

# SD Highway 50 • Platte to Vermillion

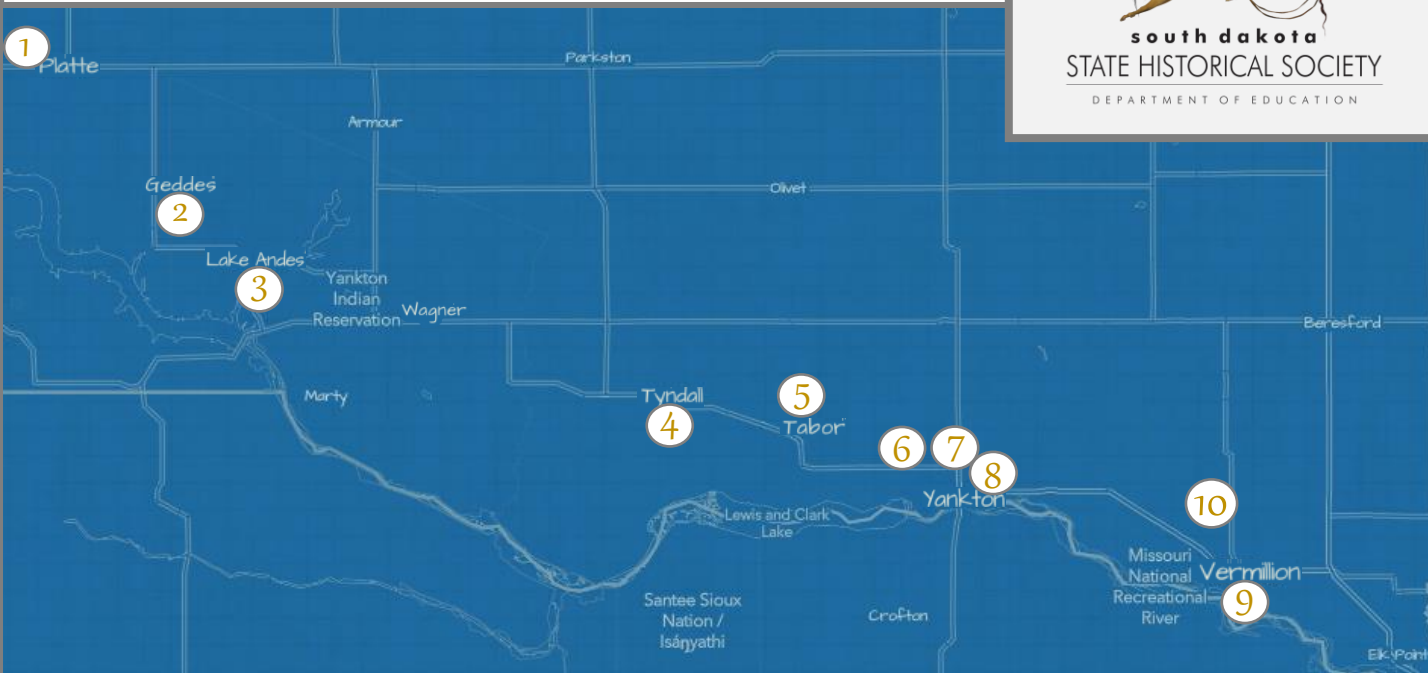
A Preservation Adventure

about 140 miles

Archaeology & Historic  
Preservation Month 2024



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## 1 Henry Cool Park, about 2.5 mi. west of Platte

The park was built by the Platte Community Club in 1934-1941, as a dam had been built to create the lake in 1930-1931. There was a swimming beach, picnic grounds, and playground. The bridges, benches, and more used local fieldstone. In 2019, flooding damaged the dam and lake, but the park remains on Platte Creek.

Turn north on Platte Lake Rd., turn north on Golf Course Dr., continue through the golf course and around to the west. Find the park's small parking lot below the clubhouse.



## 2 Geddes Historical Village

Since 1971, the Geddes Historical Society has compiled a small collection of historical buildings. The first was the old log Papineau Trading Post from the 1850s. Other buildings include the childhood home of Peter Norbeck (a prominent state politician in the 1920s-30s), a schoolhouse, the Phillips claim shanty, and a WNAX gas station.

Take 6<sup>th</sup> St. east from SD 50. Along Main St. between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Sts. On-street parking. Building interiors are only open for special events.



## 3 Charles Mix County Courthouse, Lake Andes

Completed in 1918, the courthouse's Prairie Style design by Sioux City architect W.L. Steele is one of the best examples of the style in South Dakota. Inside there is historic tile, stained glass, and molded terra cotta. Also find the historic Lake Andes Carnegie Library and Engel Hotel buildings on Main St. .

Take 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. north from SD 50 to Main St., courthouse between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. Parking on-street and in lots along 4<sup>th</sup> and Lake Sts. Public interior spaces are open during working hours.



## 4 Bon Homme County Courthouse, Tyndall

The 1914 Beaux Arts style courthouse was designed by Sioux Falls architect Joseph A. Schwarz. In front to the south, the 1898 flagstaff was built by the Canton Bridge Co. (Ohio) and erected in honor of Sp. Am. War servicemen. Also see the Craftsman Style design Tyndall Carnegie Library on the corner of W. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Laurel St.

Off W. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., between and Holly Sts. Parking on-street or in the lot northwest of the building. Public interior spaces are open during working hours.

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## St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church & Cemetery, Tabor

Tabor's Catholic Czech community built this church in 1898-1899 from a design by August Goetz of Yankton. Note the cornerstone with both Czech and English inscriptions. The church cemetery features several fieldstone grottos and other structures built by Frank Rezek. On Lidice St., also see Beseda Hall and Sokol Park, and the local Czech Heritage Preservation Society's Vancura Memorial Park.

Take Lidice St. north from SD 50. Located on the northeast corner of Lidice and Yankton Sts, at the north end of downtown. On-street parking.

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## Lakeport Catholic Church & Cemetery

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church was built in Lakeport in 1882-1884 using local chalkstone (a soft limestone) quarried from the banks of the Missouri River. The Czech heritage of the church can be seen in the Czech language used on many gravestones in the adjoining cemetery.

Turn north on 431<sup>st</sup> Ave. and take first turn west on Lakeport Rd. The church is less than a half-mile, on the north side of the road. The interior is typically closed.

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## Mead Building, Yankton

Completed in 1909, the Mead Building had been the women's receiving hospital for the Yankton State Hospital (alt. Dakota Hospital for the Insane; Human Services Center) and was named for hospital superintendent Dr. Leonard C. Mead. Since 2012, the Yankton County Historical Society has rehabilitated it into their Mead Museum.

Take Spruce St. north from SD 50. Turn east on Mickelson Dr. to the museum parking lot, southeast of the building. Find visitor info at [meadbuilding.org](http://meadbuilding.org).

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## Meridian Bridge, Yankton

Opened in 1924 (and celebrating its centennial in 2024), the Meridian Bridge replaced earlier pontoon bridge or ferry crossing options. It has two decks that had been used for each direction of vehicle traffic. After the nearby Discovery Bridge was finished in 2009, the Meridian Bridge re-opened in 2011 for pedestrian recreational use. Also explore the Yankton Historic Commercial District along 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Located at the south end of Walnut St. Find street parking on Walnut or 2<sup>nd</sup> Sts. or find a parking lot in Riverside Park, at the south end of Douglas Ave./Park Dr.

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## Vermillion Downtown Historic District

Devastated by the Missouri River's flood of 1881, the city of Vermillion rebuilt itself on the bluff. The business district that developed has significant commercial and architectural history from 1880 to 1942. Also find the University of South Dakota's historic core campus and the National Music Museum on E. Clark St., and the W.H. Over Museum (local and natural history) at N. University & Taylor Sts.

Main St. between Washington and Dakota Sts. From SD 50, can take Business-50 or Dakota St. to Main St. On-street parking.

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## Spirit Mound State Historic Prairie

Spirit Mound / Paha Wakan is a naturally-formed hill that was a known landmark to the Dakota, Omaha, and Otoe tribes. Lewis & Clark's expedition journals mention hearing about the hill from them. S.D. State Parks began restoration of this state historic prairie in 2001. A walking trail (up and back, 1.5 mi total) leads to the top.

Take SD Highway 19 north from SD 50, about 5.5 miles, to 312<sup>th</sup> St. The parking lot and trail entrance are at the south end of the Mound.