

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

SDSHS Board of Trustees Report

April-June 2025

Garry Guan – State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

1. Personnel

- Maddie Ferrell, our new staff, the Historic Preservation Specialist has successfully passed the three-month probational period.
- Elizabeth Edwards, our summer intern, was on board in early May.

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

- This has been covered by my staff and it would not be repeated here.

3. Budget Items

- **FY 2025 HPF Funding:** At this time, we have no new information as to when OMB might release the FY25 HPF Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
 - Our understanding is we remain one of many yet to be approved, but nothing further is being communicated about the situation broadly or specific to HPF.
 - Prior communications with OMB indicated they were waiting for the release of the President's FY26 proposed budget before proceeding with any NOFO for congressionally appropriated FY25 funds – that proposal [was released](#) on May 2nd. We remain mindful of that *proposal* which seeks to nearly eliminate HPF funding for FY26 - but we are actively ensuring Congress understands what is at stake as they begin to ramp up efforts on drafting their respective FY26 budget proposals.
 - The release of the application for [\\$48 million in supplemental disaster funding](#) is a positive development, which could indicate that further approvals may be slowed, but forthcoming. _
- MOU between South Dakota DOE and DOT has expired and no new agreement/MUO were signed. DOT Projects review will no longer be treated with high priorities.

4. Education/Outreach/Other Projects

- SHPO and ARC hosted the 2025 Kids Archaeology Camp from June 10-12 over in Ft. Pierre. Based on the feedback, the campers enjoyed their time at the camp.

6. Deadwood Items

- Wong Fee Lee bronze status was unveiled on June 26, 2025, during the Wong Family reunion between June 24 to 26, 2025.
- Governor Proclamation for the event was presented to Deadwood City by the SHPO, Garry Guan.

7. SHPO Staff activities

- On April 3, 2025, SHPO staff attended online meetings regarding the President's Executive Order 14156 - Declaring a National Emergency.
- On April 7, 2025, the SHPO, Duncan, along with the Museum Director David Grabitske visited the Mentor Graham house site to assess the situation after the building was torn down.
- Garry Guan, the SD SHPO, attended the 90th Society of American Archaeology in Denver, Colorado during April 24 to 27, 2025.
- May 14th and May 20th SD SHPO staff traveled to award the winners of the annual essay contest.
- Discussed the Oahe Chapel insurance issue with the State Risk Management team and Commissioner Seeley on May 20, 2025, and it was resolved by OCPS to purchase a separate liability only policy. However, the State Building Insurance on Oahe Chapel has a \$100,000 deductible. Exploration of a High Deductible Buy-down supplementary insurance is on the way, however, our request for a full policy by the state on Oahe Chapel still have not received.
- May 29th SD SHPO staff traveled to Custer Gallatin National Forest to participate in the annual CERCLA PA meeting with the Forest Service, Northern Cheyenne, and Cheyenne River THPOs.
- May 30th SD SHPO staff conducted a site visit for a property located on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and staff met with the Standing Rock Tribal Archaeologist.
- Duncan Trau recently presented on Federal and State Incentives for Historic Properties. This presentation was organized and a part of a Realtors Workshop that was hosted by the City of Rapid City. Duncan presented virtually on the Federal Tax Credit, the State Property Tax Moratorium, and the Deadwood Fund Grant.