

"PLACES WORTH EXPLORING"

HISTORIC SITES LESSON PLANS
AND RESOURCE NOTEBOOK

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Historic Preservation Information Service

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*SD State Historical Society,
Historical Preservation Program*

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PLACES WORTH EXPLORING

a South Dakota State Historical Society, Historical Preservation Program project
900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 773-3458

MISSION AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Project Mission: South Dakota's prehistoric and historic places contain a great deal of information that can enhance and enliven the teaching of virtually any subject. Any place, whether it is down the street or around the globe, can be integrated into course curriculums and lesson plans. This project supplies teaching materials and technical assistance designed to make it easy for educators to bring places worth exploring to any classroom.

Why are Historic Places Important? Buildings, structures, sites, and objects from the past are important for a number of educational, cultural, civic, aesthetic, and economic reasons that benefit everyone. Saving and interpreting these places is what historic preservation is all about.

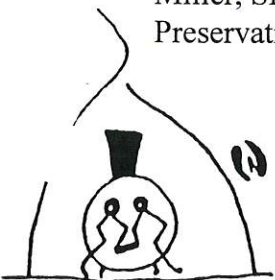
Identity and Education: Old places contain valuable information about a community's past. They can tell us where, how and why people lived. As more of what we build looks alike, old places are one of the few things that help define who we are. If we lose these places, we lose an authentic link to the past that can never be replaced. Knowledge of these places provides insight for the present and future.

Civic Pride and Quality of Life: Prehistoric and historic places serve as community landmarks and sources of pride. New construction and modern facilities lack the variety of materials and level of detail found in historic buildings. These features are what make a building and a community unique. People enjoy learning, working, and living in historic buildings.

Aesthetics and Economics: Well preserved old places enhance a community's appearance and build its tax base through increased building values and revenue generation. Attractive communities draw and sustain new businesses and residents. Tourism also increases. Saving and interpreting old places helps South Dakota towns survive and prosper.

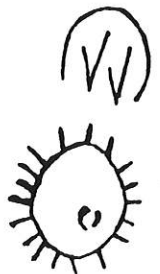
Recycling to Avoid Waste: People of all ages want to avoid waste and recycle what they can. Historic Preservation is recycling older places. It took energy and materials to construct a building and connect it to the outside world with things like roads and power lines. Tearing down a building wastes these resources and creates the need for a place to dispose of the building materials.

For More Information: Contact Rosemary Moeller, Gifted Teacher, Miller Schools, Box 257, Miller, SD 57362, phone (605) 853-2711 or the South Dakota State Historical Society, Historical Preservation Program, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501 (605) 773-3458.



bringing SD places to SD classrooms

illustrations from National Register of Historic Places nomination Prehistoric Rock Art of South Dakota



Introduction

South Dakota's prehistoric and historic places contain a great deal of information that can enhance and enliven the teaching of virtually any subject. Any place, whether it is down the street or around the globe, can be integrated into course curriculum and lesson plans. For this reason, the "Places Worth Exploring" sourcebook was developed. Initiated by Rosemary Moeller, Gifted Teacher of the Miller School District and Stephanie Ahrendt, former staff member of the South Dakota State Historical Preservation Center, "Places Worth Exploring" attempts to bring South Dakota's historic places into the state's classrooms by supplying teaching materials designed to make it easy to do so.

This "Places Worth Exploring" sourcebook is divided into six parts which are as follows:



Section 1 - Community Wide Activities: Lesson plans that are based on community wide activities. These lesson plans can be identified by the grain elevator/railroad tracks symbol. Introductory and easier activities are at the beginning of this section and are followed by progressively more challenging and in-depth lesson plans.



Section 2 - Design and Drawing Activities: Lesson plans that discuss and present design and drawing issues and activities. These lesson plans can be identified by the pencil symbol. Introductory and easier activities are at the beginning of this section and are followed by progressively more challenging and in-depth lesson plans.



Section 3 - Historic Preservation and Observation Activities: Lesson plans that present basic information about historic preservation and architecture as well as present observation activities. These lesson plans can be identified by explorer on hill symbol. Introductory and easier activities are at the beginning of this section and are followed by progressively more challenging and in-depth lesson plans.



Section 4 - History Activities: Lesson plans that introduce themes, events and eras in South Dakota history. These lesson plans can be identified by the compass point symbol. Introductory and easier activities are at the beginning of this section and are followed by progressively more challenging and in-depth lesson plans.



Section 5 - Shelter/ Making a Home Activities: Lesson plans that discuss and present the ideas of shelter and home. These lesson plans can be identified by the house symbol. Introductory and easier activities are at the beginning of this section and are followed by progressively more challenging and in-depth lesson plans.

Section 6 - Supplemental Information: This sections contains supplemental information about historic preservation and the history of South Dakota. This sections has no identifying symbol.

The majority of the lesson plans can be adapted for grades 5-12. Several are appropriate for younger children. Teachers can use activities straight from the lesson plans or use the background information and suggested activities for inspiration in creating their own assignments.

Unless otherwise indicated, the background section for each lesson is taken directly from the National Register of Historic Places nomination for each site. Virtually all of the sites described and pictured in this document are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official list of cultural properties worthy of preservation. To be eligible for the Register, a property must be at least 50 years old, historically significant and still have a majority of its historic material.

Acknowledgement

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