

Architectural History in South Dakota



Coulson House, Yankton

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ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Buildings are of two principle sorts: folk/vernacular and styled. Folk houses are those designed without a conscious attempt to mimic current fashion. Many are built by their occupants or by non-professional builders. Most surviving American houses however are styled; that is, they were built with an attempt to be fashionable. They show the influence of shapes, materials, detailing, or other features that make up an architectural style that was currently in vogue.

Most American houses do not fit neatly into one particular stylistic category but instead have two or more styles. Such houses may have been built as a stylistic mixture or may have resulted from later attempts to alter the style through remodeling. Most exterior alterations were undertaken for one or more reasons including: updating the appearance of the house, adding additional living space and/or minimizing exterior maintenance of the house.



Federal Style

There are a variety of early American architectural styles, including Federal, Georgian and Greek Revival, which are not found in South Dakota. For the most part, all other styles can be found in the state.



Georgian Style

South Dakota Architectural Examples:



Mellette House, Watertown

Italianate is characterized by: two to three stories; low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves having decorative brackets beneath; tall, narrow windows, commonly arched or curved windows, frequently with elaborate window hoods;

many examples have a round or square shaped cupolas.

The Italianate style dominated American houses constructed between 1850-80, however, in the State of South Dakota this style can be roughly dated between 1870-1900. The Italianate style was particularly common in expanding towns in the Midwest.

Egyptian Revival is characterized by Egyptian columns resembling massive bundles of sticks tied together at the top and bottom and flared at the top; decorative urns; Egyptian vulture and sun disk.

It is very rare that you will find this style in South

Dakota. Its dates range from 1835-1890. It is most common to find this style applied to movie palaces, mausoleums and commercial architecture.



Masonic Temple, Mobridge



Gothic Revival Church, Yankton

Gothic Revival is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, usually with steep cross gables; gables commonly have decorative bargeboard; wall surface extending into the gable without a break (no eave or trim beneath gable); windows commonly extend into gables, frequently having pointed-arch shape; one story porch usually present, supported by flattened Gothic

arches. Most Gothic Revival buildings were constructed between 1840-70. The style was never as popular as the competing Italianate style. The Gothic Revival style is more abundant in the northeastern states where architects popularized the style. In South Dakota, the Gothic Revival style is most typically used for churches.

Second Empire is characterized by a distinctive Mansard roof with dormer windows on steep lower slope; molded cornice normally bound the lower roof slope; decorative brackets usually present beneath the eaves. Occasionally, a tower is present. Many of the decorative elements are closely related to the Italianate style; note that the decorative brackets are located beneath the eaves but the eaves project less than an Italianate.



Coulson House, Yankton

Second Empire was a dominant style for American houses constructed between 1860-80. The style was most popular in the northeastern and Midwestern states.



Fargo House, Dell Rapids

Stick/Eastlake is characterized by steeply pitched gable roof; gables commonly show decorative trusses at apex; overhanging eaves, usually with exposed rafter ends; wooden wall cladding interrupted by patterns of horizontal, vertical or diagonal boards raised from the surface for emphasis; porches usually show diagonal or curved braces.

Stick style buildings are almost always balloon-framed.

Pattern books of the day show many examples of the Stick style yet relatively few were constructed in comparison to the more popular Italianate or Second Empire styles. Construction occurred between 1860-70. Stick style is a transitional style, which links the preceding Gothic Revival, and the subsequent Queen Anne.

Queen Anne is characterized by steeply pitched roof of irregular shape with dominant front-facing gable; pattern shingles, cutaway bay windows, and other devices used to avoid a smooth wall appearance; asymmetrical facade with partial or full-width porch which is usually one story high and extended along one or both side walls. Often this style has a tower. Differing wall textures



Pyle House, Huron

are a key element in Queen Anne style houses. This is commonly achieved with pattern wood shingles or differing patterns of bricks.

Queen Anne was the dominant style of architecture from 1880-1900 and persisted with decreasing popularity through the first decade of the 20th century. In the western part of the United States, the style increases in dominance.



Brink House, Pierre

Shingle is characterized by wall cladding and roofing of continuous wood shingles; shingled walls without interruption at corners; asymmetrical facade with irregular steeply pitched roofline; roofs usually have intersecting cross gables and multi-level eaves; commonly with extensive porches.

Most Shingle style houses were built between 1880-1900.

The style began and reached its high point in the seaside resorts of the northeastern states. Shingle style houses are relatively uncommon except in coastal New England, as it never gained as wide a popularity as its contemporary Queen Anne style.

Romanesque Revival

is characterized by round topped arches occurring over windows, porch supports and entrances; masonry walls, usually rough faced; most have towers which are normally round with conical roofs; facade is usually asymmetrical. Most Romanesque Revival style buildings were built between 1880-1900.

They are most commonly built as commercial structures. Because Romanesque Revival buildings were so expensive to build, this style was mostly architect-designed landmarks and therefore, never common.



VA Hospital, Hot Springs



Lubeck House, Howard

Folk Victorian is characterized by porches with spindlework detailing or flat jigsaw cut trim; symmetrical facade; cornice-line brackets are common. The style is defined by the presence of Victorian Era detailing on simple house forms. They are generally

less elaborate than the styles they attempt to mimic. This style is common throughout the United States and was constructed from 1870-1910.

Colonial Revival is characterized by an accentuated front door with a decorative pediment supported by pilasters or extending forward and supported by slender columns to form an entry porch; doors commonly have overhead fanlights or side lights; facade show symmetrically balanced windows and center door; windows with double



Colonial Revival House, Armour

hung sashes; windows frequently in adjacent pairs. This was a dominant style for domestic building throughout the country during the first half of the 20th century. Any South Dakota buildings that mimic earlier Colonial styles, i.e. Georgian, would fall under this category.



Simmons House, Aberdeen

**Neoclassical/
Classical Revival** is characterized by a facade that is dominated by full-height porch with roof supported by classical columns; columns typically have Ionic or Corinthian capitals; facade features symmetrically balanced windows and center door. Neoclassical/

Classical Revival was a dominant style of architecture throughout the first half of the 20th century. It had two waves of popularity, 1900-20 & 1925-50.

Tudor Revival has a steeply pitched roof; facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables; decorative half-timbering; tall, narrow windows; massive chimneys commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots.



Milligan House, Aberdeen

This style of architecture dominated suburban houses throughout the country for a large portion of early 20th century. It was fashionable during the 1920's and early 30's.



Farmers State Bank, Platte

Beaux Arts is identified by wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields; facade with quoins, pilasters or columns; walls of masonry; first story typically rusticated; usually with a symmetrical facade.

Most domestic examples were built before 1915 but the style persisted until the economic depression of the 1930s. Isolated examples occur throughout the country.

Mission is characterized by mission shaped dormer or roof parapet; commonly with red tile roof covering; wide overhanging eaves; wall surfaces usually smooth stucco; arcaded galleries. California was the birthplace of the Mission style. The earliest were built in the 1890s and by 1900 the style was headed eastward. Most Mission style houses were built in the early 20th century and date from 1905-20.



Mount Hope Cemetery, Watertown



Tourist Cabin, Mitchell

Prairie identifying features include: low-pitched roof, usually hipped with wide overhanging eaves; two stories with one story porch; details emphasis horizontal lines; often with massive square porch support.

The Prairie style originated in Chicago and is concentrated throughout the

United States in early 20th century suburbs. Vernacular examples were spread widely through pattern books. Most were built between 1905-15. The style faded quickly after WWI.

Craftsman is identified by low-pitched gable roof with wide unenclosed eave overhang; roof rafters usually exposed; Decorative beams commonly added under gables; porches either full or partial width supported by tapered square columns.



Banton House, Yankton

Craftsman was the dominant style for smaller houses throughout the country from 1905-1920. It originated in California and most landmark examples are located there. Like vernacular examples of Prairie, it was spread throughout the country by pattern books and popular magazines. The style rapidly faded after the 1920s.



Jerauld County Courthouse

Art Deco is identified by smooth wall surface usually of stucco; zigzag, chevrons and other stylized geometric motifs occur as decorative elements on facade; towers and other vertical projections above the roof line give a vertical

emphasis. Proponents of the Art Deco style saw it as a rejection of historical precedents. Art Deco was the future, modernism. This style was in fashion from the late 1920s-1940.

International is identified by a flat roof without ledge at roof line; windows set flush with outer wall; smooth, unornamented wall surfaces; asymmetrical facade.

This nouveau style is relatively rare.

Most are found in the northeastern states and California. Following WWII, certain elements of the style became softened into a more widespread vernacular style. The style continues into the present day.



17 Third Street, Lead



415 5th Street, Yankton

Moderne is identified by smooth wall surfaces, usually of stucco; flat roof, usually with small ledge at roof line; horizontal grooves or lines in walls and horizontal balustrade elements; facade usually

asymmetrical; often with curved corners.

Moderne coincided with Art Deco and eventually overtook it in popularity. Moderne places a greater emphasis on streamlined form. Started in the 1930's, the style continues into current day.

Minimal Traditional is identified by low-pitched roofs; close eaves; and a front-facing gable entry. With the economic depression of the 1930s came this compromise style which reflects the form of traditional vernacular house but lacks their decorative details. These houses were built in great number in the years immediately preceding and following World War II; they commonly dominate large tract housing developments.



Minimal Traditional House, Sisseton

Lustron is characterized by 2' x 2' square steel enamel panels; steel enamel panel roof and steel enamel interior walls.

It was developed to help military personnel coming home from World War II find housing. This type of home was designed by the Lustron Company out of Cleveland, Ohio. The company failed due to manufacturing problems. Only 2,500 homes were manufactured in the United States and roughly 40 exist in South Dakota.



Lustron, Mobridge



Ranch House, Armour

The **Ranch** is characterized by a low pitch roof; large overhanging eaves; large picture window on facade; and is generally one story. Often has an attached garage. This style originated in the middle 1930s by California architects. It gained popularity during the 40's to become the dominant style throughout the county during the decades of the 50s and 60s.

The **Split-Level** retains the horizontal lines, low pitched roof, and overhanging eaves of the Ranch house but added a second story at mid-height. This style shows a variety of wall-cladding materials, often mixed on a single house. This style rose to popularity during the 1950s as a multi-story modification of the one-story ranch.



Split Level House, Sisseton



Sioux Falls Bank Building, Sioux Falls

Commercial is identified generally by multiple stories; mostly constructed of masonry; having multiple bays with large storefront windows and an entryway; incorporates characteristics of other styles, i.e. Italianate brackets, rusticated masonry; found on main streets. Most Commercial buildings have been altered, particularly the storefronts and interior areas.

The **Wisconsin Dairy Barn's** gambrel roof and long rectilinear plan are the most readily identifiable characteristics of this style of barn. This popular early 20th century barn employs light lumber truss framing and a wide central service alley extending from one gable end to the other. Typically it measures 34 feet by 56 feet. The well-lit interior could accommodate two rows of cattle stanchions with horse stalls at one end.



Barn, Brookings



Sloat Barn, near Gettysburg

The **Round/Polygonal Barn** is a manifestation of the progressive farm movement in the Midwestern dairy and Corn Belt. Unlike earlier barns, round barns gained popularity due to their efficient use of space and materials, the availability of balloon frame construction and the introduction of the circular silo. They feature circular floor plans, round interior silos, and conical or gambrel roofs. Feeding stalls for cows and

horses are usually grouped around the silo and earthen driveway ramps provide access to the upper floors.

ARCHITECTURAL TYPES

Knowing historic building types helps a surveyor to identify, date and understand buildings and their cultural associations. Buildings are a material reflection of culture, tradition and human needs; they may reflect innovation as well as aspirations of beauty. Building types can also serve as a tangible index of cultural affiliations.

Building type is defined by the structure's function, floor plan, configuration, number of stories, chimney location, roof configuration and window/door arrangements. The perimeter outline of the building may reveal more about the use and social function of a building than architectural details that sometime suffer alterations or loss of integrity through time. While some building types tend to be commonly associated with one or more architectural styles, type is not determined by style. Several buildings, which are all of the same type, may each be of a different style, or an individual building of a specific type may have elements of several different styles. Many ordinary buildings, which have no particular style at all, loosely labeled vernacular or folk architecture can be identified and classified by type.



Memorial Lutheran Church Pierre

The **Gable Front** is typically used to mimic the facade of a Greek temple. They are particularly suited for narrow urban lots. Most are narrow; two story houses with relatively steep roof pitches. Some are elaborately styled but most are vernacular.

The **Gable and Wing** has two units; they can either be the same height or at different levels. One gable end is under the eaves, perpendicular to the upright. The overall configuration can be either an L or T.

The Gable and Wing was popular during the Greek Revival and Victorian periods. This form is common throughout the United States.



Foster House, Sioux Falls



Pechan House, Near Tabor

Side Gables are usually one-story forms that vary principally in roof pitch and in the size and placement of the porches. Primary entrances are located on the long side of the building. This style was popularized due to the Greek temples.

The **Cross Gable** is a single structure with a roofline that features intersecting gables. This building form was particularly popular in late 19th century building styles, but has been used throughout architectural history. The form can be found throughout the United States.



Corner of Euclid and Elizabeth, Pierre



Backus House, Vermillion

The **Foursquare** is two to two and one-half stories, with a nearly square floor plan, and a blocky shape topped by a low pyramidal roof. Basements are slightly raised, requiring a flight of steps to the front porch. Usually, a central dormer is in front and a three or four-post front porch extends the full width of the house. The foursquare was one of the most popular house types during the first two decades of the 20th century. Virtually every company offering mail-order houses or plans at that time advertised

models of this type. It was promoted as the most house for the least money.

Bungalow types generally followed the ideals of the Craftsman movement: utility, simplicity and stylistic honesty. The bungalow emphasized informal living, natural materials and a low, horizontal design. The typical frame or masonry bungalow has one, one and one half or two stories. Bungalows have long sweeping gable roofs, overhanging eaves, massive tapered porch posts and exposed rafters with beams commonly added under the gables. A common house type during the second and third decades of the 20th century, bungalows are found in many architectural styles.



Thomas House, Sioux Falls



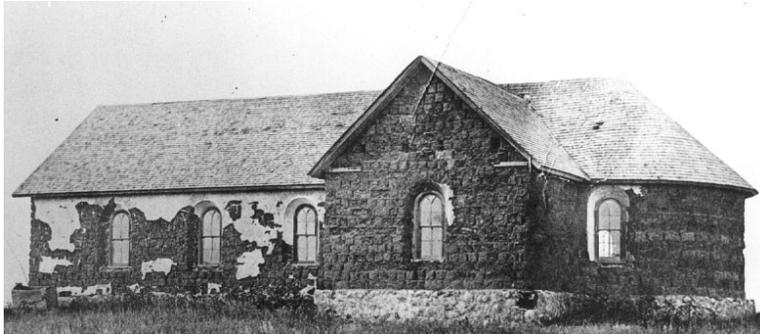
639 & 639 1/2 N Euclid, Pierre

A **Duplex** is any detached residential building containing two separate dwelling units sharing a common interior wall. Duplexes are almost always two or two and one-half stories with front or side facing gable roofs. Floor plans vary according to the number of bedrooms and location of the stairway.

A **Falsefront** building has a front-facing wall extending above the roof of the building. This form of parapet creates the impression of a more imposing facade. Falsefronts, or “boomtown fronts” as they are wrongfully called, are most common on frame commercial buildings.



Buffalo Gap Historic District



Catholic Church, Campbell County

Sod House--Large-scale settlement did not reach this area until well into the late 19th century, but in the relatively brief interval before the arrival of the railroads a new folk tradition developed in this region. Primitive masonry was used as

a result of the shortage of wood. Sod buildings are constructed of 1 foot by 2-foot sod bricks. Advantages include low construction costs, high insulation value and ability to stop bullets and arrows.

Commercial--This type of structure is meant for commercial purposes. It is usually a square or rectangular shaped building, can be more than one story, and generally brick or brick veneered. This does not include domestic structures that have been converted to commercial use.



Edminson-Jamison Block, Sioux Falls



Basement House, Pierre

A **Basement House** is generally a flat roof house built into the ground with very few window and door openings. Variations include those that have been built into the hillside. Basement houses were often constructed with the intent of building a complete house at a future date.



Capitol Avenue, Pierre

Mobile Home-- Like many earlier folk forms, mobile homes are normally of linear plan, which is made up of a single line of rooms. This shape allows them to be placed either long side to the road, or, where land is more expensive, with the shorter end to the road. Mobile homes grew out of the earlier house trailers, designed to be pulled behind automobiles. As larger designs became popular, the form lost most of its mobility

and must now be moved by special trucks.

Prefabricated Houses were brought to fruition through technological advancements such as the assembly line and ever evolving machinery developed during the Industrial Revolution. The first prefabricated building elements used in housing date to the early 19th century. Pattern books conceived for homeowners and not builders, began



North Grand, Pierre

appearing in the 1830s, and became highly popularized with the Gothic revival cottages designed by Andrew Jackson Downing. Pattern books established a market for the Sears catalog for prefabricated and remanufactured housing. The first three decades of the twentieth century established Sears & Roebuck Company as the leading American Company for manufacturing prefabricated housing.



Stickney Depot

A **Depot** is most often times a single story, rectangular frame, building with a hipped or gable roof. Usually constructed of wood, occasionally masonry. The commonly functioned as both a freight and passenger station. Its rectangular floor plan generally consists of a freight room, ticket office, and passenger waiting room.

Barn--This is a structure associated with farming and/or ranching that was/is used to store feed, livestock, equipment, etc. As there are numerous styles associated with barns, so too are there numerous types of barns.



Calle Nissen Johnsen Barn, Gayville Vicinity



Axel Johnson Farm, Sorum Vicinity

Granary--These rectangular, gable roofed structures are used for storing small grains such as wheat, barley and oats. A distinctive feature is the lack of windows or other openings in order to make it difficult for vermin to enter. Often they are double walled for maximum grain protection.

A **Silo** is an agricultural structure for storing green fodder or ensilage. The first silos were rectangular wood, which were followed by cylindrical wood with conical and hipped roofs. Cylindrical silos constructed of vertical wood staves were held together by iron or wooden hoops. Their circular shape minimized the problem of spoilage in the corners. Later, round concrete, steel and glazed hollow tile silos were generally larger. These silos often have conical or domed roofs. Most silos measure 8-24 feet in diameter and 16-40 feet in height.



Walloch Farmstead, Lesterville



Axel Johnson Farm, Sorum Vicinity

The **Quonset**, characterized by its distinctive semi-cylindrical form, is a prefabricated building type noted for its economy and utility. A Quonset had a steel alloy arch-rib frame that supported a skin of corrugated metal sheets. Typically, the steel frame measured 20 feet by 56 feet and was bolted to a concrete foundation. The factory-made Quonset was readily adapted to many uses on the farm.

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