

## **STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

SDSHS Board of Trustees Report

April - June 2023

### **1. Staff**

- Leah Whearty began her summer internship with SHPO on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Leah is originally from Massachusetts and recently graduated from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island with a degree in Architecture and a minor in historic preservation. Leah will be researching and drafting the National Register nomination for the Conde Municipal Building as well as assisting with various other SHPO tasks during her summer with us.

### **2. National Register/National Historic Landmark (NHL) Listings**

- NPS approved the nomination of the William C. and Anna Krueger Barn in Edmunds County to the National Register of Historic Places on June 20, 2023.
- Two National Register nominations will be presented at the July board meeting: the S. Edwin and Anna Brookman House in Vermillion and 39HD0115, a bison kill site in Hand County.
- The Galena Creek School, which is currently privately owned and lies within the boundary of Custer State Park, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February 2023. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks has petitioned to remove the property from the National Register of Historic Places, citing research which contradicts information presented in the nomination regarding the use of the property as a school. Upon consulting with the National Park Service, SHPO will present the removal of the property's significance under Criterion A for education from the nomination at the September board meeting. Even if Criterion A is ultimately removed from the nomination, the property will remain listed in the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance.
- SHPO is still actively pursuing a National Historic Landmark designation for the Oscar Howe Murals in the Mobridge Auditorium. National Park Service had requested additional information on and justification for the property's significance as the murals pre-date the works for which Howe is best known. SHPO has contracted with Jennifer McLerran, Northern Arizona University, and art professor, to assist in completing the NHL listing for the murals.

### **3. Budget Items**

- On June 14, 2023, SHPO received the Notice of Award that our office was awarded \$896,513.00 from the Historic Preservation Fund as our 2023 to 2025 Federal Grant. We will be required to provide \$597,676.00 in non-Federal match.
- Historic Preservation Specialists worked with their respective Certified Local Governments (CLGs) to get their annual budgets in and reviewed. SHPO has agreed

to fund the CLGs at their full requests, totaling \$106,469.00, which equates to 11.9% of our total HPF grant for Fiscal Year 2023.

#### 4. FY2022/2023 Major Contract Projects

- **Managing Moving Water in South Dakota: Cultural Resource Context and Evaluation Guidance** – SHPO was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and will use \$20,000 of HPF funds to contract with the Archaeology Laboratory of Augustana University to complete a historic context document for the identification, recordation, and evaluation of water conveyance features throughout South Dakota.
- **Perkins / Harding Counties Architectural Survey** – SHPO has contracted with JMT to complete the county-wide survey of architectural resources in Perkins and Harding Counties. The terms of the contract commenced May 31, 2023, and JMT has started completing background research and initialization of the project ahead of the fieldwork.
- **Mobridge Auditorium NHL** – The recent contract with Jennifer McLerran commenced on March 1, 2023

#### 5. Education/Outreach/Other Projects

- In conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), SHPO held Archaeology Camp for kids going into 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades from June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 8<sup>th</sup> at a mid-nineteenth-century fur trade site in Stanley County. Registration for camp opened at 8:00 am on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and, by 10:00 am, all 20 spots had been filled! The overwhelming majority of this year's campers were from the Pierre/Fort Pierre area, but we did have one camper who lives in Black Hawk and stayed with extended family for the week. During camp, campers excavated 1 meter x 1 meter excavation units in teams of four, alongside professional archaeologists and team leaders. In addition to excavating, campers dissected owl pellets, practiced prehistoric hunting techniques using an atlatl and darts, watched a flintknapper create stone tools, cleaned and identified artifacts, toured the Oahe dam, created their own pottery using historic and prehistoric methods, and visited the turtle effigy and the Oahe Chapel.
- For Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, SHPO again hosted an essay contest for fourth grade students in South Dakota. Students were asked to submit an essay about a place in South Dakota which is at least 50 years old and write why it matters, what it means to them, and why it should be preserved. SHPO received 209 entries from 26 different schools and two homeschooled students. Ester Kuester from Creekside Elementary in Spearfish was awarded first place for her essay titled "The Power of Friendship Tower." Hatlynn Harvey of Interior Elementary won second place for her essay "This School Matters" about the Interior Elementary School, and Jace Smith of Doland Elementary won third place for his essay "Preserving the Smith Family Farm for the Second Century." The essay contest

winners received cash prizes and family memberships to the South Dakota State Historical Society. Staff traveled to each school to present the winners with their prizes.

- SHPO staff have continued working with federal agencies on the development of appropriate agreement documents for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This quarter, six Memoranda of Agreement have been executed which contain stipulations to mitigate adverse effects to historic properties caused by federal undertakings.
- SHPO staff completed the annual clean-up of the Oahe Chapel, Verendrye Monument, and Fort Pierre Chouteau sites in May. Sunday church services at the Oahe Chapel began May 28<sup>th</sup> and will run through September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **6. Deadwood Items**

- SHPO staff participated in a site visit and meeting amongst the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (SDOEM), the Archaeological Research Center, and City of Deadwood Staff regarding a proposed FEMA project to stabilize and mitigate effects to Whitewood Creek following flooding in 2019.
- Pursuant to our Support Agreement with Deadwood, SHPO reviewed 8 Certificates of Appropriateness and 12 Project Approvals this quarter.