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State Historical Society seeks public preservation input

PIERRE, S.D. -- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre is preparing for its federal fiscal year 2015 grant application and invites public comment through Oct. 31 on the state's preservation needs and projects.

The SHPO manages the National Register of Historic Places program of the National Park Service in South Dakota. The office relates historic preservation to economic, social and educational state objectives. It surveys, inventories and registers historical properties; and it promotes public awareness and provides technical assistance on their preservation.

Among the questions to consider are:

- What properties or areas need to be inventoried?
- What properties should be considered for nomination to the national register of historic places?
- What properties are at-risk or endangered? and
- What kinds of technical preservation assistance are beneficial?

“Public input or responses to these questions will help the program in preparing its annual work plan,” said Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. “And preservation promotes economic development and cultural tourism.”

The SHPO Annual Work Plan Suggestion Form may be obtained online at history.sd.gov/Preservation in the right column under “In the Spotlight” or by contacting the SHPO office at (605) 773-2907 or shpo@state.sd.us.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.