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“Building South Dakota” exhibit opening at Cultural Heritage Center July 30

PIERRE, S.D. – A new exhibit opening on Saturday, July 30, at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, “Building South Dakota,” shows how the state’s built environment has changed over time. The exhibit will open in the Observation Gallery of the Cultural Heritage Center with refreshments and a reception from 1-4 p.m. CDT, and there will be free museum admission all day.

Visitors will follow a highway painted on the floor up the stairs to the exhibit. Large images will tell the story of South Dakota’s building evolution. Visitors of all ages can put together their own city or farm using hands-on activity tables. The view out the Observation Gallery windows is incorporated into the exhibit with explanation panels talking about the state capitol building and identifying visible Pierre and Fort Pierre structures. Short videos on various South Dakota structures will be shown on a large screen.

“What do you see when you look out your window? Power lines, buildings, roads – all features of South Dakota’s landscape today. What we see around us every day is easy to take for granted,” said Jay Smith, museum director. “This exhibit gives our everyday buildings and other structures some historical context and shows how the built landscape has evolved. The hands-on tables let everyone design their own city or country space.”

“Building South Dakota” will be up for about two years. Visitors can still enjoy the “Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota” exhibit in the Hogen Gallery until that exhibit closes on Sept. 18.

Museum hours through Labor Day are 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. There is a small admission fee for adults, but visitors 17 and younger are always free.

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About the South Dakota State Historical Society

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.