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Three Properties Listed on National Register of Historic Places

PIERRE, S.D. – Three South Dakota properties were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society. The listed properties are the First National Bank, Freeman; Harmony Friends Church, Wessington Springs vicinity; and Terrace Park and Japanese Gardens, Sioux Falls.

The National Register is the official federal list of properties identified as important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre works in conjunction with the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register program, to list the properties.

"South Dakota's history is rich in American Indian culture, pioneer life and change," said Jay D. Vogt, state historic preservation officer and director of the State Historical Society. "Properties listed on the National Register are important for their role in South Dakota's culture, heritage and history. And when properties get listed, it shows that their owners take pride in their role in preserving that culture, heritage and history."

Buildings, sites, structures and objects at least 50 years old possessing historical significance may qualify for the National Register, according to Vogt. Properties must also maintain their historic location, design, materials and association. Listing on the National Register does not place any limitations on private property owners by the federal government.

The First National Bank in Freeman was organized in 1902 with this building constructed in 1906. It is listed on the National Register for its local significance in the area of commerce as an example of small-town banking industry in South Dakota. The bank remained open to serve its town and surrounding agricultural community through the Great War boom, the subsequent agricultural recession, the Great Depression and a bank robbery. The corner location and design of the two-story brick building are indicative of the status the bank had in the community.

The Harmony Friends Church was built in 1913 and is currently known to be the last church of the Society of Friends standing in its original location. The church is listed on the National Register due to its historical significance at a statewide level in the area of religion. Although the Society of Friends never had a large membership in South Dakota, the Friends that homesteaded in the late 19th century and established churches show the extension of the society into western territories. Just north of the church is a claim-era timber grove and a small lunch stand, which hosted years of community events, ball games, races and Old Settlers' Association picnics.

Terrace Park was established by the city of Sioux Falls in 1916. Through the 1930s, improvements to the park included the construction of the Japanese Gardens. The gardens filled the park with long earthen terraces, Sioux quartzite stone steps and walls, and an outdoor concert stage. As Sioux Falls grew steadily in the early 20th century, the

city built up a park system full of aesthetic attractions, active recreational spaces and entertainment venues to improve the quality of life for its residents. The park and gardens are listed on the National Register for their local significance in the areas of entertainment/recreation and social history.

For more information on the National Register or other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458 or website history.sd.gov/Preservation (click on National Register of Historic Places in the right column).

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. 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 www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.