

The City of Pierre

The Pierre area was previously inhabited by the Arikara and later the Lakota. It was formerly called Mato which means "Bear" in Lakota. The first known white men to see the area were the Verendrye brothers, who buried a lead plate across the river on a hill overlooking Fort Pierre in 1743.

On their Voyage of Discovery, Lewis and Clark also traveled this area in 1804 and 1806. Across the river, Fort Pierre became a major trading post, the first of which was established in 1817 by Joseph LaFramboise for the American Fur Company. The company was owned by Pierre Chouteau Jr., who rebuilt the post in 1832 and trade continued until the mid-1800's. Pierre was named in honor of Pierre Chouteau.

The City of Pierre was established as a ferry landing in 1880 at the site of a railroad terminal, goods would arrive by rail to be ferried across the Missouri River to supply the influx of settlers to the region. The city was organized in 1883 with a population of 1800.

Pierre became of the capital of South Dakota in 1889, although contested by the City of Huron, Pierre became the permanent capital in 1890 and survived another effort to move it to Mitchell in 1904. In 1910, the Capitol building was completed and has expanded into the capitol complex that you see today.

The Pierre area has a rich history that epitomizes western history including tribal nations, fur trade, settlers, and a unique history of state government.

The Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission encourages you to explore this history rich area! Take our driving tour and visit the location where the Verendrye brothers buried a lead plate marking their visit, stand in the meeting spot where Lewis and Clark met with the Sioux, or visit the South Dakota State Capitol and walk around the beautiful grounds and lake. Check out area museums, including the Cultural Heritage Museum, the Verendrye Museum, the Railroad Depot, and the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center.

Pierre-Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission



1 Brink-Wegner House

110 East 4th Street

Built 1904

Constructed by
Andrew C.
Brink

Architectural
Style: Queen
Anne



The Brink-Wegner House is one of Pierre's most ornate and interesting homes. The Queen Anne, shingle-style home contains one of the best period interiors in the State, including a mural ceiling in the dining room.

Andrew C. Brink was one of the city's most prominent real estate men and contractors when he built the house in 1904. Some believe the design resembles a side-wheel steamboat, an important mode of transportation on the Missouri River on which Pierre is located. Brink lived in the house until his death in 1912, and his family continued to reside there until 1923 when Henry C. Wegner bought the home.

Wegner was the owner of South Dakota's oldest automobile agency, Wegner Auto Company, which is still in business in Pierre. His heirs owned the house until 1965 when Wallace Curl, a Pierre educator, purchased and moved it. In 1977, Curl moved the home from 109 South Highland Avenue to its present location to prevent its demolition. The current owners are Jean and Mike Cowan.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





2 Pierre Hill Residential Historic District North Grand from Broadway to Elizabeth

Located north of the downtown business district and three blocks west of the State Capitol on a rise overlooking the Missouri River, the Pierre Hill Residential Historic District is the



prominent residential district in Pierre. The district is a chronicle of late 19th- and early 20th-century architecture, showcasing homes designed in regional adaptations of popular architectural styles. The neighborhood also reflects the State and local social and economic trends that shaped it. Adding to Pierre Hill's historic charm are the numerous shade trees, perennial gardens, hillside grading, unfenced yards, and picturesque retaining walls that make this late 19th- and early 20th-century park-like neighborhood an ideal place to live.

Because Pierre was not settled until 1880 and was largely isolated, architectural styles tended to be adopted much later and remained popular long after the rest of the country had moved on to newer, more popular trends. Most of the homes in the district are bungalows of the Prairie School and Craftsman styles. Many homes are in Late Victorian styles; Minimal Traditional homes built after World War II are also common. Early 20th-century period revival and Foursquare homes with period revival and Prairie School decorative details can be found throughout the district as well. Most of the homes feature materials typical of central South Dakota during the period, including

concrete or stone foundations, wood frames, clapboard or stucco, fieldstone retaining walls, and wood or asphalt shingles.

Pierre sits on the bluffs along the Missouri River on a series of natural terraces. A promotional brochure published in 1889 described how it developed: *The business is conducted upon the lower plateaus; on the next are homes, schools, churches, and public buildings; and the higher are reserved for residences more costly and commanding more extended views.* Early deeds for the higher lots intended for the city's more costly residences often included covenants restricting land use and requiring the planting and maintenance of trees.

During the 1890s, people began to build homes on the highest terrace view lots in the district. Early residents were members of Pierre's business and professional class. The majority of the district's Late Victorian type homes, influenced by the Queen Anne and other picturesque styles, date from this first phase of building. The Hinsey House at 337 North Grand Avenue is an example of Queen Anne architecture. The district also contains homes in late 19th-century revival styles.



Notable from the district's early years is the Burton Cummins House, a grand Colonial Revival home with an elaborate wrap-around porch and widow's walk at 503 North Euclid Avenue built for banker Burton Cummins and his wife, Clara Belle, in 1895.

Building in the district slowed dramatically after the Panic of 1893, a serious economic depression in the United States, and did not really begin again until after 1900. Charles Hyde had just moved to Pierre and became the most influential figure credited with the district's development during this period, as he was for the development of most of the Upper Pierre Street Commercial Historic District. His

son, Franklin, manager for the Hyde Holding Corporation, and his wife Enid purchased their home, the L.L. Schaaff House, a side gable Craftsman bungalow at 517 North Grand Avenue.



From 1900 to 1912, the Pierre Hill District was known as “the Hill.” An address on “the Hill” was a sign of prestige for the city’s business and professional elite, who considered the hill’s location above the city, away from saloons and society’s rougher elements, out of danger of the flooding, and near churches and good schools to be an ideal place to raise a family. Most of the homes from this period are larger and of high style architecture. Victorian forms remained in favor, but decorative detailing moved away from the picturesque and toward the revival styles, with some homes exhibiting an eclectic mixture of the two. The Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles became a popular statement revealing the social stature of residents.



A.W. Ewert, a Pierre banker, constructed the Neoclassical mansion at 339 North Euclid Avenue from 1905 to 1910. In 1890, Ewert began his career as a cashier at the National Bank of Commerce, where he proved himself as an executive officer and did much to further the interests of the institution. He was mayor of Pierre from 1892 to 1896, with a reputation

for directing the city’s affairs scrupulously and with the strictest business principles. He later became a State senator and later State treasurer. He was treasurer of the Rural Credit Department from

1917 to 1927 and was involved in an embezzlement scandal during that era of wide-spread farm foreclosures and bank failures.

Other notable homes from this period are the elaborate Colonial Revival Farr House at 106 East Wynoka Street and the Merrill-Schaaff House, a Foursquare with Colonial Revival features at 400 North Grand Avenue. This house,

owned by Judge Charles S. Whiting, was built in 1908 as a spec house by Leslie Schaaff and John C. Merrill of the Merrill-Schaaff Lumber Company.

Whiting was judge of the State's ninth judicial circuit court, and his second wife Eleanor was the



Corresponding Secretary of the Pierre Political Equality Club. The Dr. Charles M. Hollister House at 402 North Huron Avenue is a Prairie style home built in 1910 for Pierre physician Dr. Charles Hollister. The owner following Dr. Hollister was physician and surgeon Dr. T. F. Riggs, for whom Riggs High School is named. The Prairie style is identified by wide overhanging eaves, cornice and façade detailing that emphasize horizontal lines, and massive square porch supports.

As the 1920s approached, simplified house forms and the American Foursquare and bungalow came into fashion, documenting the influence of the Arts & Crafts movement. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, Pierre became the administration center for numerous war related activities. Despite high living costs and inflated prices, the demand by State, Federal and county government employees for fine homes did not subside. Between



1918 and 1928, new homes were primarily Craftsman and Prairie style bungalows and Period Revival houses that derived elements from earlier styles, such as the Colonial or Tudor Revival. Builder service and plan-book type designs replaced the large and elaborate

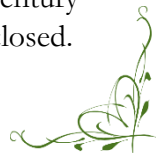


architect-designed homes favored earlier in the century. The 1925 Colonial Revival Miller House at 519 North Huron Avenue is from a prize-winning Good Housekeeping Magazine design. The home belonged to Dick Miller, the owner of the Miller Photography Studio in Pierre. He

paid off the mortgage on his home with prize money won with a photograph of his daughter Marilyn in the “America’s Most Beautiful Baby” contest Sears Roebuck sponsored and held at the Chicago’s World Fair in 1934. This period of development also illustrates the rise of the automobile as many of the homes feature attached garages, like the Miller home, or detached garages to match the house such as the one at the L. L. Schaaff House at 517 North Grand Avenue.

Construction on “the Hill” came to a halt in 1929 with the beginning of the Great Depression but resumed in 1936. By this time, people were building in a more moderate style, Minimal Traditional, which kept early 20th century forms but lacked their decorative details. Homes at 330 North Grand and 122 West Broadway reflect this style. The post-war Minimal Traditional homes placed greater emphasis on the attached garage and reflected the renewed prosperity of the post-war period in the use of materials like brick and decorative stone.

Due to central South Dakota's harsh climate, enclosed porches and foyers are common in Pierre Hill homes. Period Revival and Minimal Traditional cottages tended to have projecting, enclosed foyers, but many of the earlier Late Victorian houses and early 20th-century bungalows originally had open porches that were later enclosed.



3 B.A. Cummins 503 N Euclid Avenue

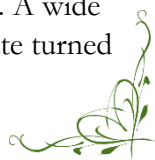
Built 1895

Constructed by
B.A. Cummins

Architectural
Style: Neo-
Colonial



The original building on this site in 1895 was enlarged by B.A. Cummins, a Pierre banker, into this Neo-Colonial residence. A wide wrap-around porch is supported by Ionic columns and ornate turned balusters. Current owners are Valerie and Robert Loe.





4 Farr House

106 East Wynoka Street

Built 1904

Designed by E.J.
Donahue

Architectural Style:
Georgian Revival



Colonel E.P. Farr was a Civil War veteran who came to Pierre to assume the vice presidency of the National Bank of Commerce. His wife, Dr. Mary Noyes-Farr, was an osteopathic pioneer physician and one of the first woman doctors in Pierre. Dr. Farr originally planned to use the house as a hospital.

Governor Peter Norbeck, South Dakota's ninth governor, lived in the house from 1917 to 1921. He went on to become a United States senator from 1921 until his death in 1936. Norbeck's vision led to the creation of Custer State Park in the Black Hills. He was also responsible for the building of a state-owned cement plant, a workman's compensation law, and hydro-electric and road development. His senatorial career reflected his concern for wildlife conservation and park development. Norbeck was influential in the naming of the Badlands as a national monument and is credited with the inclusion of Teddy Roosevelt's image on Mount Rushmore.

Governor Carl Gunderson, South Dakota's eleventh Governor, also resided in the home for a brief period. The house was converted to apartments in 1946; a complete restoration was started in 1993.

The house is currently operating as bed and breakfast establishment. Ana and Rick Jensen, are the Innkeepers of The Norbeck House Inn Bed and Breakfast.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





5 George McMillen House

111 East Broadway Avenue

Built 1883

Constructed by
George
McMillen



George McMillen, a brick contractor, built this house in 1883 and lived here until his death in 1895. John D. Hilger and Anthony D. Hengel bought the house at that time. Hengel served as councilman and mayor of Pierre. Later owners include banker W. H. Mateer and Genevieve Trask. Mrs. Trask served as State legislative chairman and supplied the champagne, a gift from her husband, for the christening of the U.S.S. South Dakota in 1941. She also had the honor of cutting the ribbon officially opening the Missouri River Bridge to traffic in 1962.

The McMillen House was one of the first homes in Pierre. The original house was a one-story, T-shaped building. Today, the cap of the T remains visible, while the hipped-roofed stem was incorporated into the later two-story, cube-shaped house. The house has four stained glass windows and interior windows with colored and etched glass. One curious feature is a window that slides into the roof to allows access into the porch area.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





Judge C.D. Mead House

106 Prospect Avenue

Built 1883

Constructed by
Judge C.D.
Meade

Architectural
Style: Queen
Anne Victorian
to Neo-
Classical
(through
remodeling)



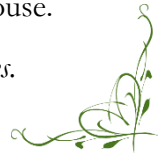
Judge Corwin D. Mead, a county judge and a prominent attorney and realtor, built this house between 1882 and 1883 and remodeled it later. Judge Mead lived in the house until his death in the 1920's.

Shortly after Pierre became the permanent capital city, a building boom ensued. Judge Mead made the substantial addition to his home during this boom. The home took on some Neoclassical influences but retains a definite Queen Anne form.

After Mead's death in the 1920's, his daughter Ruth, kept the home. The fourteen-room house remained in her possession until her death in 1971.

Another judge, Pat McKeever, next purchased it. More recently, Dawnita and Charles Forell purchased and restored the house.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





7 Horner-Hyde House

100 West Capitol Avenue

Built 1889

Constructed by
H.R. Horner

Architectural
Style: Queen
Anne



The Horner-Hyde House sits on a hill overlooking the notable historic commercial area of Pierre, the Upper Pierre Street Commercial Historic District.

Henry Horner, a 27-year-old attorney, moved to Pierre in 1881 and quickly became one of the leading citizens of the city and county. Horner and L.W. Wakefield founded a law firm and were active in local Republican politics. Horner later formed a partnership with Robert W. Stewart that became one of the best-known firms in the territory. The firm still exists today as May, Adam, Gerdes, and Thompson and is the oldest law firm in the State. Horner also was the official reporter for the State Supreme Court from 1898 to 1913, invested heavily in both commercial and residential real estate, and was one of the founders of Pierre National Bank – now BankWest. Horner was elected to the State Senate in 1892 and again in 1896.

In 1889, Horner began building the house at the corner of Grand and Capitol. Between 1892 and 1911, he made improvements to the property. Horner died of the flu in 1930, and in 1934, his widow sold the house for \$10,000 to Charles Lee (Charley) and Florence Hyde.

Charley Hyde was the son of the notable Charles Hyde who developed much of Upper Pierre Street. The Hydys became one of the wealthiest families in the State. Charley managed the family's farms and other extensive real estate holdings. During the 1930s, he bought distressed farms and sold them back to the original owners on an easy contract. He also managed the Grand Theatre in Pierre and served as State director of the Theatre Owners Association of America. He expanded his father's holdings and was responsible for constructing or financing many of the commercial ventures in the city. Charley was elected to the State Senate on the Republican ticket in 1928 and 1930, and to the State House of Representatives in 1942.

While a legislator, Charley Hyde was very active promoting child welfare, agriculture, commerce, and highway and aviation improvement. He also chaired the State Board for the Rehabilitation of the Blind under four governors. A committeeman for the Boy Scouts of America for 22 years, Charley helped organize the Pierre Boys Club. In another demonstration of his commitment to helping young people, he hired local farm boys and provided them with living quarters as they attended high school in Pierre. Because of his contributions to the community, Hyde received the first "Pop Warner Worker of the Month" award for outstanding volunteer work. The Dakota Sioux Tribe adopted Hyde as an honorary chief in 1937. He was a life member of the State Historical Society.

The home was purchased and restored by Dr. Douglas Beemer in 1989 and is currently in use as an optometry clinic.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





John E. & Ruth Hipple House

219 North Highland Avenue

Built 1913

Architectural
Style: Prairie
School



John E. Hipple moved to Pierre in 1888 and organized the State Publishing Company. Five years later, he sold his interest in State Publishing and started the Hipple Printing Company. In 1905, Hipple purchased the newspaper, the *Capital Journal*. Hipple is credited for many improvements to the city of Pierre while serving as mayor from 1924 to 1939. During one of his terms, the city purchased several outlets from the Chicago and North Western Railway. This land included almost two miles of Missouri River front property, which became Steamboat Memorial Park in 1974. Hipple also convinced Civilian Conservation Corps officials to locate a camp on Farm Island. The Civilian Conservation Corps built gravel roads, two public picnic areas, and cabins for the Izaak Walton League and the Boy and Girl Scouts.

Hipple's wife, Ruth, was active in the community as a member of the women's suffrage movement. She served as one of three auditors for women's suffrage in South Dakota and later as their press secretary. Ruth was also very involved with the *South Dakota Messenger*, South Dakota's leading publication dedicated to the women's suffrage movement. Other women involved in the suffrage movement stayed with the Hipples when they came to Pierre. Ruth also started the Girl Scouts in Pierre.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





I.W. Goodner House

216 East Prospect Avenue

Built 1884

Constructed by
Henry J. Siems

Architectural
Style: Gothic
Revival to
Colonial Revival
(through
remodeling)

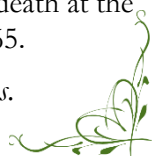


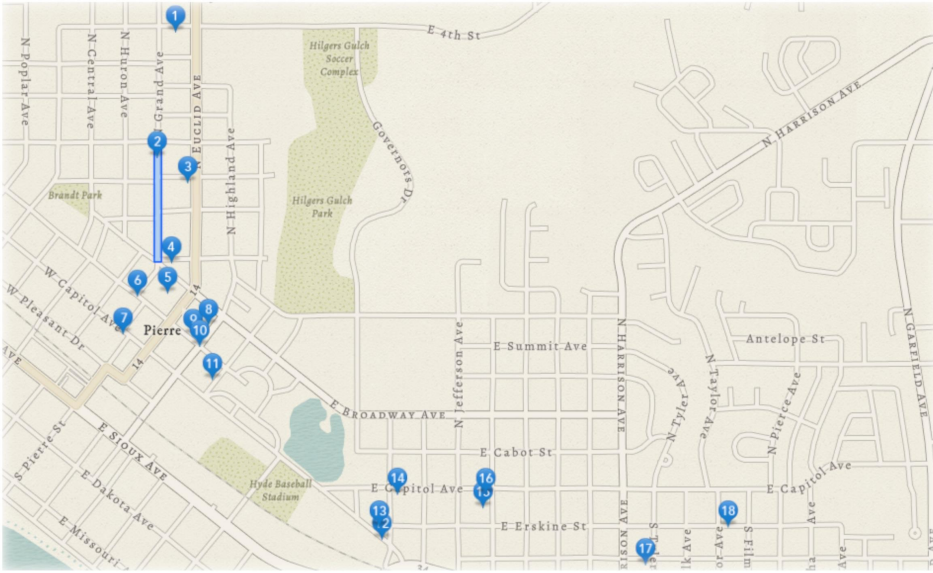
The Goodner house is considered one of Pierre's oldest homes. Henry J. Siems and his wife arrived in Pierre in 1881, where he started a wholesale liquor business. Henry was active in the Pierre business community and, when the Pierre City government was formed in March of 1883, was elected alderman in the second ward. Henry purchased the house's lot for \$700 in 1884, and built a one and a half story house. Apparently, Siems left Pierre in 1892, and Mrs. Siems sold the house to Colonel Ivan W. Goodner for \$3,500, with an assumed mortgage of \$3,000.

Over the years, Goodner held many positions. He was the official reporter of the debates of the South Dakota constitutional convention in 1885 and 1889, the first clerk of the Supreme Court, city attorney, and Hughes County state's attorney from 1900 to 1904. In 1901, Goodner received an appointment to the State Board of Regents of Education by Governor Charles N. Herreid, later becoming president of the board.

William Summerside purchased the home in 1905. He was a member of the territorial legislature and the first state legislature. His wife, Sarah Harriman Summerside, was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and active in the community until her death at the age of 99. The Summerside family owned the home until 1965.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.







10

Karcher-Sahr House 222 East Prospect Avenue

Built 1910

Constructed by
Henry &
Adeline Karcher

Architectural
Style:
Neoclassical



The original owner, Henry Karcher, was one of Pierre's pioneers. He first traveled to the area in 1883 for a hunting trip. The future for the town seemed bright, so he purchased a lot and built one of the first brick commercial buildings downtown – the Karcher Block. Karcher was a prominent citizen, serving as both alderman and mayor. His main interest had been ranching, but a stroke in 1907 prevented him from taking up this profession. He moved his family into the city and built this house in 1910.

Karcher's wife, Adeline, was also a prominent citizen of Pierre, instrumental in founding the Women's Club, the Carnegie Library, and Riverside Cemetery. Her daughter, Marguerite, married Fred Sahr, and they became the next owners of the house. Marguerite was active in the Women's Suffrage Movement, writing for the feminist newspaper the *South Dakota Messenger*. The couple's son, William Karcher Sahr, owned the house after them. He was a prominent attorney, serving as a State legislator, and was president of the library board responsible for erecting the Rawlins Municipal Library. The house has been continuously occupied by the family and is currently owned by Carla Sahr, the widow of William.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





11

Stephens-Lucas House

123 North Nicollett Street

Built 1904

Constructed by
L.L. Stephens

Architectural
Style: Dutch
Colonial



The first owner was L.L. Stephens, a prominent lawyer and land speculator. Stephens was mayor of Pierre from 1913 to 1915, and a State Senator from Hughes County in 1915. He was an attorney for several important clients including Standard Oil.

Alfred E. Lucas bought the house in 1925. He was a founder, along with Emil P. Theim, of one of Pierre's oldest and most important merchandise stores, the A. E. Lucas Co. Dry Goods, as well as a clothing store, Ready to Wear. Mrs. Clara Riche, a relative, owned the house until Lucas' son, Robert H. Lucas, and his wife, Alma, who continued to run the family business, bought it in 1944. The house has remained in the Lucas family since 1925 and is currently owned by Janice and Tony Lucas.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





The Crawford-Pettyjohn House

129 South Washington Avenue

Built 1885,
Rebuilt 1908

Architectural
Style: Queen
Anne



The Crawford-Pettyjohn house is one of the best examples of Queen Anne architecture in Pierre. The original owner, Coe Isaac Crawford, lived in the house from 1885 to 1896. Crawford married May Robinson in Iowa City in 1884. The couple had two children. May passed away in 1894. Following the custom of the day, Crawford married May's sister Lavinia in 1896, and they had three children together. Coe Crawford died April 25, 1944.

Crawford was elected Hughes County States Attorney in 1886. He was a member of the last territorial and first state legislatures and was responsible for many of the State's first bills. As Attorney General from 1893 to 1897, he prosecuted former State Treasurer W. W. Taylor, who absconded with the state treasury. Crawford was elected the sixth Governor of South Dakota in 1906. As the state's first Progressive governor, he instituted major reforms in the next election, including a direct primary, anti-lobbying legislation, and controls on campaign contributions. On June 25, 1908, Gov. Crawford officiated the laying of the Capitol's cornerstone. Two years later, he successfully defeated A.B. Kitteridge, the leader of the Stalwart Republicans, and became a United States senator.

Frank Pettyjohn acquired the house in 1919. Pettyjohn was prominent retailer and grain elevator operator. Unfortunately, by 1966, the house had been allowed to deteriorate into an almost ruinous condition. The home was restored in 1969 by the Neilan family. Present owners are Rosa and James Iverson.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.



13 Kenneth R. Scurr House

121 South Washington Avenue

Built 1923

Designed by
Kenneth Scurr

Constructed by
Onida
Construction
Company



Kenneth R. Scurr was an important designer and builder involved in a number of noteworthy local projects. He moved to Pierre in 1920 and married Lucille Pettyjohn, daughter of Frank Pettyjohn, a prominent retailer and grain elevator operator.

As State bridge engineer, Scurr played a role in the Pick-Sloan Plan and Army Corps of Engineers' Missouri River Development Project for the construction of rolled earth multi-purpose dams at Fort Randall, Oahe, Gavin's Point, and Big Bend. He also had a hand in a series of very high, long bridges that were more complex than any other engineering projects in the state. He constructed the first bridge, Big Bend, during a severe winter using concrete poured into

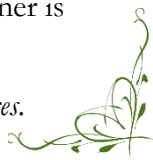
special insulated forms designed to maintain the temperature required for the concrete to harden. This was the first use of such forms in winter construction. The new bridges built at Forest City and Mobridge were noteworthy at the time for being the longest bridges over any national inland waterway and for their low building cost.

Scurr received additional recognition for the design and construction of the Bad River Bridge at Fort Pierre, which was the first bridge in the United States to utilize welded stud connectors between the floor and girders. It was also one of the first structures poured under winter conditions using balsam wool insulating material. He also became influential in the Bridge Subcommittee of the American Association of State Highway Officials efforts to establish construction standards and specifications.

Scurr's expertise was not limited to bridges. He designed the stables for the Pierre Polo Club, Pierre's Hyde Stadium baseball park, and helped prepare plans for the Pierre City Auditorium.

Scurr also had a notable military career in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In 1917, he served with distinction as an artillery officer in France, receiving the Purple Heart and other decorations. Someone made a statement about him that, "few South Dakotans have served their country and state so long and well as Col. Scurr." Due to his distinguished accomplishments, both civil and military, he had the honor of induction into the South Dakota Cowboy and Western Heritage Hall of Fame. Present owner is Nathaniel Buscher.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





14 Albert Wheelon House

902 East Capitol Avenue

Built 1906

Constructed by
Albert
Wheelon

Architectural
Style: Gothic
Revival



Built in 1906 by Albert Wheelon, a real estate, loan and insurance agent. This residence with its peaked roof is an example of the Gothic Revival architecture that became popular in the late nineteenth century.





15

Peter Hansen House

1123 and 1117 East Capitol Avenue

Built 1949

Constructed by Lustron Corporation

Architectural Style: Westchester
Deluxe



These all steel homes were mass-produced by the Lustron Corporation to help with the housing shortage after World War II. The exterior and interior walls are of shiny, porcelain-enameled panels. These homes in Pierre are two of the 38 Lustron homes built in South Dakota; all survive today.

The post-war housing shortage in Pierre was exacerbated by construction of the Oahe Dam, the largest of the four Pick-Sloan Plan dams constructed in South Dakota after World War II. The influx of workers between 1948 and 1953 increased Pierre's population from 5,000 to 10,000 people. Naturally, this growth created a need for housing. Pierre's two Lustron houses date from this time.

Prefabrication and construction methods the company developed made it possible to build a Lustron house in one to three weeks. The company constructed a total 2,500 houses total before being forced into bankruptcy in 1950. These homes are owned by Ann and Don Davisson.

These houses are on the National Register of Historic Places.





16

Rowe House

1118 East Capitol Avenue

Built 1907

Constructed by
Walter Rowe

Architectural
Style: Folk
Victorian



Built in 1907 by Walter Rowe, an important local figure, the Rowe House is one of the earliest homes constructed in a neighborhood of mostly one-story ranch style homes.

Walter Rowe started and was head of the Capital City Telephone Company that served both Pierre and Fort Pierre. Rowe made telephone service possible between Pierre and Fort Pierre by erecting telephone poles on the banks of the Missouri River and on sandbars and LaFramboise Island to connect telephone lines between Pierre and Fort Pierre. He then connected Pierre to other cities across the state, such as Rapid City and Wolsey. The company's installation of telephone service allowed Pierre to communicate with the western and northeastern parts of the state, an important sign of progress. In 1905, when the Dakota Central Telephone Company bought the Capital City Telephone Company, Rowe stayed on as manager.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





17

Dr. William & Elizabeth Blackburn House 219 South Tyler Avenue

Built 1883

Constructed by
H.O. Fishback

Architectural
Style: Late
Victorian Stick



The Blackburn House is one of the oldest remaining residential buildings in the City of Pierre and has been the home of several prominent members of the community. H. O. Fishback, a banker and real estate speculator, constructed the house in 1883 as an example to encourage new settlers and to help establish the new community in East Pierre.

William Maxwell Blackburn, who purchased the house in 1887, was an ecclesiastical historian and internationally known author. While living in the house, he continued to write books and articles on various topics of local and national interest, such as the philosophy of education, geology, and South Dakota history. Blackburn published more than 30 books on topics ranging from young adult fiction to religious histories. He was also a founding member of the South Dakota Historical Society. While living in the house, Blackburn served as president and active promoter of Pierre University, a Presbyterian institution in East Pierre from 1885 to 1898. The house is the only known remaining building that has any documented relationship with Pierre University.

The third owner of the property was C. B. Billingshurst, a well-known, important community leader in Pierre during its second boom period after 1900. Billingshurst was a prolific writer on topics of local and statewide concern. He published his articles in his own newspaper, the *Pierre Daily*, along with other South Dakota community newspapers. He established the State Publishing Company with John Hipple. Billingshurst kept an office in the home, where he pursued his writing and managed his various business interests.

Harold and Irma King became the fourth owners when they bought the Blackburn house in 1927. The two opened King's Korner Grocery in 1937. Harold was a fireman at the Pierre Airbase, assigned to the Corps of Engineers. He also served as Hughes County Treasurer and Pierre Assessor. Irma was a national award-winning poet, songwriter, and author. Her lyrics to the song "These Dakota Lands" received the 1988 Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Many of Irma King's poems center on the Blackburn House.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.



18 Henry M. McDonald House

1906 East Erskine Street

Built 1885

Constructed by
Henry M.
McDonald

Architectural
Style: Queen
Anne



Built in what was originally East Pierre, the Henry M. McDonald House was one of the first in the community. McDonald, a pioneer businessman and president of the Trader's Bank in Pierre, constructed the home in 1885 and was the first of several prominent South Dakotans to reside there. He patterned the house after his father-in-law's home back in Wisconsin.

During the 1890's, the Honorable James Ward leased the property from McDonald. Ward was a delegate to the 1885 State constitutional convention, former territorial auditor, and 1894 democratic candidate for governor of South Dakota.

The owner in 1906, Ed Eakin, named the property "The Cedars" after the cedar hedge along the west edge of the yard. Dayton W. Canaday, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society from 1968 to 1987, was a former owner.

This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.





**South Dakota Cultural
Heritage Center**

900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3458

South Dakota State Capitol

500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Verendrye Museum

115 Deadwood Street
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Fort Pierre Depot Museum

Near the intersection of
Highway 83 and 4th Ave.
Fort Pierre, SD

Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center

210 Verendrye Dr.
Fort Pierre, SD 57532
605-494-1094

Log Cabin Visitor Center

04 E. Main St.
Fort Pierre, SD 57532
605-223-7603

**Pierre Area Chamber of
Commerce**

800 W. Dakota Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
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City of Pierre

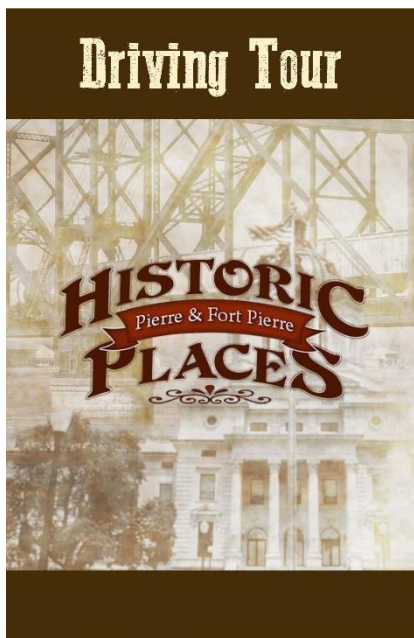
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Other publications by the Pierre-Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

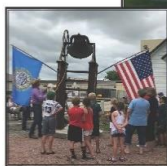
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