considered to be contributing structures to the historic character of the Vermillion Historic District.

The District includes a variety of architectural styles popular from the last quarter of the 19th century through the first half of the 20th century. Some of the homes in the District demonstrate impressive examples of Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Prairie Foursquare architectural styles, while other houses are very modest. Many have been lovingly restored.

The neighborhood exhibits a typical mix of residential structures for a small mid-western college town. Some homes are considered textbook examples of certain styles, some are structures combining features from two or more architectural styles, and some buildings are examples of vernacular or locally designed houses.



Three commercial buildings were once found within the District. At this writing, only the building at 411 East Clark remains in commercial operation. Attached immediately to the west of the commercial structure is a building which served students and faculty as a coffee shop, restaurant or soda shop for any years. It is now the home of the Native American Cultural Center.

The District contains textbook examples of Queen Anne style buildings and histories of their builders. For example, the Richardson Brothers, craftsmen / carpenters from New Hampshire, were in Vermillion in 1900 to build the classic Queen Anne at 204 N. Yale. Elaborate railing, turned columns, and ornamental scroll-like brackets under the cornice known as modillion blocks, adorn the first floor porch facade. The second floor porch features a spindle railing, valance, and woodwork screen just below the roof line.





Many residents of the Vermillion Historic District have been University professors or Vermillion business leaders. Some were state-wide or nationally known figures. For example, W.O. "Doc" Farber, creator of the University of South Dakota Government Research Bureau and founder of the South Dakota Legislative Research Council, lived at 413 East Clark. Christian P. Lommen, the first Dean of the USD School of Medicine and honored by the Lommen Medical Library, resided at 114 N. University, and Lewis E. Akeley of the Akeley-Lawrence Science Center resided at 124 N. University.

The Vermillion Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.



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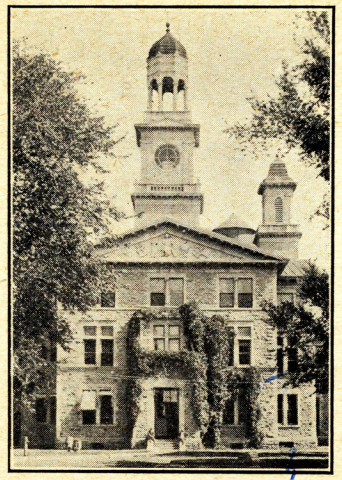
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