

Military Records at the South Dakota State Archives - Forts and Posts

Fort Pierre Chouteau and Fort Pierre (South Dakota)

Fort Pierre Chouteau was established as a fur trading post in 1832 by Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and the American Fur Company. It was built to replace Fort Tecumseh, which had operated at the nearby Bad River confluence for a decade, and was located three miles upriver. In 1855, Fort Pierre Chouteau was sold to the U.S. government and converted into a military post. The post was abandoned in 1857, the aging facilities dismantled, and the materials used to construct Fort Randall downriver.

Fort Pierre was established by Charles Galpin and the American Fur Company in 1859 and was located approximately two miles upriver from the site of old Fort Pierre Chouteau. The post relocated to Farm Island in 1863 to be closer to the newly established military post of Fort Sully before it closed for good.

Collections

Charles Edmund DeLand Papers, 1890-1935 (H69-005)

DeLand was a prominent Pierre lawyer, politician, author, and historian. This collection includes newspaper clippings and miscellaneous papers relating to Pierre, Fort Pierre, and Fort Pierre Chouteau. (Boxes 03339 A-B, 03340 A, MD 66)

General Photo Collection - Fort Pierre (P95)

Images include: a print of Karl Bodmer's Fort Pierre, 1833; print of Alfred Sully's drawing and painting of Fort Pierre in 1857; aerial view of the site of Fort Pierre Chouteau, 1960; prints of drawings of the fort done by Alexander H. Murray in 1844 and Hoblitzell in 1899; keel boats and a bull boat drawn by Hoblitzell near Fort Pierre in 1899; plan of old Fort Pierre, 1833 and 1855; sketch of the fort by W. J. Hays in 1860; horse racing of Sioux Indians near Fort Pierre by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch; view of Fort Pierre by Frederick Behman; image of the bell and cannon used at Fort Pierre trading post; Carl Wimar drawing of the fort in 1858; images of sketches of the fort dated 1850 and 1860; and bird's eye views of the site of the fort.

Fred Greguras Collection, ca 1890s-1950s (H2018-049)

This collection consists of brochures, manuals, booklets, and photographs of various military-related locations throughout South Dakota. The heart of the collection is photographs, dating from the late 1940s to the early 1950s, of military forts and ghost towns in South Dakota. Includes information on Fort Pierre Chouteau. (Boxes 05058 C)

Timothy Nowak Collection (H2010-094, H2017-060)

This collection consists of maps, photographs, archaeological research materials, and microfilm on the history of Fort Randall compiled by Timothy Nowak, an archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Also includes ground plans for Fort Pierre II (MD 119, Folder 3), as well as 35mm slides of Fort Pierre archaeological sites (Box 06595 B).

Pierre-Fort Pierre Miscellaneous Materials (H75-347)

This collection contains miscellaneous material on Fort Pierre, including a pen sketch map of "Old Fort Pierre and Vicinity." (Box 03551 A-B, MD 15)

Returns from U.S. Military Posts

Post returns for Fort Pierre, Dakota Territory, from July 1855 to May 1857. Returns include the names of enlisted men and commissioned officers, ranks, regiments, companies, remarks, and a record of events for that month. (MF 1627)

Dr. DeLorme W. Robinson Papers, 1893-1909 (H75-225)

Contains correspondence with Pierre Couteau regarding the construction of old Fort Pierre. (Box 03544 A, MD 67)

Doane Robinson Papers, 1880-1946 (H74-009)

This collection includes one untitled manuscript written by Doane Robinson about Joseph LaFramboise and Fort Pierre. (Box 03366 A, Folder 237)

Harold H. Schuler Papers, 1989-1992 (H95-010)

This collection contains research materials on Fort Sully and Fort Pierre that were used by Harold Schuler to write Fort Sully: Guns at Sunset and Fort Pierre Chouteau. (Boxes 05975-05976)

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, Maps and Blueprints of Historic Structures (98-161)

This collection contains maps and blueprints of historic buildings filed with the State Historic Preservation Office, and includes undated drawings for Fort Pierre Chouteau. (MD 214, Folder 3)

Wakpa Sica Historical Society Collection (H92-058)

This collection contains historical site maps, photographs, and photocopies on the Fort Pierre area, including Fort Pierre Chouteau, Fort LaFramboise, Fort Tecumseh, Teton Post, Fort Galpin, Fort Sully, and the American Fur Company store. (Box 05496 B)

Maps

Survey of Missouri River of Fort Pierre Area, 1855 - by Lieutenant G. K. Warren on orders from Brig. Gen. Harvey, preliminary sketch for establishing military post (#706-708 - MD 32, Folder 2)

Publications

Fort Tecumseh and Fort Pierre Chouteau: Journal and Letter Books, 1830-1850. Transcribed and Annotated by Michael M. Casler and W. Raymond Wood. Pierre, SD: South Dakota Historical Society Press, 2017.

Schuler, Harold H. Fort Pierre Chouteau. Vermillion, SD: University of South Dakota Press, 1990.

Smith, G. Hubert. Fort Pierre II (39ST217), A Historic Trading Post in the Oahe Dam Area, South Dakota. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1960.

Mentions in South Dakota Historical Collections. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Fort Pierre Couteau (first Fort Pierre, 1832-1857): Vol. 1, page 43-44, 105-106, 108-109, 126, 132, 256-257, 264, 270-274, 278-291, 294-297, 317, 343, 346-351, 381-440; Vol. 2.2, page 170; Vol. 4, page 221-222, 255-256; Vol. 5, page 113; Vol. 8, page 77; Vol. 9, page 70, 72-83, 88-92, 154-167, 203-233; Vol. 10, page 110, 132-170; Vol. 11, page 286, 350-354; Vol. 12, page 196; Vol. 13, page 74, 333, 337-338; Vol. 14, page 417; Vol. 23, page 324; Vol. 24, page 180; Vol. 25, page 151, 156; Vol. 27, page 24-28; Vol. 31, page 247, 278-282

Fort Pierre, second (1859-1863): Vol. 1, page 120, 280-281, 296, 303, 307, 328, 368-370; Vol. 4, page 244; Vol. 5, page 288, 292; Vol. 10, page 438; Vol. 11, page 355; Vol. 20, page 400; Vol. 27, page 30; Vol. 31, page 283-284

Mentions in South Dakota History. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Fort Pierre: Vol. 3, page 234-240, 245; Vol. 4, page 21, 27, 32-35, 43, 52, 144, 165-186; Vol. 5, page 346-348, 351; Vol. 6, page 180, 189-201, 326; Vol. 16, page 229, 234, 236-238, 240-245

Fort Pierre Chouteau: Vol. 28, page 111, 116; Vol. 29, page 65; Vol. 32, page 2-4, 12-13, 95-116; Vol. 38, page 83-86, 326-330, 333-334; Vol. 39, page 129-130, 140, 146, 156; Vol. 40, page 111-112, 120-123, 129

Mentions in Wi-lyohi. Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society.

Fort Pierre: Vol. 1, No. 3 and 11; Vol. 13, No. 6; Vol. 16, No. 12; Vol. 19, No. 7; Vol. 22, No. 1

Vertical Files

“Fort Pierre”