

# Hiawatha Asylum Cemetery

Hiawatha Golf Course  
Canton, SD  
Lincoln County



The “Hiawatha Asylum for Insane Indians” was established by the U.S. Congress in 1899, officially opened in 1903, and closed in 1934 after federal investigations found, not just outdated, but inhumane treatment. The asylum was only the second federal insane asylum and the first to be dedicated to an ethnic group. Around 374 Native Americans from fifty tribes across the country were brought here. Though the asylum itself was dismantled in the 1940s, the cemetery where 121 inmates were buried is still located in a fenced area on between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> fairways of the Hiawatha Golf Course. It is a history of race and mental health that is still emotional, complicated, and important in our world today. This place is one of remembrance—to remember the inmates and their families—to remember how far we have come as a country since those days and how far we have yet to go.

View map: [http://hiawathagc.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=3](http://hiawathagc.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=3)