

BICYCLE MONTH

APRIL 27

Historic Sites on Bikes

6:00 pm start | 1 hour Critical Mass Ride lead by the Brookings Historic Preservation Commission through historic districts. Begins at 503 Main Avenue. Free to the public.

MAY 9

Bike to School Day

MAY 14-18

Bike to Work Week

MAY 18

Bike to Work Day

www.bikeleague.org/bikemonth

MAY 20

Bike to Church Day

SAVE THE DATES

6/13 Bike Rodeo

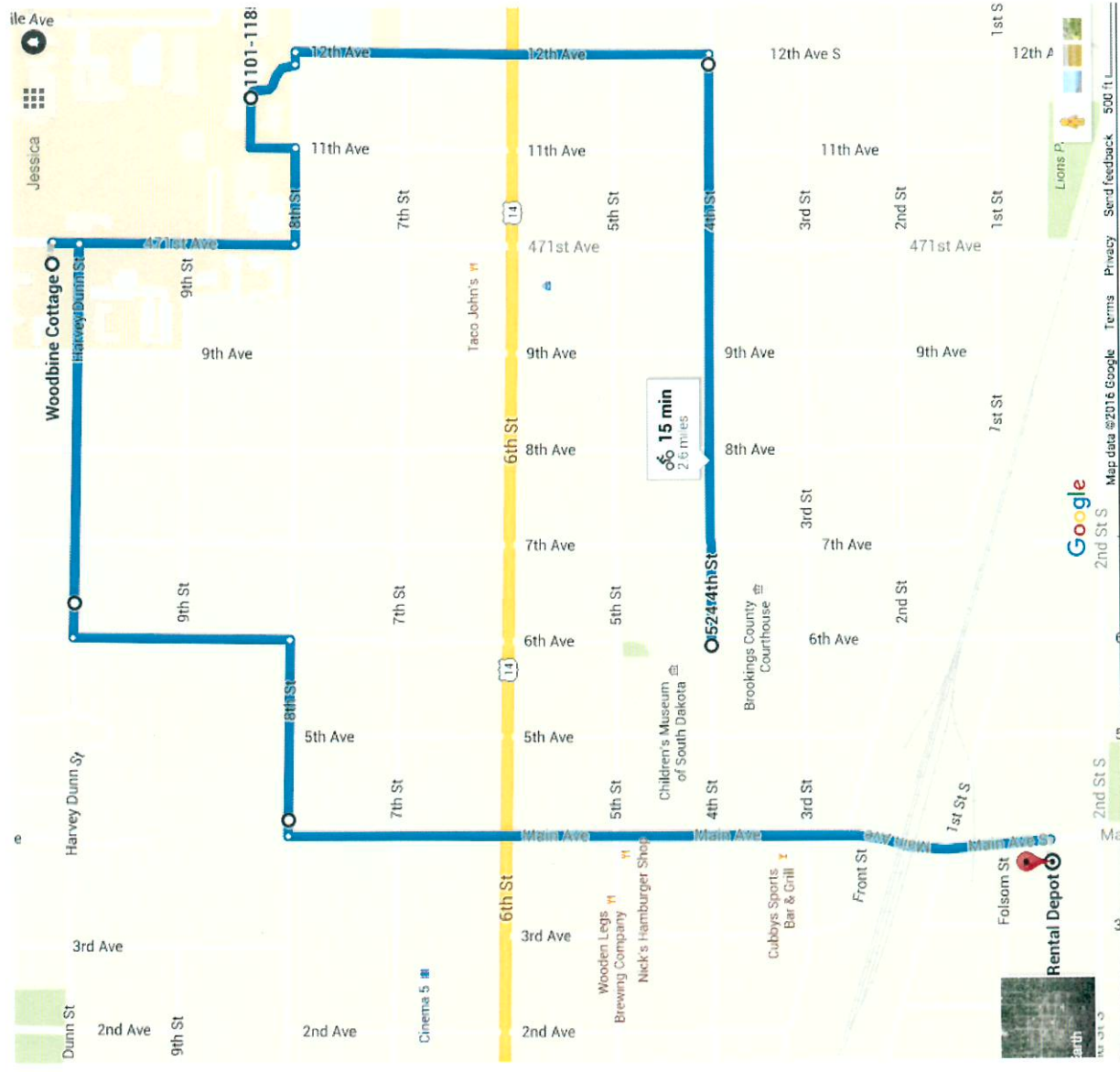
6/23-24 Kite & Bike Festival

8/25 Mayor's Ride, Walk & Roll

For event details, check out the Brookings Bicycle Advisory Committee or Brookings Historic Preservation Commission on  or call (605) 692-6281.



BROOKINGS HISTORIC BIKE TOUR



STOP 00

BROOKINGS COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER

Built in 1914, the building served as a Carnegie Library until 1976 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. While retaining its historic charm, the building has also been updated to better serve the public. The inaugural meeting of the Brookings Area Arts Council (BAAC) took place on January 30, 1969 and the organization was incorporated in 1975. Not long after, the former Carnegie Library building became available, and the BAAC took responsibility for administering the building as the Community Cultural Center (CCC).

Clara Morrison Brookings, wife of W.W. Brookings, made initial contact with Andrew Carnegie in 1902, asking him to provide money for a library building in Brookings. On October 9, 1907, Pastor Hugh Robertson of the Presbyterian Church, and South Dakota State College librarian William H. Powers penned a similar request to Carnegie who offered Brookings \$10,000 for a library building. In December 1907, Powers remarked that those interested in the library “ could not get public opinion sufficient to make action possible.”

By 1913, public consensus had changed in Brookings, and Powers could accept Carnegie’s \$10,000 offer on behalf of the Brookings Free Library Association. The Association retained G.C. Miller of Chicago to design the new building. With his partner Normand Patton, Miller, who was an experienced library architect, designed over 100 Carnegie Libraries throughout the Midwest.

Miller worked along on the Brookings design, however, to create a one and a one-half story rectangular building with both Prairie style and Tudor elements. Miller specified brick construction, laid in a stretcher bond pattern, and topped by stucco panels faced with wooden beams. He covered the hipped roof with wide eaves in red tile. The entrance is centralized and opened to the librarian’s desk at the center with reading rooms flanking the desk.

James Betram, Carnegie’s secretary, heavily scrutinized the plan for any impracticalities or wasted space. Miller, who was aware of this, used the most current library design and J.H. Robert, a local contractor, completed construction in February 1915.

The original building is one of twenty-five Carnegie-funded buildings in South Dakota and is significant because it was designed by G.C. Miller.

BROOKINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The courthouse was built in 1912 to replace the county’s original courthouse, which was constructed in 1883. The courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1976. In 2011, the county began a \$1 million renovation of the courthouse in order to meet the local circuit court’s needs.

Sol Walters, a County Commission from Bruce, is credited with the erection of the first courthouse in Brookings in 1883. Prior to that time, the county offices were scattered all over the city and good-sized rentals were paid for unsafe and cramped quarters.

Architects Bell, Tyrie & Chapman designed the second courthouse in the Renaissance Revival style, which was common in early 20th century buildings. The J.B. Nelson Construction Company built the courthouse. Because limestone was commonly used as a building material in the area, the familiar stone was used for the courthouse. The plan of the building is based in a symmetrical bay system, which is reflected in the window placement. Classic dentil moldings hang under a heavy cornice. The architectural highlight of the building is the cupola, which displays four highly ornate vertical windows, surmounted by a square lantern with four lights.

OLD BROOKINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL & CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Old Brookings Middle School was established in 1967, when the high school moved to its new building. It was the first middle school to be established in SD.

When the railroad came through in October 1979, bonds not to exceed \$2,000 were issued to construct a school house in a central location. The school was erected in 1880 near the corner of Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue. It was a two-story frame building, and a bell was installed in 1881, which was used to announce church services as well as school activities. Only the first floor was completed in time for the school term. Emily Stanton was the first teacher and her term for teaching was seven months long. The next year, the second floor was ready, and the school year extended to nine months when Mrs. Horace Fishback Sr. began teaching two and a half months in the upper department.

In 1882 O.H. Parker was made superintendent of the Brookings School District. The school was overflowing with students and some classes had to be moved to the Methodist Church and City Hall. An annex was built, and a grammar department was added.

By 1921 a high school building was erected on Fourth Street, east the Central Elementary Building or the "Red Castle". This is the building we all see today. Originally, it cost \$165,000 to built and was dedicated on March 4, 1937 by Dr. C.W. Pugsley, president of South Dakota State College. The school was considered one of the finest as it was designed for a maximum of 650 students, with 24 rooms, offices, a gymnasium, and an auditorium. The first graduation, with a class of 61 was in 1922.

In the 1960's, as the original framed school house was replaced by the new Central Elementary Building and the new High School Building, it was torn down to make room for a parking lot for B-K trucks. Additionally, the fate of the high school building changed in 1966 as bonds were issued to construct a new high school at 530 Elm Avenue at a cost of \$2,140,000. The school opened the following year, and the former high school became the Brookings Middle School.

Today, the Brookings Children's Museum has replaced the Central Elementary School and the old Middle School has been converted into housing. The project was completed in 2010 by Architectural Incorporated, and architecture firm from Sioux Falls.

STOP 01

925 FOURTH STREET | GEORGE AND ELISA SEXAUER HOUSE

This Queen Anne home was built for the Sexauer family in 1900 using the innovative method of platform construction, built one level at a time. Platform construction is a framing approach heavily used in Chicago after the great fire and requires smaller lengths of wood to be used. Hipped dormers project from the west, south and east sides. Art glass appears in two windows on the west side. The most prominent feature is the corner-anchored turret decorated with cove and daper-shaped shingles. The wrap-around porch is supported by evenly spaced Doric columns, and is accessed by wide steps at either end.

STOP 02

LINCOLN MUSIC HALL

One of the earliest and biggest building projects on SDSU campus was Lincoln Memorial Library, which is Lincoln Music Hall today. Built in 1926 and dedicated in 1927, The Lincoln Library was the first University Library in the state of South Dakota and also the first building on a land grant college campus to be named for President Abraham Lincoln. In 1927 President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge attracted one of the largest crowds on the SDSU campus when they dedicated the Sylvan Theatre and Lincoln Memorial Library on September 10, 1927. The building was largely funded by the cigarette tax.

COOLIDGE SYLVAN THEATRE

The romanticism associated with college life in the 1920's is reflected in Sylvan Theatre, the campus green amphitheater named to honor United State President Calvin Coolidge, who in September 1927, laid the memorial stone and dedicated the Lincoln Memorial Library.

Sylvan Theatre was constructed out of field stone, brick, and imitation limestone to harmonize with the adjacent library. The couple pilasters that form massive columns and the scrolled brackets are classical elements associated with Palladianism, a movement based in the architecture of Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio who lived during the 16th century in the Veneto region. The red-tiled balcony and niche represent a Spanish Colonial Revival influence. The original developers planted trees, shrubs, and vines.

Sylvan Theatre serves as a memorial to the aspirations of educators, artists, architects, and students committed to building an outdoor center for student activities. Outdoor evening commencement ceremonies were held on June 10, 1929 and the structure provided an attractive setting for band concerts, outdoor plays, summer school lectures, Women's Day, and Farm and Home Day. More recently, the structure has been the scene for weddings, Spring Fling, and children's Easter egg hunts.

Ada Caldwell is credited as the planner of the structure. She was an outstanding State College art educator and was influential in the art careers of Harvey Dunn, and Gilbert Riswold. Coolidge Sylvan Theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 26, 1987.

COUGHLIN CAMPANILE

The Coughlin Campanile is an important landmark for Brookings and South Dakota State University. It is the tallest and most unusual tower (with chimes) in the state. The Campanile was a \$65,000 gift from class of 1909 alumnus Charles Coughlin, a SDSC electrical engineering graduate, who became a prominent Milwaukee manufacturer with the Briggs-Stratton Company.

The 94-foot structure was begun in 1929 and completed in 1930. The 30-foot Bedford stone base contains four portal entrances. The entrances are highlighted by scroll bracketed tablets inscribed with the history of South Dakota State College:

"Louisiana Territory purchased April 30, 1803"

"Land Grand College Established July 2, 1862"

"South Dakota State College founded February 21, 1881"

"State of South Dakota admitted February 22, 1889"

The architectural firm of Perkins and McWayne designed plans for the chimes tower, and Wold and Mark provided construction supervision. The symmetrical composition, the classically-inspired approaches, and the decorative motifs are important architectural highlights of the campanile. The cube arrangements form important subdivisions for the tower, and the decorative portals represent an important cardinal point orientation.

Over the years, the chimes have sounded the hours with the famous Westminster peals, calling students to classes and chiming musical compositions, including the State College song and the National Anthem. The Campanile was registered as a significant landmark on the National Register on February 26, 1987.

STOP 03

WOODBINE COTTAGE

Built in the 1887, by the South Dakota State College's second president, Dr. Lewis McLouth, the Woodbine Cottage is a prominent feature on the SDSU campus. The Woodbine Cottage before 1900 served as the Girls Cottage. Their motto was "Pork and beans and blue grass seed; That's the grub on

which we feed; We're the hot stuff of creation; We're the 'Woodbine' delegation." In 1903, James Chalmers, whose background was in education, theology, and literature, impressed the regents so much that they decided to promote him to the presidency of the College. He established the tradition of presidents living in Woodbine Cottage on the campus. This structure has housed most of the SDSU presidents and their families and also briefly served as a music hall and even an infirmary.

STOP 04

FISHBACK HOUSE

This Neo-classical house was designed in 1902 for pioneer bank merchant Horace Fishback Sr. and his wife Cornelia. Fishback acquired the 21.5 acre property that was to become the Fishback estate in 1885. The land extended north to Eleventh Street and ended at the State College property lines, until Fishback subdivision was platted in 1955. They built on the 4.6 acres of what is now the home property.

The new dwelling replaced a French Mansard roofed home that was moved to serve as a temporary shelter. The Brookings Daily Register reported in 1975 that "The movers promised Mrs. Fisback that they could move the home - on the old fashioned rollers - across the pasture without putting any cracks in the plaster." They accomplished hat feat and later moved the house to the northwest corner of Harvey Dunn and sixth avenue.

A Minnesota firm, Kinney and Detweiler Architects, designed the structure. The three-story home is a good example of early 20th century architecture. The main entrance is flanked by two elaborate Ionic columns that provide a focus to an ornate leaded glass transom with sidelights and a dentil-trimmed pediment. A spindled balustrade defines the second story of the home. A porte-cochere with spindled railings is located on the west side of the home. An original feature on the platform roof, a widow's walk was removed later.

The barn was built around 1903 to replace an original barn destroyed by a windstorm. The barn was constructed with a double braced rafter system with modified trusses to protect against future catastrophic incidents. A barn dance in the hayloft area was held to celebrate the barn's completion. Fishback family members recall that the barn was their "great summer camp and playhouse" and relate that the barn was the place for many games, including hide and seek, knock the wicket, kick the can, and the tire game.

Today, the Fishback's continue the banking traditions and the family continues residency in this home. The house contains original furnishings and the barn serves as a garage and as storage for the original trotting buggy and surrey. The hayloft area has served as a site for basketball games.

The home was registered on October 8, 1976 and a 1987 amendment expanded the perimeters of the estate to include the barn on the National Register.

STOP 05- IVAN COBEL HOUSE

Built in the 1920's, the Ivan Cobel House exemplifies a mix of Craftsman and Prairie Style Elements. The Ivan Cobel House is significant for its Craftsman style of architecture. Common elements of this style include a low-pitched gable roof, wide unenclosed eaves, exposed roof rafters, and a full width porch supported by square posts. The Ivan Cobel house has all of these elements including a portecochere to the south. The Craftsman style was the dominant style for smaller houses built throughout the country during the period from 1905 until the 1930's in South Dakota. It originated in southern California and most landmark examples are located there. It was quickly spread throughout the country by pattern books and popular magazines. The style rapidly faded in South Dakota after the mid-1930s. The house was placed on the National Register in 2003.

STOP 06

RENTAL DEPOT COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Pioneers settled Brookings simultaneously with the railroad, and entrepreneurs quickly established a variety of commercial services for incoming settlers. Merchants and pioneers from Medary and Fountain abandoned their businesses and residences and moved to the newly platted area.

From 1879 to 1898, frame construction dominated commercial building in all the towns of the County. A view of downtown Brookings in 1884 shows numerous frame structures, many with false fronts, that lined the boardwalk east and west of Main Avenue.

Beginning in the late 1890's, the downtown section of Brookings was largely rebuilt. The Masonic Temple (Trends), Skinner Block and the Binford Block, now a part of Brookings Commercial Historic District, represent late 19th century commercial architecture. Highlights include the towers of the Masonic Temple (the towers no longer exist), the massive scaling of the buildings, the canted fronts of City Hall and the Binford Block, and the extensive use of round-headed elements and arches.

After 1900, brick and stone buildings were more common in the towns of Brookings County. Between 1900 and 1915, the construction of the brickfront Bank of Brookings (1900), the New Century Building (1901), the Romanesque Merchant Bank (1905), and Wenona Hall at South Dakota State College (1909) were all constructed.

SEXAUER GRAIN ELEVATORS

In September 1891, George P. Sexauer founded what was to become one of the largest privately held agribusinesses in the country. In that year he bought a small water-powered mill in Chatfield, Minnesota. The location was without a railroad or good roads, and because of this and the scarcity of wheat in the area, he soon began to search for a more favorable location. In 1893, he learned of a mill at Volga, on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. He and the owner of the Volga Roller Mill soon came to an agreement to trade businesses, each feeling that he was getting the better part of the bargain. George Sexauer operated the Volga Mill for four years, producing flour comparable to what we are familiar with today.

In July 1897, he bought the Brookings Roller Mills, and for some years managed both businesses. Brookings appeared promising to him for many reasons: as the county seat, it had added impetus for a trading center; over 2,000 people already lived there; and the college added to the air of prosperity. The economy of the area then was primarily a wheat economy, as most people believed that corn would not grow here. At the time of its purchase by George Sexauer, Brookings Roller Mills ran only nine months of the year and its product was unknown outside of a very small area. Mr. Sexauer called in one of the best milling experts from Minneapolis and entirely remodeled the milling system. Within a few years the mill was described as one of the "neatest, cleanest, best equipped and most up-to-date 100 barrel mills in the northwest," and shipped flour to Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois as well as doing a general grain business in oats, barley, and corn. The company also sold coal, the principal means of heating at that time. By 1903, the mill employed two crews and ran day and night during the harvest season.

E.H. Sexauer joined his father in the business in 1911; he began as a common laborer and later progressed to area representative of the firm. Milling was becoming more scientific and technical at this time, and he was quick to appreciate the inability of a small operation to incorporate all the techniques that would be required to remain at the top of its field. By the end of 1913, the farm had ceased all flour milling operations and branched into the elevator business. On the final day of operation, the mill produced over 2,400 bags of flour in just four hours, a record for its time.

Over the next decades the company expanded its grain elevator business, eventually bringing the total number to 43 facilities in South Dakota and Minnesota. In 1931 the company built a seed conditioning facility in Des Moines, Iowa and in 1939 one of the most modern seed conditioning plants in the country was constructed in Brookings. The first sale to international trade was during the early 1930's with the largest sale for the company to date being that of 54 train carloads of alfalfa seed to Russia.

The ability of the company to provide the highest quality products and attract the highest quality employees helped the company grow through the 1930's and 40's, times of drought and war. Many employees were with the company for their entire working careers, with one even relating the story that "during the Depression only two people in town got their pay checks son the first of the month: the Postmaster and the Sexauer Elevator Manager."