

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. In any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories for the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name University of South Dakota Historic Core District

Other names/site number _____

Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number 414 E. Clark Street

City or town Vermillion State SD County Clay

Not for publication Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant as the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide x local

Application National Register Criteria x A B x C D

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau of Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official	_____ Date
_____ Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public – Local
- public – State
- public – Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
11	0	buildings
1	1	sites
0	0	structures
2	1	objects
14	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/College (University)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/College (University)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

See descriptions

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, concrete
walls brick, stone

roof composition, metal
other see descriptions

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The University of South Dakota (USD) Historic Core District is located in Vermillion, South Dakota. Vermillion is a city of approximately 12,000 persons located at the confluence of the Vermillion and Missouri Rivers, in southeastern South Dakota. It is just north of the Nebraska border and approximately fifteen miles west of the Iowa border. The university campus lies northeast of the city's downtown commercial center, is bisected by SD Highway 50, and is surrounded on the east, west and south sides by residential neighborhoods. The area north of the campus is agricultural land.

The Historic Core District is located on the south side of the campus, just north of Clark Street. The buildings in the district are located around an open, landscaped green space called the Quad. The nearest city street to the west is N. Dakota Street; the nearest street to the east is N. Pine Street. The north boundary of the district lies behind the buildings on the north side of the district.

The district includes the historic resources (buildings, sites and objects) that date from the earliest construction on campus through the mid-1950s. The period of significance begins in 1883, when the first section of University Hall (now called Old Main) was constructed, and ends in 1954, when the last buildings located within the district were built.

The Historic Core District includes a total of thirteen buildings plus two sites and three objects (one with two features). All but two of these (the Shakespeare Garden and the "Doc" Farber statue) date to the period of significance and are considered "Contributing" to the district.

The district is considered significant on a local level.

Narrative Description

OVERALL DESCRIPTION

The University of South Dakota Historic Core District encompasses thirteen buildings, two sites, and three objects. At the center of the district is an open, landscaped greenspace, known as the Quad, around which most of the buildings and objects are located. This greenspace is a pedestrian-only space that includes extensive lawns, a variety of trees and a network of sidewalks connecting the buildings, creating a park-like atmosphere. This greenspace extends to the areas between and around the buildings, providing a continuity of the park-like area. Other landscape features include shrubs and flower beds surrounding most of the buildings, lampposts, and benches. There are a few small parking areas within the district's boundaries, located adjacent to some of the buildings, at the outer edges of the district.

The Shakespeare Garden is located on the Quad just south of the Chemistry Building (now Pardee Estee Laboratory); the historic Bird Bath/Fountain is located within the Shakespeare Garden. The historic Gateposts flank the driveway from Clark Street into the parking lot east of the University Library (now National Music Museum), while the "Doc" Farber Statue is located just west of Dakota Hall.

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The buildings are one, two and three stories in height. Foundations include poured concrete and/or stone; some are raised so that portions of the basement levels are above ground. The primary materials used for exterior walls are stone and/or brick; only the oldest buildings are stone and brick bearing walls, the others are brick veneer with structural framing of wood and/or steel. The stone includes examples of various colors of Sioux quartzite and of Bedford limestone from Indiana. The bricks also range in color from light buff to dark red or brown. The earliest buildings have gabled roofs, later buildings have flat roofs. Most of the original windows have been replaced with metal-framed insulated windows, but care has been taken to retain the original openings. Architectural trim work includes examples of stone and terra cotta.

Stylistically, the buildings reflect architectural styles that were popular during the time of their construction. There was no effort to select a dominant style for campus buildings (as some universities have done) in an effort to create a cohesive appearance for the campus. Rather, the architects were free to select styles they felt suited the needs of the university. The earliest buildings are best-categorized as "Late Victorian" and include styles such as Richardsonian Romanesque and Chateausque. Those constructed between 1900 and 1930 are examples of "Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals" and include Classical elements of styles such as Neoclassical, American Renaissance, and Beaux Arts. The buildings built after 1940 tend to illustrate the "Modern Movement" of architecture.

Materials, as well, were selected to exemplify the styles. The early buildings with Richardsonian Romanesque elements made use of large blocks of rough-faced stone, while later buildings often utilized brick that created a smoother surface that fit with the 20th Century styles. Regardless of the styles and the time periods in which the buildings were constructed, there was an effort to use "fire-proof" materials for campus buildings as much as possible.

CLASSIFICATION OF RESOURCES

The resources in the district have been evaluated and classified as "contributing" and "non-contributing." To be classified as "contributing," a resource must have been constructed during the period of significance and retain sufficient integrity to convey its historic appearance and significance. Resources constructed after the period of significance have been classified as "non-contributing." For buildings with substantial additions outside the period of significance, the determination regarding classification was based on whether the primary façade retains sufficient integrity to be considered "contributing."

Of the eighteen total resources within the district, all but two are classified as "contributing." Two of the buildings, University Hall (Old Main) and the old Armory/Gymnasium (Belbas Center), are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

INVENTORY OF INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES

The following is the list of resources located within the district boundaries. The list is organized by date of original construction (additions are noted with dates) and classification ("contributing" and "non-contributing"), with buildings listed first, followed by objects and sites. The numbers and letters correspond to the site map. Resources are listed by their historic names; current names, as well as other names used at various times, are noted. Information about architects and builders are included where they are known.

Information about each resource was gathered during a campus-wide reconnaissance survey project in 2023-24 and follow-up research in 2024. Results of the survey project are on file with the City of Vermillion's Historic Preservation Commission and the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office in Pierre. In addition,

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specific information about university buildings and structures is on file at the University's Facilities Management Office; information about some of the campus resources is also available in the University Archives.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

1. University Hall

Current name: Old Main
Date of construction: 1883/85/88; 1893-1894
Architect: Wallace L. Dow, Sioux Falls
SHPO ID #: CL00000411/ NRIS#: 73001738

University Hall (now called Old Main) consists of a three-story center volume flanked by two-story wings, each connected to the main volume by recessed two-story sections. The building is constructed of cut Sioux quartzite stone laid in broken courses. The roofs are intersecting gables clad with standing seam metal. The gable ends have closed pediments, some with decorative stamped sheet metal reliefs in the tympanums. Modillions and dentils are located beneath the overhanging eaves and raking edges. The quoins, located at the corners of the building as well as the window and door surrounds, are sandstone, as are the mullions between the one-over-one double hung windows. The second floor windows have transoms, also framed in sandstone. The main entrance on the front (south) façade is located in a projecting enclosed entryway, also constructed of quartzite with sandstone trim. The windows above the entrance are situated in a bay that projects slightly and a balustrade atop the first floor entrance is located at this bay; a second balustrade, in front of the center windows on the third floor, is located atop the window bay of the second floor. Located on the rear (north) elevation is a two-story circular apse with a conical roof. There are a total of five wooden cupolas on the roof of the building, one on each wing, two on the east-west gable of the center section of the building, and a larger one located on the front-facing gable over the main entrance. This cupola is square with circular windows at the mid-level and an open bell tower at the top. All of the cupolas have balustrades, modillions, and flared or domes roof structures. Stylistically, the building was listed on the National Register as a building with a variety of architectural styles, although there are several elements associated with Georgian architecture.

The original building was constructed in three sections. The west wing was built in 1882-83, the center portion in 1883-85, and the east wing in 1887-88. The building was designed by architect Wallace Dow (from Yankton and later Sioux Falls). All activities associated with the university, with the exception of housing for students, was located in this building. In October 1893, the building was gutted by fire, destroying the entire interior and roof. All that was left standing were the exterior stone walls. With the assistance of the same architect, plans were made to reuse the stone structure and the reconstruction was funded by Clay County, the City of Vermillion, and local citizens. The reconstructed building's rooflines and towers were altered from the original designs, and some materials and decorations from buildings at the World Columbian Exposition were incorporated into the new design and construction.¹ The building served as the center of the campus for several years. The building was restored in the 1990s and today it is the dominant iconic landmark associated with the University of South Dakota. It was listed on the National Register in 1972.

¹ Paul Putz. "Old Main" National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1972.

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2. East Hall

Current name: East Hall

Date of construction: 1887, 1907 (addition), 1911 (addition)

Architect(s): Wallace L. Dow (1887), Sioux Falls; Joseph Schwarz (1907, 1911), Sioux Falls

SHPO ID#:CL02300001

East Hall, constructed in 1887, is a 2½-story building constructed of Sioux quartzite in a style that combines elements of Richardsonian Romanesque with Chateausque architecture. The pink-colored stone has a rough-cut face and is laid in random courses. Belt courses, window sills and lintels, stones at the building corners and quoins, as well as decorative elements in gable ends and edges, are a darker red quartzite stone. The roof is a combination of hipped and intersecting gables and is currently clad with composition asphalt shingles. The original windows have been replaced, but the original window openings are intact. The main entry is located on the west side of the building, recessed beneath of one-story portico with rounded arches. A prominent feature of the building is the three-story, round tower on the southwest corner of the building; its conical roof extends above the roofline of the rest of the building. Located on the north end of the building is the 1907 addition; this section of the building includes two stepped-edge projecting gables (west elevation). The style and materials match the original building. The 1911 addition is located on the south end of the building; it is a one-story, flat-roofed enclosed sunroom constructed of red brick. The chimneys are also constructed of Sioux quartzite and match the decorative elements of the rest of the building.

The building was built as the new women's dormitory in 1887. Prior to its completion, women lived in West Hall. Although East Hall housed women, the dining facilities in the building served both the women and men on campus. In 1907, the north addition was constructed using insurance money (\$25,000) from the West Hall fire; in addition to more housing for women, the addition included a new dining area and kitchen. In 1911, the enclosed sunroom on the south end of the building was added.² East Hall served as the anchor for the women's housing area for decades, as Dakota Hall was built adjacent to the northeast (1917), followed by Noteboom Hall to the northwest of Dakota (1954), and eventually Burgess (1960) and Norton (1964) Halls behind to the east. Following the construction of new dormitories on the north campus in the late 1960s, East Hall's interior was completely remodeled for use as academic classrooms and offices (cost was \$250,000). Today it houses offices for several university departments, including sociology, anthropology, history, and philosophy.

3. Armory/Gymnasium (Old)

Current name: Belbas Center

Other names: Women's Gymnasium; "The Bastille"

Date of construction: 1904-05

Architect: Kinney & Detweiler, Minneapolis

SHPO ID#: 00000509/NRIS#: 02001285

The Armory/Gymnasium (Old) consists of a three-story section (north side) and a two-story section (south side). The building sits on a concrete and stone foundation. A base of rough-faced quartzite covers the first level of the building from the ground to the top of the windows; the stone is laid in random coursing. The second floor of the building, as well as the projecting three-story gable on the north elevation and the east and west ends of the north section of the building, is clad with brick. The exterior walls of the uppermost floor beneath the top gabled roof is clad with wood shingles. The gabled roof is clad with composite asphalt shingles.

² Cedric Cummins. *The University of South Dakota 1862-1966* (Vermillion, SD: Dakota Press, 1975), 19, 110, 128.

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Entrances on the south elevation include two doorways recessed beneath rounded arch openings; the entrance on the north elevation is also recessed beneath a large rounded arch opening. Only the two-story south section of the building has windows on the first floor; they are two-over-four double-hung sash in rectangular openings with stone lintels. The windows on the second floor, on all elevations, are four-over-one with rounded arch top sashes, set into rounded arch openings with rowlock brick voussoirs and stone sills. Windows in the third floor on the east and west ends include three smaller one-over-one double-hung windows with stone sills and lintels; above each of these windows, also with stone lintels, is a fixed-pane window with Grecian muntin patterns. In the gable ends above these windows is a large round window with rowlock brick surrounds. Located over the entrance in the projecting north gable is a large round window with four voussoirs. At the very top of the building, set within the wood shingle walls beneath the top gable roof are one-over-one windows. The most notable features of the building are the turrets located at the southwest and the southeast corners of the buildings. Each has five sides and a crenelated battlement on the top. The top edge of these, as well as the top edges of the gable and parapet edges, is capped with stone. The building was listed on the National Register for its Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture.

The Armory/Gymnasium was the second building constructed on campus after the turn of the century. Science Hall was built in 1902 (demolished in 1958). The Armory/Gymnasium was built primarily for a military training program facility and opened in 1905. It was designed by the firm of Kinney & Detweiler of Minneapolis; Erick Nylen of Vermillion served as the general contractor and Ludwig Rostad was the heating contractor. The cost was \$25,000. The first floor was a combined drill hall and basketball court and was open to the second floor, which featured a running track around the perimeter overlooking the basketball court/drill hall space below. The third floor included space for gymnastics, wrestling and boxing. Munitions storage was located on the third floor. When the university decided in 1907 that a military unit was no longer needed, the armory became the university's athletic facility. All the basketball games were held there until a new gymnasium was constructed in 1929. Because the building included a large open space, it also served as the location for various campus events. In 1918, it was used once again as a training facility and barracks for recruits and soldiers during World War I. After the war, it housed the campus ROTC program until 1929, when the new armory/gymnasium was built. At the time, the building became the women's gymnasium. Its use expanded as a multi-purpose facility through the 1970s; in the early 1980s it became the Facilities Management shop and storage building.³ It became known as the Belbas Center in 2004 in honor of Dean Belbas, a former Vice-Presidents of General Mills and former Chairman of the Board of the USD Foundation. Today, the building houses undergraduate admissions, financial aid, and the office of the registrar. It was listed on the National Register in 2002.

4. College of Law

Current name: Arts & Sciences Building

Date of construction: 1907-08

Architect: Joseph Schwarz, Sioux Falls

SHPO ID#: 02300002

Designed by Sioux Falls architect, Joseph Schwarz, the College of Law building is a near-replica of Page Hall, which also housed a law school, at Ohio State University (constructed in 1903). The two-story building is on a raised basement foundation and has an intersecting hipped roof (the original slate shingles have been replaced). It is built of Bedford limestone from Indiana. Its entrance, accessed by a wide staircase, is recessed beneath a two-story portico supported by four Classical Ionic columns. A simple entablature is located beneath the shallow boxed eaves. The words "College of Law" is engraved in the frieze over the entrance. Pilasters,

³ Tom Reasoner and Lynda B. Schwan, "Old Armory" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2002.

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with simple trim caps, are located at the corners of the north and south sections of the building on the front, as well as along the north, south and east elevations. These elements create bays in which the windows are located with three windows in each bay on the front (west) elevation and two windows in each bay on the side elevations. The original wood windows have been replaced, but original openings are intact, which include simple rectangular shapes with stone sills and no exterior trim or casings. Some of the windows on the back of the building have been infilled with concrete block, but the original openings are evident.

The university established the College of Law in 1901. In 1907, the state legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the construction of a building to house the college. Construction began later that year and was completed by November 1908. It was officially dedicated on February 2, 1909. Erick Nysten of Vermillion served as the general contractor and the Brookman Bros., also of Vermillion, had the contract for electrical work.⁴ The College of Law became the School of Law in 1921. In 1950, the McKusick Law Library was constructed just north of the College of Law building; they were attached by an enclosed walkway between the two buildings. The building was renovated in the 1950-51 after a legislative appropriation of \$110,000.⁵ When the new School of Law building was constructed in 1981, this building became the home of the College of Arts and Sciences, which it houses today.

5. Old Power Plant

Current name: Service Center

Date of construction: 1909-1910

Designers: A.B. McDaniel, Lewis E. Akeley & Morgan W. Davidson, USD Faculty

SHPO ID#: 02300003

The original Power Plant is a one-story brick building which sits on a concrete foundation. Its gable roof is clad with composition asphalt shingles. The walls are Homan brick with dark blue for the basement walls, pilasters, cornices and gables and light buff color for the intervening panels and arches over the window and doors. The building was constructed with three sections: the south end housed the engine room, the west end had pits for steam pumps for the university's water heating system, and the north end housed the boilers and heavy machinery for engineering shops. There was also space for office and storage, including coal storage bins. The original windows and doors have been replaced, and although the original rounded arch openings are intact, the upper portions of the windows have been covered over. The circular window over the entrance on the south end has also been covered over. At one time, a 110-foot smokestack was located at the north end of the building and a water tower with a 50,000-gallon tank was situated on the west side of the south section of the building; both have been razed.

Construction began on the building in 1909. The original cost was \$14,000. The smokestack cost an additional \$2400. The building was designed by faculty of the College of Engineering: Dean Lewis E. Akeley made the design for and supervised the installation of the electrical equipment; M.W. Davidson, professor of Mechanical Engineering, made the design for and supervised installation of the mechanical equipment; and A.B. McDaniel, professor of Civil Engineering, made the design for and had charge of the construction of the building. According to the South Dakota Alumni Quarterly, the facility was nearing completion in early 1910, and they reported in early 1911 that for the first time in the history of the institution there was sufficient electricity at all times of the day and night to meet campus requirements and that there was adequate water supply for all

⁴ USD Archives, Buildings: Campus, Box 1, records pertaining to School of Law.

⁵ *University of South Dakota Bulletin*, July 1952, 1.

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university needs and fire protection.⁶ The campus needs outgrew the building and a new power plant was constructed in 1949-50. Since that time, this building has been remodeled for various uses over the years including a mailroom, a media/copy center, and the University motor pool. It currently houses the Facilities Management office.

6. University Library

Current name: National Music Museum

Other names: USD Carnegie Library, W.H. Over Museum, Shrine to Music Museum

Date of construction: 1910-11, 1939-40 (addition), 2021 (addition)

Architect: Joseph Schwarz, Sioux Falls (1911), Hugill & Blatherwick, Sioux Falls (1940)

SHPO ID#: 02300004

The University Library consists of two historic sections and one recent addition. The original part of the building is two stories in height, sits on a concrete foundation, and has a flat roof. It is constructed of Bedford limestone. Its Neoclassical elements include a primary façade dominated by a two-story projecting porch supported by pairs of Ionic columns, cornice molding with dentils below, bracketed window cornices on the first floor, and a belt course at the top of the upper floor windows. A wide set of steps accesses the original front door. The original windows have been replaced, but the original openings are intact. The 1940 addition is attached to the rear of the original section of the building. It matches the original in size, scale, materials, and design. The newest addition is located west of the original section. It is two stories and is contemporary in design and materials. It is attached to the original building by a two-story, glass enclosed section in which the new entrance to the building is located. The original portion of the building, as well as the 1940 addition, was remodeled when the new addition was built.

In 1910, Andrew Carnegie donated \$40,000 to the university for the construction of a new library (interestingly, Vermillion is one of only a handful of communities in the country to have two Carnegie libraries, the other was the city's library located downtown).⁷ Prior to this time, the library was located in University Hall. The architect of the original portion of the building was Joseph Schwarz of Sioux Falls; the general contractor was Wold & Johnson of Brookings. Construction began in 1910 and the building was open for use by October 1911; the building was officially dedicated in February 1912. The main reading room, the stack rooms, and the librarian's office were located on the first floor, while seminar rooms and a large gallery were located on the upper floor. Additional reading rooms, storage and work space, the men's lavatory, and a janitor's room were located in the basement. When the library opened, it housed 16,000 volumes. By the 1930s additional space was needed. The university received a PWA grant (project number SDak 1213-F) for the construction of an addition, designed by Hugill & Blatherwick of Sioux Falls. Work began in April 1939 with the Keller Bros. of Yankton as the general contractor. The addition was ready for use by March 1940; it provided additional reading rooms, stack rooms, offices and storage space. The total cost of the addition was \$72,610.⁸ When the new I.D. Weeks Library opened in 1967, this building became the home to the Art and History Departments, the Oscar Howe Gallery, and the W.H. Over Museum. After its founding in 1973, the Shrine to Music Museum also occupied the building. The music collection was so extensive that in 1984, what became the National Music Museum occupied the entire building. In 2021, the Lillibridge addition (named for Tom and Cindy Lillibridge, whose gift made the building possible) was constructed, which greatly expanded the space.

⁶ *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly*, January 1910 and April 1911.

⁷ "The University Receives \$40,000 Gift for a Library Building," in *The Volante*, February 1, 1910, 1.

⁸ "P.W.A. Grant Made for Additional Library Unit," in *South Dakota Alumnus*, November 1938.

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7. Chemistry Building

Current name: Pardee Estee Laboratory
Date of construction: 1914
Architect: Joseph Schwarz, Sioux Falls
SHPO ID#: 02300005

The Chemistry Building is a two-story building on a raised basement. It measures approximately 60x120 feet. The foundation is concrete, the walls are brick, and its roof is flat. The original windows have been replaced, but the original openings are intact. The architectural style might best be described as American Renaissance or stripped Beaux Arts with classical elements such as a dominant two-story entry with fluted columns with Ionic capitals, a rusticated base, regularly spaced pilasters along wall surfaces with simple caps, a belt course between the lowest and middle floors, and an entablature that includes architrave molding, decorative bullseyes along a decorative brick frieze, and a projecting cornice with modillions below. The main entrance is located on the south side of the building beneath an elaborately decorated portico that projects from the front of the building between the columns. Above the entry, engraved into a sign plate is the word "CHEMISTRY." Some of the decorative elements are created with brick relief; most of the elements are white terra cotta. The top of the parapet edge is capped with metal. In the alcove above the main entrance, between the columns, is a large, colorful mural depicting different aspects of chemistry that was installed after the fire in 1957 as a less expensive solution than replacing the original window that had been damaged. There is a subordinate addition on the north side of the building (date of construction unknown) and when Churchill-Haines Laboratory was constructed in 1977, just north of the Chemistry Building, a small one-story addition was constructed on the east end of the Chemistry Building and a hallway connected this addition to Churchill-Haines.

In 1913, the state legislature appropriated \$75,000 for the Chemistry Building; an additional appropriation was made for \$10,000 (for equipment) in 1915. The building was designed by Sioux Falls architect Joseph Schwarz and Wold Construction Co. of Brookings was the general contractor. The Chemistry Department occupied the lowest level and half of the middle floor; the Home Economics Department occupied the remainder of the middle floor. The State Food and Drug Department occupied two rooms on the upper floor and the State Health Lab had the rest of the upper floor.⁹ A fire in the State Health Lab on January 25, 1957 gutted the upper floor and seriously damaged the roof of the building, as well as causing extensive smoke and water damage in other areas of the building. Repairs were made at a cost of over \$224,000. The interior was completely remodeled in 2010. The building is currently called the Pardee Estee Laboratory, named for Arthur Pardee, who served as the Chair of the Chemistry Department and the Dean of the Graduate School, and for Charles Estee, another former chair of the Chemistry Department. It continues to serve the university's chemistry department.

8. Dakota Hall

Current name: Dakota Hall
Date of construction: 1918-19
Architect: Holmes & Finn, Chicago and Minneapolis
SHPO ID#: 02300006

Dakota Hall is a three-story building with a center volume and wings on each end. The basement foundation is concrete, as are the floors of each level. The exterior is clad with brick and trimmed with Bedford limestone. Decorative features include a stone belt course between the basement and first floor, stone trim and modillions

⁹ *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly*, October 1915, 71-74.

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at the eave edge, stone coping at the top of the parapet edges, and decorative stone reliefs beneath the top of the gable ends. The window sills are also stone; the lintels over the windows consists of a band of bricks set in a soldier coursing. The original windows have been replaced, but the original openings are intact. The roof is intersecting gable clad with asphalt shingles. The primary entrance is centered on the west elevation beneath a projecting one-story porch; secondary entrances are tucked into the corners of the building where the central volume and wings connect. The building is connected to East Hall via a one-story section of building on the front (west) side of the south wing Dakota Hall, attached to the northeast corner of East Hall.

The state legislature appropriated \$125,000 for a new women's dormitory in 1917 (the total cost at completion was \$136,000). The architectural firm of Holmes & Finn, of Chicago and Minneapolis, designed the building and O.H. Olson of Stillwater, MN served as the general contractor. Work began in late 1917 and the building was completed by spring of 1919. The fire-proof building included 52 single room and 18 double rooms, a dining room to accommodate 225 persons, a large social room, a sewing room and laundry room, classrooms and labs for the Home Economics Department, the preceptress quarters and office, and space for the YWCA.¹⁰ In 1948, part of the building was remodeled to accommodate additional women students. The building served as a women's dormitory until the construction of Burgess and Norton Halls in the mid-1960s. At that time, Dakota Hall was converted to academic offices and classrooms and has housed several departments including Communication Studies, Political Science, English, Modern Languages, and Criminal Justice.

9. Auditorium & Administration Building

Current name: Aalfs Auditorium and Slagle Hall

Other names: Slagle Auditorium and the Administration Building

Date of construction: 1924-25 (Auditorium Wing), 1941-44 (Administration Wing)

Architects: Perkins & McWayne, Sioux Falls (1925, 1944)

SHPO ID#: 02300007

This building consists of two sections: the first, constructed in 1925, was the Auditorium wing and the second, constructed in 1944, was the Administration wing. The auditorium wing sits on a north-south axis with its primary entrance facing north; it faces University Hall, which is located across the Quad. The two-story building sits on a raised basement, has a flat roof, and is clad with brick trimmed with terra cotta. Designed to resemble the architecture of the Chemistry Building, it has similar elements and ornamentation, including a belt course, pilasters with caps, a frieze and cornice, and terra cotta window sills. The original windows have been replaced, but the original openings are intact. Perhaps the most distinct features of the auditorium wing is the main entrance, located in a projecting bay that is decorated with terra cotta panels in which three round windows are located directly below the frieze and cornice line. The entrance is located at the first floor and accessed via a grand staircase; the doorway is covered by a decorative metal awning that extends from the wall of the building.

The Administration wing of the building sits on an east-west axis and is attached to the south end of the auditorium. Although originally designed to be 308-feet in length (creating a "T" shaped building with the auditorium as the stem), only the western portion was built (creating an "L" shaped building). The Administration wing was also supposed to be four floors, but only three were constructed. It sits on a concrete foundation, has a flat roof and is clad with brick. The design is compatible with the design of the auditorium, although more modern in general appearance. The windows are larger and set into each bay between the pilasters; all have been replaced. At the top of the building, there are terra cotta panels that create a wide

¹⁰ *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly*, April 1919, 37-38.

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frieze and simple cornice. A new entrance has been added on the northwest side where the two wings intersect; it is a projecting covered portico.

The 1923 state legislature appropriated \$250,000 for the construction of the Auditorium portion of the building with Perkins & McWayne as the architects.¹¹ Construction began in the spring of 1924; E.G. Matson of Vermillion was the superintendent of construction and Gray Construction Co of Watertown was the principal contractor. When the construction was complete in the summer of 1925, it included a large auditorium, spaces for music studies and practice rooms, administrative and faculty offices, and a museum.¹² The first use of the auditorium occurred with a convocation on September 16, 1925 and the building was officially dedicated on October 30.¹³ Following former university President Slagle's death in 1929, the auditorium became the Slagle Auditorium in his honor. Following a renovation in 2010, the auditorium was renamed the Aalfs Auditorium.

Although part of the original design of the Auditorium/Administration Building, plans to build the Administration wing of the building lingered for years, failing to secure legislative funding through the 1930s. Finally, in 1941, the state appropriated \$170,000 and obtained a WPA grant for \$82,551.¹⁴ In order to keep costs down, the fourth floor was eliminated from the plans. Perkins & McWayne were again the architects; Gray Construction was again hired as the general contractor and work began in the fall of 1941. The funding that was approved was only enough to build the western part of the Administration wing; no further appropriations from the state legislature were approved, so the eastern portion of the wing was never built. The building was dedicated in January 1944. It provided office space for several administrative departments including the President of the University, the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the Director of the Graduate School, the School of Education, and the Student Health Services as well as several classrooms and faculty offices.¹⁵ The Administration wing eventually became known as Slagle Hall and today it continues to house several of the administrative offices of the university, including the President's office.

10. South Dakota Union

Current name: South Dakota Union

Date of construction: 1930-31

Architect: Perkins & McWayne, Sioux Falls

SHPO ID#: 02300008

The South Dakota Union is a three-story building that sits on a concrete foundation and is clad with brick. The hipped roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is at the east end of the building facing south. The bay in which the entrance is located projects slightly and is distinguished by decorative stone trim work on surrounding the door on the first level and around the windows on the second and third levels. The original doors have been replaced, but the decorative stone relief panel over the entrance and the engraved panel with "SOUTH DAKOTA UNION" are intact. Stone also creates the belt courses on the south and west elevations. There are a number of small hipped roof dormers at the attic level. The original windows have been replaced, although the original openings are intact. The interior of the building was completed renovated in 2023-24.

¹¹ Biennial Report of the State Engineer to the Governor of South Dakota, 1923-24.

¹² "Architects Planning Administration Building Unit" in *South Dakota Alumnus*, March 1941.

¹³ *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly*, September 1925, 124.

¹⁴ Biennial Report of the State Engineer to the Governor of South Dakota, 1940-42.

¹⁵ USD Archives, Buildings: Campus, Box 8, records pertaining to Slagle Hall.

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Talk of constructing a Union building began in early 1925 and an official campaign was launched later that year. The architectural firm of Perkins and McWayne had been hired to develop the plans for the building, which was to be L-shaped with one wing 170'x70' and the other 150'x70'.¹⁶ The campaign to raise the funds to construct the building continued through the next few years. In January 1930 the Students' Association voted to implement a Union fee to generate funds for the construction of the Union building, and in March, with the help of the Alumni Association, a construction loan was secured. Work began in April with A.M. Wold Construction Co., of Brookings as the general contractor. Because of financial constraints, the decision was made to build only the wing that faced Clark St., with the hopes of building the second wing in the future. The building, which offered several amenities for students, including lounges, fireplaces, and access to several newspapers and magazines, opened February 1, 1931.¹⁷ The Union building served the students at USD until the Coyote Student Center opened in 1965. At that time, the building was converted to classrooms and department offices.

11. McKusick Law Library

Current name: McKusick Technology Center

Date of construction: 1950

Architect: Perkins & McWayne, Sioux Falls

SHPO ID#: 00000559

The McKusick Law Library is a two-story building that sits on a concrete basement foundation and has a flat roof. The building is constructed of Bedford limestone to match the College of Law building. Its clean lines and unadorned surfaces fall within the elements associated with the International Style of architecture. The main entrance is located on the north side of the building beneath a single-story, simple covered porch entrance supported by four posts. An enclosed walkway connects the building to the College of Law building on the south side of the building. The west side of the building has a total of 20 windows, ten per floor, arranged in a regularly spaced pattern. The windows have been replaced but the original openings are intact. Windows on the other elevations are also regularly spaced, although the bands of windows do not extend all the entire wall space. The shallow parapet edge at the top of the walls is covered with metal coping. The overall dimensions of the building are 50 feet by 126 feet.

The original law library was located within the College of Law building. As the enrollment grew and the need for additional space increased, the university sought funding through the state legislature with no success. An attempt to secure funding through the New Deal Era programs in the 1930s and 1940s was also unsuccessful. In 1949, the state finally appropriated \$181,266 for the construction of the law library (and another \$110,000 for remodeling the College of Law building). The architectural firm of Perkins & McWayne of Sioux Falls was hired to design the building. H.S. Holze of Sioux City, IA served as the general contractor; C. Emil Carlson of Sioux Falls was the mechanical contractor; Modern Electric of Vermillion had the electrical contract.¹⁸ Work progressed through 1950 and the building was ready for use by December of that year. It was officially dedicated in May 1951. The building was named for Marshall McKusick who served as Dean of the Law School from 1912 until his death in 1951. When the new School of Law was built in 1981, the law library was relocated to the new facility. This building was repurposed as the McKusick Technology Center for Instructional Design and Delivery (CIDD). It now houses the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well as other departments.

¹⁶ "Architects Submit Floor Plans for Union Unit," in *South Dakota Alumnus*, November 1928.

¹⁷ "Union Building Open at the Semester's Beginning," in *South Dakota Alumnus*, February 1931.

¹⁸ Biennial Report of the State Engineer to the Governor of South Dakota, 1948-50.

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12. Charlotte Noteboom Hall

Current name: Noteboom Hall
Date of Construction: 1952-54
Architect: Hugill, Blatherwick & Fritzell, Sioux Falls
SHPO ID#: 00000556

Charlotte Noteboom Hall consists of two sections, both sit on concrete basement foundations, have flat roofs, and are clad with brick veneer. The lobby area and common areas of the building are located in a single-story section, which has an enclosed hallway that connects to Dakota Hall to the south. The main entrance is located on the south side of the building under a wide overhanging projecting roof. This portion of the building has small square windows west of the doorway. To the northwest of the single-story volume is a three-story volume that has individual rooms, originally dorm rooms for women. In the center of this volume is a bay that projects slightly. The windows have been replaced, but the original openings are intact. The building lacks decorative ornamentation with the exception of the surrounds of the larger windows on the south (east end) of the three-story portion of the building; the brick between the windows is laid in a linear fashion rather than a usual staggered row bond and a stone trim surrounds the windows and the brick work. The parapet edges of the roof, as well as the roof over the entrance, are clad with metal. A brick planter box is located in front of the building, southeast of the main entrance.

Following World War II, enrollment at the university grew drastically. With it came the increased need for student housing. In 1952, the state legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the construction of a new women's dormitory and construction began the following winter and the building was ready for occupancy in early 1954. The building was designed by Hugill, Blatherwick & Fritzell of Sioux Falls; no information about the contractor/builder has been found to date.¹⁹ It was decided in late fall 1953 that the building would be named to honor Charlotte Noteboom, who had recently retired after 28 years at USD. She was an associate professor of Education and the assistant director of the University's student teaching training program,; a founder, sponsor and charter member of Kappa Phi in Vermillion; the fellowship chair of American Association of University Women; the state president of the Business and Professional Women's organization; the state chair of Delta Kappa Gamma Society; a life member of the National Education Association, the SD Education Association, and the State Historical Association. She served as the housemother of Dakota Hall for nineteen years.²⁰ When the new dorms opened on the north campus in the late 1960s, this building was converted to office and classroom space.

13. Danforth Chapel

Current name: Danforth Chapel
Date of construction: 1954
Architect: Harold Brookman, USD Engineer and Architect
SHPO ID#: 00000555

The Danforth Chapel is a small, one-story building located between the Old Armory/Gymnasium building and the Chemistry Building. It sits on a concrete foundation and is clad with brick. The steep gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The rectangular building displays elements of Gothic Revival architecture in the faux buttresses on the east and west sides of the building, the Gothic arch entrance on the south elevation, and the

¹⁹ Biennial Report of the State Engineer to the Governor of South Dakota, 1952-54, 21.

²⁰ *The University of South Dakota Bulletin*, August 1953, 1.

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tall steeple clad with copper sitting on a wooden base. The primary windows are stained glass (installed in May 1962); smaller windows are located on each side of the entrance on the south and a round window is located above the entrance in the gable end; a Gothic-arched window is located in the gable end on the north side. The doorway is flanked by sidelights; a transom and Gothic arched window are situated above the door. The entryway's brickwork is "stepped back" for several courses along the Gothic arch, giving the entrance a simple decorative appearance.

The Danforth Chapel is a non-denominational space used for prayer meetings, meditation, and events such as weddings. It was funded, in part, by a gift from William H. Danforth of St. Louis. Danforth was the founder of Purina and the Danforth Foundation. Among his philanthropic activities was the funding for seventeen chapels on college and university campuses across the country. His gift to USD was matched through fundraising efforts and the chapel was constructed in 1954. The original plans for the chapel were designed by Mr. Danforth's nephew, W. Danforth Compton of Cambridge, MA; a second design was submitted by Hugill, Blatherwick & Fritzel. Neither fit with what the university wanted. The design that was eventually used was created by USD Engineer and Architect, Harold Brookman. The building was constructed by Henkel Construction.²¹ The original windows were replaced in 1962, after additional fundraising efforts provided for stained glass windows.

14. The Bird Bath/Fountain

Date of construction: 1924

SHPO ID#: 02300010

The bird bath/fountain is constructed of concrete and metal. The "pool" is approximately eight feet in diameter, has a flat concrete surface surrounded by a concrete curbing, and sits flush on the ground. The fountain is in the center of the pool. It has a solid concrete base that is raised above the pool surface. The center section, which is a few feet in height, has a series of open rounded arches formed with concrete. The upper section, which includes the bowl and fountain head, is also concrete and inscribed with "CLASS OF 1924" around the edge of the bowl. A metal pipe, which supplies water to the fountain runs from the ground through the center of the middle section and through the base of the bowl on the top.

The bird bath/fountain was designed and built in 1924, as a gift to the university from the Class of 1924. Its designer and builder are unknown. The campus had recently been designated as a bird sanctuary under the auspices of the local Audubon Society. Several birdhouses were to be installed on the campus and an arboretum thicket was planned. After it was identified that there was a lack of water for birds to drink from and bathe in on campus, the Class of 1924 decided to make a gift of two bird bath/fountains to the university. One was to be located north of the College of Law building (it is not known if this one was installed and later removed or never built) and one in the area between the University Library and the Chemistry Building, near the amphitheater on the Quad, which was this fountain.²² Eventually the amphitheater was discontinued and, in 1988, the Shakespeare Garden was created in the area surrounding this fountain.

²¹ USD Archives, Buildings: Campus, Box 1 records pertaining to Danforth Chapel.

²² "Seniors Will Present Bird Fountain to U," in *The Volante*, May 27, 1924, 8.

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15. The Gateposts

Date of construction: 1928
SHPO ID#: 02300011

Two gateposts, which flank the driveway to the parking area on the east side of the University Library, are made of Bedford limestone. Each post consists of three sections: the base with recessed panels, the middle post with chamfered corner edges, and the cap atop which sits a metal light fixture with a decorative glass globe. The posts are approximately two feet square and twelve feet tall. The dates of the classes that presented the gifts to the university are engraved into the sides of the central blocks of each post. The current light fixtures and glass globes are replacements (the original globes were round), although they appear to date to a historic period. There is no evidence that an actual gate was ever located between or attached to the posts.

In keeping with gifts to the university from graduating classes, the Classes of 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928 gifted ornamental gateposts to mark what was the main entrance to the campus from the south (now only a driveway into a parking lot). The cost of construction was approximately \$1000. Efforts to raise the money by the Class of 1925, was extended for four years until four classes were able to afford the cost of the gift. The Class of 1929 also planned to erect a memorial post near the College of Law building (it is not known if that was built).²³ Although there is no longer an entrance to a campus drive from the south, the gateposts continue to stand in their original location.

16. The Greenspace

Date of construction: 1883-1954
SHPO ID#: 02300009

The Greenspace is a character-defining feature of the district. It includes the areas surrounding and between the buildings of the district, including the Quad, the large open space in the center of the district, around which the buildings are situated. It also includes the southern-most portion of the Mall (another open greenspace landscape on campus that stretches from Cherry Street to University Hall) adjacent to University Hall on the north elevation. The Greenspace includes open lawns, dozens of trees (both deciduous and evergreen), and numerous flower beds and various foundation plantings near the buildings. It also includes a system of pedestrian walkways consisting of concrete sidewalks that crisscross the open spaces and which provide access between buildings. Lampposts along the sidewalks provide lighting to the area. There are a small number of benches situated in various locations on the Quad. At various times, the Quad has also been the location of temporary sculptures as part of the Vermillion Sculpture Walk (a program where sculptures are placed around the community and on campus for a period of up to two years).

While it appears that open space between buildings was desired as a feature of the campus (as opposed to connecting all buildings to each other), there is no evidence that the Quad was an intentionally designed space around which buildings were be sited. Rather, it evolved into the dedicated park-like green space that it has been for years. With the exception of Science Hall (1902; demolished 1961) and the Auditorium (1925), both built within the open space, other buildings were constructed around the edge of the open area. What is certain, is that elements within the greenspace have changed as needs have dictated (for example, placement of sidewalks has shifted, some trees have been removed and others planted, early roadways through this part

²³ "Ornamental Gate Posts at Library Entrance," in *South Dakota Alumnus*, November 1928 (University of South Dakota), 125.

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of campus are no longer) – a practice that will continue to occur – all the while preserving the general nature of open greenspace.

Specific examples of the changing face of the open spaces include the installation (and later removal) of an amphitheater located just west of Science Hall and south of the Chemistry Building (it appears on the 1917-18 campus map). The duration of its existence is unknown (a display ad for a play to be held there appears in a 1924 issue of the student newspaper). The 1924 bird bath/fountain was located “near the amphitheater.” In 1988, the Shakespeare Garden was installed in the location of the amphitheater (see description of the garden in the section on Non-Contributing Resources). Early campus maps also show a roadway, with various alignments over the years, that provided vehicle access from Clark Street to the campus buildings. When Edward Q. Moulton became the university’s president in 1966, his first order of business was to physically change the appearance of campus. He started a “Beautification Program” that called for an all-pedestrian campus by closing the roads that ran through the middle of campus (including the roadway that crossed the Quad) and developing the greenspace known as the Mall north of University Hall, all in an effort to have “a more unified campus.” Although these changes were part of Moulton’s vision, most of his plan was not implemented until the late 1960s and 1970s under President Bowen.

Today, the Quad and the Mall, as well as the campus’s additional greenspaces, are prized as character-defining features of the campus.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

A. Shakespeare Garden

Date of construction: 1988
SHPO ID#:02300012

The Shakespeare Garden is located south of the Chemistry Building, in the area once occupied by the amphitheater. The garden area is delineated by four brick columns (at each corner); the entrance to the garden includes an iron archway (with the words “Shakespeare Garden”) that sits atop two additional brick columns. Decorative iron fencing is located along the south and north edges of the garden. In addition to flower beds (with concrete curbing) and plantings, there is a bronze statue of Shakespeare, a sundial, and the bird bath/fountain from the Class of 1924. Metal benches are located at the east and west sides of the garden. Commemorative plaques are affixed to the brick columns.

The Shakespeare Garden was conceived of as a garden that would feature every flower, herb and shrub mentioned in Shakespeare’s works. The USD Emeritus Club dedicated it on April 23 (Shakespeare’s birthday), 1988. Over time the original plants were replaced because they were not suited to the harsh climate in Vermillion; more appropriate plantings now occupy the garden. Improvements, such as the iron fencing, brick columns and entry archway, the bronze statue and the sundial have been added over time.²⁴

²⁴ Evelyn Schlenker, “Architectural Features of the University of South Dakota Shakespeare Garden,” in *Archives and Special Collections Blog* (University Libraries, University of South Dakota, June 29, 2023).

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B. "Doc" Farber Statue

Date of construction: 2002
SHPO ID#: 02300013

This is a bronze statue of William O. "Doc" Farber located west of Dakota Hall. The life-sized statue sits on a square concrete base that, in turn, sits on a raised round base with paver bricks and concrete curbing. At the base of the statue is a bronze plaque with a quote from Doc Farber to his students. A second bronze plaque is located in front of the statue; it includes information about Doc Farber and his role at the university. Also located on the brick base is a light fixture to illuminate the statue. The statue was created by Bad River Artworks in Aberdeen. The statue was initially installed in 2002 in a location nearer to University Hall, but was moved to its present location in 2010.

William Ogden "Doc" Farber had a distinguished career, which included teaching at USD for four decades. He served as the Chair of the Department of Political Science from 1938 until his retirement in 1976, and then spent another 30 years mentoring students and working for government reform. He created the USD's Government Research Bureau and founded the South Dakota Legislative Research Council, serving as its first director. He was also active in several activities outside of the university setting including various local, state and national organizations. His numerous accomplishments and recognitions included being inducted into the SD Hall of Fame in 1979. In 1997 USD and the SD State Board of Regents established the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership in his honor, and the lecture hall in the renovated Old Main was dedicated as Farber Hall.²⁵

²⁵ Ann Grauvogl, "The Little Giant of USD" in *South Dakota Magazine*, July/August 2005.

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SUMMARY LIST OF DISTRICT RESOURCES

Resource #	SHPO ID#	Name(s)	C/NC Status	Date(s) of Construction
1	CL00000411	University Hall (Old Main)	Contributing	1883/85/88; 1893-1894
2	CL02300001	East Hall	Contributing	1887, 1907, 1911
3	CL00000509	Old Armory/Gymnasium (Belbas Center)	Contributing	1904-05
4	CL02300002	College of Law (Arts & Sciences Building)	Contributing	1907-08
5	CL02300003	Old Power Plant (Service Center)	Contributing	1909-10
6	CL02300004	University Library (National Music Museum)	Contributing	1910-11; 1939-40; 2021
7	CL02300005	Chemistry Building (Pardee Estee Laboratory)	Contributing	1914
8	CL02300006	Dakota Hall	Contributing	1918-19
9	CL02300007	Auditorium & Administration Building (Aalfs Auditorium & Slagle Hall)	Contributing	1924-25; 1941-44
10	CL02300008	South Dakota Union	Contributing	1930-31
11	CL00000559	McKusick Law Library (McKusick Technology Center)	Contributing	1950
12	CL00000556	Charlotte Noteboom Hall	Contributing	1952-54
13	CL00000555	Danforth Chapel	Contributing	1954
14	CL02300010	The Bird Bath/Fountain	Contributing	1924
15	CL02300011	The Gateposts	Contributing	1928
16	CL02300009	The Greenspace	Contributing	1883-1954
A	CL02300012	Shakespeare Garden	Non-Contributing	1988
B	CL02300014	"Doc" Farber Statue	Non-Contributing	2002

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance

1883 – 1954

Significant Dates

1883, 1891

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

See descriptions

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The University of South Dakota Historic Core District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance in the area of Education. On April 21, 1862, the first legislature of Dakota Territory (created in March 1862) approved an act “to locate the University of the Territory of Dakota in the town of Vermillion in Clay County.” It was the Territory’s first authorized institution of higher education. “An Act to Incorporate the University of Dakota” was approved January 9, 1863. That act designated courses to be offered as “(1) science, literature, and art, (2) law, (3) medicine, (4) training of teachers for the elementary grades, and (5) agriculture.” Although the university didn’t actually open until October 16, 1882, it was the first public institution of higher education to open for classes in Dakota Territory (nearby privately run Yankton College opened two weeks earlier). The “University of Dakota” was officially chartered on February 3, 1883. The name was changed in 1891 to the University of South Dakota, following the creation of the states of North Dakota and South Dakota in 1889.

The district is also being nomination under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The buildings include a variety of architectural styles that are excellent examples of these styles locally. The earliest buildings are best-categorized as “Late Victorian” and include styles such as Richardsonian Romanesque and Chateausque. Those constructed between 1900 and 1930 are examples of “Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals” and include Classical elements of styles such as Neoclassical, American Renaissance, and Beaux Arts. The buildings built after 1940 tend to illustrate the “Modern Movement” of architecture. They are also excellent examples of architecture in Vermillion designed by some of South Dakota’s most prominent architects, including Wallace Dow, Joseph Schwarz, Perkins & McWayne, and Hugill & Blatherwick.

The period of significance begins in 1883, when the first building (the west wing of the University Hall) was constructed on the campus. It ends in 1954, when the last buildings located within the district boundaries were built. After that point in time, all new buildings on the campus were constructed outside of the historic core area of campus. All of the extant buildings on campus dating to the period of significance, with the exception of two (the New Armory/Gymnasium [Al Neuharth Media Center], built in 1929, and the New Power Plant [Davidson Building], built in 1949-50), are located within the district boundaries.

The district is significant at a local level for its contributions to the history of the City of Vermillion.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Please Note: This Statement of Significance is not intended to a comprehensive narrative about the history of the University of South Dakota. A number of sources, from which some of this information comes, provide a more in-depth discussion about the history of the university. These resources include *The University of South Dakota 1862-1966* by Cedric Cummins, *The University of South Dakota, 1967-1982* by Richmond L Clow, and “The Early History of the University” by John G Dow in the *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly* (1908-1911, a multi-part series). In addition, two books by Herbert S. Schell (*Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past* and *History of Clay County, South Dakota*) provide further insights into the history of USD, Vermillion, and Clay County (see Bibliography for further information).

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THE EARLY HISTORY OF VERMILLION

Vermillion, the county seat of Clay County, is located in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. According to the 2020 census, the population was 11,695 making it the eleventh largest city in the state. It sits on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the Missouri and Vermillion Rivers in an area inhabited by the Yankton Sioux prior to white settlement.

Clay County was officially opened for settlement in July 1859 and the town of Vermillion was founded on the banks of the Missouri River that year, making it one of the earliest towns to be established in the state. At least 75 persons were said to have resided within the county by early 1860. The post office as established on April 17, 1860.²⁶ A census conducted in 1862 showed that 256 persons lived in the Vermillion area.²⁷

The creation of Dakota Territory on March 2, 1862 gave stability to the new settlement. The Territorial Legislature authorized the University of the Territory of Dakota, the Territory's first institution of higher learning, to be located in the town of Vermillion, which served to bring prominence to the town.²⁸ Vermillion was incorporated in 1873.²⁹ The population was 714 in 1880.³⁰

The original townsite was located below the bluff on the banks of the Missouri River. A major flood in 1881 wiped out most of the town. More than 130 buildings were destroyed, many others were damaged, and the river channel was changed.³¹ In April of that year, the residents held a meeting and approved relocating to the top of the bluff and the rebuilding of the town began.³²

Building continued at a brisk pace and new residents settled in the community. By 1890, the population of Vermillion was 1,496, an increase of 109 percent in ten years. The population continued to grow over the next decade, reaching 2,188 by 1900. Growth between 1900 and 1940 was steady, increasing by nearly 50 percent during this period. Like many communities in the United States that experienced substantial population growth following World War II, Vermillion's population between 1940 and 1950 increased over 60 percent, from 3,324 in 1940 to 5,337 in 1950. The town continued to grow throughout the 1950s, but the next big boom in Vermillion's population occurred in the 1960s, when it grew from 6,102 in 1960 to 9,128 in 1970, an increase of nearly 50 percent.³³

THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

On April 21, 1862, the first legislature of Dakota Territory approved "An Act to Locate the University of the Territory of Dakota" in the town of Vermillion in Clay County. The bill locating the university at Vermillion had

²⁶ "Vermillion Founded," Heritage Notes, Clay County Historical Society, September 3, 2013.

²⁷ Herbert S. Schell. *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past* (Vermillion, SD: The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985), 3.

²⁸ Schell, 167.

²⁹ City of Vermillion, "Our History." City of Vermillion. http://www.vermillion.us/about_history.aspx.

³⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, "Census of Population and Housing."

³¹ Schell, 27-28.

³² Dan Christopherson. *The History of Vermillion, South Dakota Since the Great Flood of 1881* (Vermillion: City of Vermillion, 2007).

³³ Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken the Year 1910* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1913), 679.

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been introduced by Clay County legislator and resident of Vermillion, Lyman Burgess. However, no money was appropriated for a university at that time.³⁴

The second legislative session, held in December 1862, introduced "An Act to Incorporate the University of Dakota" (approved January 9, 1863). That act named eighteen men to a Board of Regents and designated courses to be offered as "(1) science, literature, and art, (2) law, (3) medicine, (4) training of teachers for the elementary grades, and (5) agriculture." In addition, the regents were directed to open a preparatory department for prospective collegians in light of the fact that there was a lack of secondary schools in the territory. And again, no funds were appropriated.³⁵

The Great Dakota Boom, which began in 1878, brought thousands of settlers to the Territory, and with them, the desire and need for higher education. The university, though authorized, had yet to be established and constructed. In early 1881, two events occurred that threatened the building of the university in Vermillion. First, in February 1881, the Territorial legislature authorized an agricultural college at Brookings, as well as five normal schools for the training of teachers in the territory.³⁶ Then, from March 27 to April 15, severe flooding on the Missouri River destroyed most of the town of Vermillion, which at that time was located below the bluff along the river. These events created apprehension among the town's residents and caused concern that the university might not be built in Vermillion.³⁷

Because the legislature would not meet again until 1883, a few leading citizens of Vermillion decided to establish an educational institution in Vermillion using local resources and then present it to the legislature. Included in this effort were Judge Jefferson Kidder, a graduate of Norwich University, lawyer, and former delegate to Congress, who recently had been appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of Dakota Territory; Darwin Inman, a graduate of University of Rochester and president of a banking firm that grew into the Bank of Vermillion; Dr. Frank N. Burdick, a graduate of the University of Vermont, editor of the *Dakota Republican* and, at that time, mayor of Vermillion; and Colonel John L. Jolley, a teacher, lawyer, and member of the legislature. These "founding fathers" shared a belief in education, as well as pride in their community and a desire to make Vermillion even greater as the home of the university.³⁸

On April 30, 1881, a non-profit association, known as "The University of Dakota," was formed with a board of seven trustees, which included these four men from Vermillion and three more from other communities in the state, who never attended the association's meetings but were sympathetic with the actions taken. Formal status as a corporation was obtained from the territorial government on May 21, 1881. Four days later they elected Kidder as the president, adopted rules and by-laws, and set forth to "prescribe the course of instruction," obtain the needed professors, and select a president of the university.³⁹

A vigorous campaign followed and a special county election held on March 13, 1882 passed a \$10,000 ten-year bond issue. Despite initial opposition, the vote was nearly two to one in favor of building the university in Vermillion. In accordance with the vote, the county commissioners, at their meeting on April 4, proceeded to issue twenty bonds of five hundred dollars each, dated April 1, 1892 and drawing interest at five percent.

³⁴ Schell, 167.

³⁵ Cummins, 4-5.

³⁶ Cummins, 8.

³⁷ Schell, 167.

³⁸ Cummins, 8-9.

³⁹ Cummins, 9.

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These bonds were handed over to the Trustees of the University of Dakota, and at some time later they were sold to A.S. Garretson of Sioux City for \$9,000.⁴⁰

Work began immediately. A twenty-acre site northeastern of town was selected for the campus; ten acres were donated by Judge Kidder and ten acres adjoining this site on the east were purchased from G.B. Bigelow with funds donated by citizens.⁴¹ Wallace L. Dow, an architect who at that time lived in Yankton (prior to relocating to Sioux Falls), was retained to design the building. It was to be a two-story (plus basement) building measuring 48 feet by 61 feet, made of Sioux quartzite. Construction began as soon as was possible and continued through the summer and fall.⁴²

When it became obvious that the building would not be ready in time for fall term classes, arrangements were made to hold the first classes in the new courthouse in downtown Vermillion.⁴³ Dr. Ephraim Epstein, a minister from Yankton, was hired as the "principal and teacher." The first class, consisting of 35 young men and women, convened on October 16, 1882 for three days of examinations and admission procedures. By the end of the year, 69 students had been admitted, most of whom entered preparatory classes.⁴⁴

When the legislature assembled in Yankton the following January, a bill to accept "the books, records, building and all other property, real and personal, of the University of Dakota" was introduced. The bill passed unanimously in both houses accepting the "University of Dakota" with its building and property. Governor Ordway signed the bill on February 3, 1883 and the day became known as "Charter Day."⁴⁵

The legislature went on to appropriate "\$30,000 for construction, \$8,000 for salaries, and \$4,300 for apparatus, lights and fuel, grounds, and incidentals."⁴⁶ The funding for construction would complete what became the west wing of University Hall, as well as the center portion of the building.⁴⁷ The official transfer of authority from the private corporation took place on April 14, 1883 when the board of regents laid the cornerstone for the central unit of University Hall.



University Hall, c.1890 (photo from W.H. Over Collection)

⁴⁰ John G. Dow, "Early History of the University," in *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly*, July 1908, 59-60.

⁴¹ Schell, 168; Dow, "Early History of the University," in *South Dakota Alumni Quarterly*, October 1908, 72.

⁴² Dow, 72.

⁴³ Cummins, 11.

⁴⁴ Schell, 168-169.

⁴⁵ Cummins, 14.

⁴⁶ Cummins, 15.

⁴⁷ Schell, 169.

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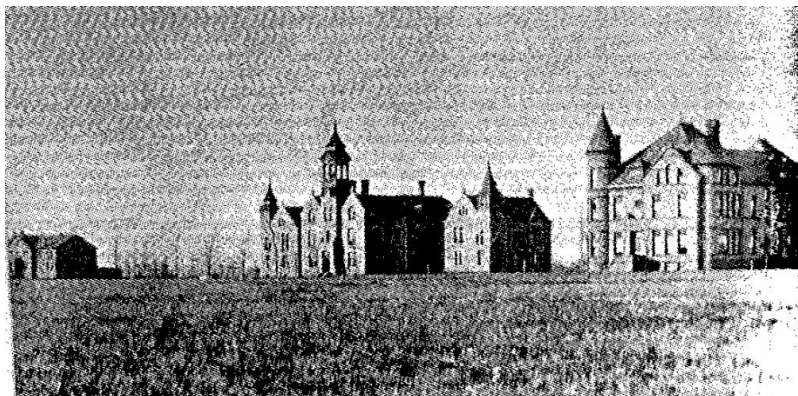
THE FIRST BUILDINGS ON THE CAMPUS: 1883 - 1899

The university officially opened its first building (what became the “west wing” of University Hall) on September 18, 1883.⁴⁸ The building was designed by Wallace Dow and its construction had begun under the auspices of the local non-profit organization known as “The University of Dakota.” When the university was transferred to the state in the spring of 1883, legislative appropriations included funding for the completion of the west wing, as well as construction of the larger central unit of the “main building.” Work on the west wing was completed later that year and open in time for fall term classes. Construction was underway on the “main building” (central unit) from 1883 to 1885. This portion of the building opened for fall classes in 1885. It, like the west wing, was designed by Wallace Dow and was constructed with Sioux quartzite.⁴⁹

The 1885 legislative appropriations for the university included \$10,000 for the construction of a women’s dormitory. Construction on the two-story brick building began on August 5, 1885 and was completed in November of that year. The building became known as West Hall. Additional appropriations that year include funding for campus waterworks.

In 1887, the legislature appropriated \$30,000 for the university, to be divided into three projects: \$15,000 for the east wing of the main building, \$10,000 for a men’s dormitory, and \$5,000 for heating, plumbing and sewage for the buildings.⁵⁰ Wallace Dow served as the architect for the new dormitory as well as for the east wing of the main building. The design of the east wing mirrored the design of the west wing of the main building. The new dormitory, called East Hall, was of a similar architectural style and constructed with the same materials as the University Hall. Construction on both buildings was efficient and both were occupied, at least in part, by the fall of 1887. By the time East Hall opened, it had been decided that it would become the women’s dormitory and the men would occupy West Hall.⁵¹

Construction during the Territorial period was over with the construction of the three sections of University Hall, West Hall and East Hall. Dakota Territory became the states of North Dakota and South Dakota in 1889. The name of the University of Dakota was officially changed in 1891 to the University of South Dakota.



USD Campus, c.1891
West Hall (left), University Hall (center), East Hall (right)
(photo from Cedric Cummins, *University of South Dakota 1862-1966*)

⁴⁸ Schell, 170.

⁴⁹ Cummins, 18-19.

⁵⁰ Cummins, 19.

⁵¹ Schell, 171.

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The first construction on campus as the “University of South Dakota” and the last construction of the nineteenth century was necessitated when University Hall was gutted by fire in October 1893, leaving only the exterior stone walls in place. Wallace Dow was consulted about reconstruction and he estimated that by re-using the original stone walls that the building could be re-built for between \$40,000 and \$45,000. The committee charged with planning the reconstruction recommended that the people of Vermillion contribute \$10,000 directly and that Clay County bonds would generate \$30,000. Work began on the re-construction immediately and by January of 1895, the building was again in use.⁵² The building is now called Old Main.

CAMPUS GROWTH IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY: 1900 - 1931

As the new century opened, the university was poised for expansion and growth. Its first academic division, the College of Arts and Sciences, was established early in the campus history in 1883. It evolved into five divisions, all four-year “Colleges.” They were the Colleges of Arts and Sciences (1883), Music (1901), Law (1901), Engineering (1907), and Medicine (1907).⁵³

In 1900, the grounds were confined to the original twenty acres. An additional 26 acres were purchased in 1904 expanding the campus to the northwest. Additional land was purchased along the north side of Clark Street, which then served as the southern edge of campus. Further acquisitions followed, and by 1914, the campus encompassed 62 acres.⁵⁴

To provide proper facilities as enrollments increased, five new buildings were constructed in thirteen years. Science Hall was constructed in 1902 (demolished in 1958) and housed the new Colleges of Engineering and Medicine. The Armory/Gymnasium, built in 1904-05, housed military science, served as the gymnasium, and due to its large open drill hall/gym space, served to host various large events. The College of Law was housed in the west wing of University Hall until the new College of Law building was opened in 1908. In addition to these three new buildings, the University Library was constructed in 1910-11 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie, and a new Chemistry Building was built in 1914. The new College of Music was housed on the third floor of University Hall until the new auditorium was built in 1924-25. And several departments in the College of Arts & Sciences continued to be located in University Hall. Unfortunately, West Hall burned to the ground in 1905 and was not rebuilt.



Science Hall (built 1902, demolished 1958)
(photo from W.H. Over collection)



College of Law (built 1907-08)
(photo from Coyote Yearbook)

⁵² Cummins, 52-56.

⁵³ Cummins, 82.

⁵⁴ Schell, 177.

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University Library (built 1910-11)
(photo from Clay County Historical Society)



Chemistry Building (built 1914)
(photo by M. Dennis)



Dakota Hall, (built 1918-19)
(photo from Tour of The University of South Dakota's Historic Buildings)



South Dakota Union Building (built 1930-31)
(photo from Clay County Historical Society)

In addition to academic buildings, development on campus during the first quarter of the 20th century included a number of other buildings and structures. Additions to East Hall were constructed in 1907 and 1911. The construction of the Old Power Plant occurred in 1909-10. Dakota Hall, a new dormitory for women, opened in 1919. Outside of the district's boundaries, two additional buildings were built - the Observatory in 1917 and the Engineering Shops in 1918 (both demolished).

In 1921, in an effort to systematize the relationships with the professional divisions of the university, the colleges of Law and Medicine were officially designated as "Schools" offering strictly professional courses and requiring two years of pre-professional work for admission. The College of Arts and Sciences accepted a specified number of credits from the professional divisions. Music and Engineering continued as four-year colleges.⁵⁵

The 1920s saw continued construction of buildings on the campus. In 1924, Inman Field and Stadium was constructed on the north side of campus just south of Cherry St. (outside of the district's boundaries; demolished 1979). The new Auditorium building was completed in 1925. The New Armory & Gymnasium was built in 1929 (near the northwest corner of campus, also outside of the district's boundaries). And the South Dakota Union building was constructed in 1930-31. During this time period, the campus was bounded on the

⁵⁵ Schell, 179.

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north by Cherry Street (SD Hwy 50), on the west by N. Dakota Street, on the east by N. Pine Street, and on the south by Clark Street.

In addition to the construction of new buildings, the tradition of "Class Gifts" to the campus started in 1924, with the construction of the Bird Bath/Fountain in an area south of the Chemistry Building on the Quad. The classes of 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928 gifted the Gateposts, constructed in 1928, located southeast of the University Library, flanking what was then the main entrance to the campus.

Additional academic divisions were added to the university between 1927 and 1931 in an effort to raise the stature of the university, especially in the face of a looming economic crisis. In 1927, the School of Business Administration and the School of Education were organized. The Graduate School was established in 1929. And in 1931, the College of Music became the College of Fine Arts.⁵⁶ The Great Depression and World War II, however, created delays in building facilities for these new academic programs.

DEVELOPMENT DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND POST-WORLD WAR II: 1940 - 1954

Long before the stock market crash in 1929, South Dakota was feeling the effects of a declining economy as farm prices and values fell following World War I. As farmers found it more and more difficult to meet obligations to banks, a banking crisis was in the making. By 1925, 175 banks in the state had become insolvent and closed their doors. Between 1920 and 1930, real estate values decreased by 58%. During the same time period, there were nearly 23,000 farm foreclosures in the state. The situation only worsened following the stock market crash and as the Great Depression set in. In addition to the economic woes, the Great Plains became known as the Dust Bowl where extreme drought, severe winters, grasshopper plagues, and dust storms, all of which contributed further to the downturn in the state's economy. In 1931 and 1932, an additional 1,500 farms were foreclosed, and by 1934, 71% of all South Dakota banks failed.⁵⁷

All of this translated to substantially reduced appropriations for all kinds of state projects by the state legislature during the 1930s and early 1940s, including funding for universities and colleges. In 1933, the College of Engineering and the Home Economics programs at USD fell victim to deep legislative cuts and both programs at USD were discontinued as part of a statewide effort to avoid duplication of programs at the university and colleges. To address the decreasing appropriations faculty and staff took cuts in pay and a number of campus activities were curtailed.

Building on campus came to a stop after the opening of the South Dakota Union building in February 1931 due to the economic conditions. It was not until assistance from the Federal government came in the form of relief programs, known collectively as the New Deal Era programs (including the Public Works Administration [PWA] and the Works Progress/Projects Administration [WPA]), that USD had funding for new building projects. The first relief program project with university sponsorship was a new hospital in the town of Vermillion, completed in 1935. Although not located on campus, the facility served the School of Medicine. Two other early proposals for PWA grants, a new armory and a "Social Science and Citizenship Building;" both were denied.⁵⁸

In 1938, the Board of Regents requested Federal relief grants for an addition to the University Library, completion of the Administration Building, construction of a Medical Arts building, a new power plant, a Law Library, and various repair and remodeling projects. Only two projects were funded with Federal relief grants.

⁵⁶ Schell, 179.

⁵⁷ Michelle L Dennis, *Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 5.

⁵⁸ Cummins, 203.

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The first of these was an addition on the rear (north side) of the University Library in 1940, which was funded in part through a PWA grant. The second was the Administration Building, designed to be cross-section addition on the south side of the existing Auditorium. A WPA grant was secured, but the state's matching portion was short, and plans for the east wing of the addition as well as the fourth floor were abandoned.⁵⁹

No further building construction occurred on the campus until after World War II. Enrollments surged at the university from 472 in the fall of 1944 to 1,953 in the fall of 1948, as veterans took advantage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly called the G.I. Bill) to attend college.⁶⁰ More than one third of the veterans were married, necessitating a new approach to providing housing for these students. To that end, USD received assistance from the Federal Housing Authority in the form of surplus trailers. Fifty trailers were available by spring semester of 1946 at Vets' Villa on the southwest corner of campus. By fall semester of that year, there was an additional 26 trailers at Vets' Villa and 57 trailers at University Park in an area northwest of the South Dakota Union building (all outside of the district's boundaries).⁶¹ Vets' Villa was demolished in 1950, University Park in 1960.

For the single men attending USD, housing choices were even more limited. In the mid-1940s there were no dormitories for men on campus and hadn't been since fire destroyed West Hall in 1905. Temporary facilities were installed on the second floor of the old Armory/Gymnasium and on the upper floors of the South Dakota Union building. The 1949 legislative session appropriated \$500,000 for the construction of Julian Hall, a men's dormitory located on the west side of campus (outside of the district's boundaries); it was constructed in 1950 and housed 180 men (it was demolished in 2022). In addition, single rooms for women in East Hall and Dakota Hall were converted to double rooms to accommodate the growing enrollment of single women.⁶² Plans were also made for additional dormitory space for 65 women. The legislature appropriated \$300,00 in 1951 for the construction of Charlotte Noteboom Hall, located just northwest of Dakota Hall, which was completed in 1954.⁶³

The 1949 legislature also appropriated funds for academic building improvements and construction. Included was funding for the construction of the McKusick Law Library, which was built in 1950. The first installment of funding for the construction of a dedicated building for the medical school was \$600,000 and construction began in 1950. Further appropriations in 1951 and 1953 were made and the Andrew E. Lee Memorial Medical and Science Building (outside of the district's boundaries) was ready for occupancy in 1953. Funding also came in the late 1940s for the construction of a new power and heating plant and construction of the new plant started in 1949 and was completed in 1950 (also outside of the district's boundaries).⁶⁴ One additional building was constructed within the district boundaries during this time period. The Danforth Chapel, designed by Harold Brookman, USD Engineer and Architect, was built in 1954. It was conceived of as an inter-denominational meditation chapel and was funded in part by a gift from William Danforth of St. Louis.

⁵⁹ Cummins, 215-216.

⁶⁰ Cummins, 243.

⁶¹ Cummins, 245-246.

⁶² Cummins, 246.

⁶³ Cummins, 267-268.

⁶⁴ Cummins, 268-69.

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CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT FROM 1955 TO 2000

Most of the campus development from 1955 to the present occurred outside of the district's boundaries, expanding the central and establishing the northern parts of the campus. The campus expanded northward, eventually north of Cherry Street, eastward to Pine Street and westward along Dakota Street. Additional buildings provided classroom, dormitory, and administrative and services spaces. Buildings constructed between 1957 and 1981 included the School of Business (now Patterson Hall, 1957), Cypress Court (1958) and Redwood Court (1960) [both were married student housing; both demolished], Burgess Hall (1960), the Science Center (now Akeley-Lawrence Science Center, 1962), Education Hall (now Delzell Education Center, 1963), Norton Hall (1964), the Coyote Student Center (1965, demolished 2006), Beede and Mickelson Halls (1966), I.D. Weeks Library (1967), Olson and Richardson Hall (1968), the Center for the Fine Arts (now Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts, 1973), Churchill-Haines Laboratory (1977), the Dakota Dome (1979), and the new School of Law Building (1981).

Campus development within the district boundaries during this period was primarily limited to renovations and repairs to buildings. Extensive interior renovations to East Hall and repairs as a result of fire damage in the Chemistry Building happened in 1957 and 1958. The old Science Hall was condemned in 1958 and demolished in 1961. A small addition on the east end the Chemistry Building was constructed in 1977 when Churchill-Haines Laboratory was built to the north of the Chemistry Building, connecting the two buildings. University Hall, which had been unused for a number of years, was restored in the 1990s. The only other development of note during this decade was the installation of the Shakespeare Garden located south of the Chemistry Building in 1988.

In addition to the several new buildings constructed outside of the district boundaries during this time period, the overall appearance of the campus grounds changed. When President Edward Q. Moulton took office in 1966, his first order of business was to physically change the university's appearance. He endorsed a "Beautification Program" that called for the creation of an all-pedestrian campus. Roads running through the center of campus would be closed, including the roadway on the Quad. As part of that plan, a pedestrian "Mall" also would be developed on the north-south axis from University Hall to Cherry Street on the grounds left open between the new library, the new School of Education, the new School of Business, and the new Student Union. The plan for the Mall was not implemented until President Bowen's administration in the 1970s. It, like the Quad, provides park-like open greenspace and a vista from the north side of campus looking south to University Hall.⁶⁵

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT SINCE 2000

There were no new buildings constructed in the 1990s.

Three substantial additions to the campus were made in the late 2000s. These included the Muenster University Center (which replaced the Coyote Student Center in 2008), the Lee Medicine and Sciences Building (where ongoing renovation, remodeling, and new construction was completed and all vestiges of the 1950s building and earlier additions were erase in 2008), and Beacom Hall (the new home of the School of Business in 2009).

From 2010 to the present, the following was added to the campus: Coyote Village (a residence hall built in 2011), the Wellness Center (2011, 2024), the Sanford Coyote Sports Complex (2016), and the Lillibridge

⁶⁵ Clow, Richmond L. Clow, *The University of South Dakota, 1967-1982* (Vermillion, SD: USD Centennial Project, 1983), 6.

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Track/First Bank & Trust Soccer Complex 2016). The Health Sciences addition to the Lee Medicine and Sciences Building was completed in 2022. Renovations to the Fine Arts Center were occurring in 2023-24.

Development within the district boundaries during this period included a major renovation to the Slagle Auditorium occurred in 2010, after which the name was changed to the Aalfs Auditorium; a major addition to the National Music Museum (old University Library), known as the Lillibridge Addition, in 2021-2022; and an interior remodel of the South Dakota Union building in 2023-24.

CAMPUS PLANNING AND DESIGN

The history of campus planning in America is long and interesting. The development of college and university campuses has been influenced in large part by historic landscape design and architecture. On some campuses, the physical layout and the architectural styles of buildings were the result of conscious and long-range planning. On other campuses, the physical layout and architectural styles has been more unintentional. Plans on some campuses were formal, others were informal.

Education was important to the settlers of the English colonies in America. As early as 1636, only six years after the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, a decision was made to establish a college and locate it at Newtowne (which was renamed Cambridge shortly thereafter). John Harvard died in 1638 and left half of his estate and his entire library to the new school, which was named in his honor. Harvard was designed along the lines of the English collegiate system, where students would “eat, sleep, study, worship, and play together in a tight community.”⁶⁶ The first building at Harvard was a three-story, E-shaped building housing all of the college’s functions except the president’s quarter. This form represented experimentation architecturally as it did not follow any precedent of European colleges. The following stage of Harvard’s growth, however, represented further distinction from English and other European colleges and was an innovation that set a pattern for American colleges that followed. Rather than link buildings together forming enclosed quadrangles, as the European precedent would have, Harvard’s builders chose to create a campus of separate buildings set in an open landscape. The physical layout was the result of conscious and long-range planning. Eventually, as more buildings were added, the layout resembled the English collegiate quadrangle, with concentrations of buildings around courtyards, but the buildings retained their separateness and the orientation was outward toward the public views rather than inward toward the courtyards.⁶⁷

By the time of the American Revolution, there were nine degree-granting colleges in the American Colonies. In addition to Harvard, there were colleges in Virginia, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The location of these colleges throughout the colonies established a pattern that characterized American higher education – separate colleges widely dispersed and responding to differing local needs rather than several colleges centralized in one or two universities as in England.⁶⁸ Incidentally, it was at Princeton, in New Jersey, where the term “campus” was first coined, probably around 1770, to describe the school’s grounds. Prior to this, term “yard” or “grounds” was used to denote the land on which colleges were built.⁶⁹

⁶⁶ Paul Venable Turner, *Campus: An American Planning Tradition* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1984), 23.

⁶⁷ Turner, 25-27.

⁶⁸ Turner, 17.

⁶⁹ Turner, 47.

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Following the American Revolution, the number of colleges in American grew steadily. Not only were they located within the colonial states, but many were established in new regions being settled. With the desire to create colleges that reflected the ambitious goals of the new American nation, the design of campuses and buildings increasingly was given over to architects who produced plans that were more sophisticated and unified in character than earlier designs.

Although the overall designs created by each designer varied somewhat, there were similarities among them. First, campuses were symmetrically laid out from a central focal point, and often an open courtyard or green at the center. Second, the primary functions of the college were located in the central buildings, with secondary functions in adjacent buildings and tertiary functions in buildings beyond. Finally, the entire campus layout was planned even if only a building or two actually was to be constructed.⁷⁰

It was, however, Alexander Jackson Davis who emerged as the leading college architect and campus planner during the mid-1800s. His attention was focused first on creating standard plan types appropriate to specific institutions. For example, rural and suburban schools allowed for plans that took advantage of the expansive open spaces, while urban schools being more restricted in their sites required compact plans that fit within established city blocks. Davis's designs often included enclosed quadrangles, although few were actually constructed as Americans continued to favor the patterns of open-campus. Architecturally, he had a personal preference for Gothic architecture and often designed buildings in a variant of the style referred to as "Collegiate Gothic." In 1949, Davis began a collaborative design effort with landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing to produce a design for the newly established New York Agricultural College. Although the design was never executed, the introduction of landscape architecture into the design process was a signal of a significant change to come in campus planning and design.⁷¹

Perhaps the biggest influence on campus design came from Frederick Law Olmsted, a nationally known and highly respected landscape architect who was involved in the design of at least twenty college campuses between the 1860s and the 1890s. Olmsted, a friend of A.J. Downing, developed several ideas that he applied to the design of public colleges and universities. He believed that a college should be planned as a "domestically scaled suburban community, in a park-like setting which would instill in its students civilized and enlightened values."⁷² His design concepts were widely applied on campuses throughout the country.

Stylistically, campus architecture in America went through various periods of favor. The first styles, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were formal – Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival – all with their classical elements. The Gothic Revival style appeared on campuses, first at colleges of religious denominations, eventually at other colleges, around the mid-nineteenth century. By the 1880s, the Richardsonian Romanesque, Italianate, French Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles (and various sub-sets of these style) were in vogue. The 1893 exposition in Chicago, with its Beaux Arts formality, launched the "City Beautiful" movement, a trend that was not lost on college campuses. After the turn of the century, revival styles were popular, often in combination with the Beaux Arts concepts of campus design. Among the revival styles were Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival (and its variant known as Jacobethan), and the Late Gothic Revival (with its Collegiate Gothic variation).⁷³

⁷⁰ Turner, 62-87.

⁷¹ Turner, 124-131.

⁷² Turner, 142.

⁷³ Thomas A. Gaines, *The Campus as a Work of Art* (New York: Praeger, 1991), 6-10.

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Numerous articles appeared in American journals on the subject of college and university planning around the turn of the 20th Century. Most authors took a Beaux Arts approach to campus design, calling for architectural unity and monumentality. In addition to architectural unity, two premises were consistent in the literature. First, buildings should be arranged in a coherent layout, preferably along an elongated plan with a dominant axis. And second, that a large open space (still referred to as a quadrangle) was an essential part of the American campus tradition. The principles of symmetry, axiality, focal points, and geometric clarity became the standard throughout the county well into the twentieth century.⁷⁴

The “founding fathers” of the “University of Dakota” non-profit association (discussed in a previous section of this document) were familiar with some of the campuses of America’s institutions from the 19th Century. When they arrived in Vermillion, they brought with them ideas of what a campus should look like. That said, however, to date no records have been found that indicates that the campus design and the layout of the buildings in the historic core was planned in a cohesive way with intent of campus design for the long range. The siting of University Hall flanked by West Hall and East Hall may have resulted in creating an impressive view of the long-awaited, now established, university in Vermillion, but it may also have simply been a placement of convenience for students, staff and faculty. The campus grounds, still twenty acres at that time, was without frontage on a public street. The largely open, undeveloped area was still used by nearby farmers hauling hay or grain or driving herds to the railway yards. In 1896, a fence along the north side of campus was erected to eliminate public traffic across the campus. More changes followed with improved walkways and attempts to make the campus more attractive with the planting of trees.⁷⁵

Further development on the USD campus occurred as need dictated and funding allowed, but no attempt to create a cohesive appearance by adopting a specific style of architecture or the consistent use of materials is evidenced. A wide variety of architectural styles continued to characterize the campus. Old Main and East Hall, having been designed by the same architect and by the use of the same materials creates a limited sense of cohesiveness in a small corner of the historic core of campus. However, the fact that the design and materials of West Hall did not fit with University and East Halls, set the tone for lack of cohesiveness in architecture style and materials moving forward.

The intention of the development of what became known as the Quad is uncertain given the lack of records. This open space originally served to set the university apart from the residential neighborhoods to the south, with the earliest buildings aligned along the north edge of the open area. As additional administrative staff and faculty joined the university, they undoubtedly brought with them design ideas from their experiences on other campuses, many of which likely had quadrangles within their campus designs and perhaps they were influential in the further development of the open space. This open greenspace at USD stretched along an east-west axis on the south side of University Hall; East Hall served as the focal point on the east end and for more than half a century, the west end was defined by Science Hall. There was a secondary open space west of Science Hall, south of the Chemistry Building, along the same axis and when Science Hall was demolished in 1961 the Quad was simply extended along that axis toward the dormitories on the west side of campus. As additional buildings were constructed in the early 20th century, they were aligned along the south side of the open space, effectively bringing further definition to the Quad. Interestingly, and unlike many university campuses that arranged buildings around an open greenspace where the front facades of the building all faced that open space, USD’s buildings along the south side of the Quad were built to face south toward the town rather than northward facing the Quad.

⁷⁴ Turner, 186-188.

⁷⁵ Schell, 176-177.

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Archival research uncovered evidence of only two efforts where campus plans at USD were developed. The first, as part of President Moulton's "Beautification Program" to change the appearance of the campus by creating an all-pedestrian campus with enhanced greenspaces, was a "Master Plan" developed by the architectural firm of Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffin & Berg (the descendent firm of Hugill & Blatherwick) from Sioux Falls, in the 1967. Their plans for the future of the campus were based on a projected enrollment of 25,000 by the year of 2000. As part of that plan, they proposed a residence hall complex that included a ten-story high-rise building designed to house 800 students, along with a four-story building designed to house 200 students. Both buildings would be attached to a dining complex designed to accommodate 1000 students. Housing for faculty was also part of their plan.⁷⁶ Only portions of this architectural firm's plan was realized, including the creation of The Mall (the greenspace on the north-south axis from University Hall to Cherry Street), but none of the projected buildings were built. The plan was, perhaps, abandoned with Moulton's departure in 1968.

The second record of a campus plan is the 1999 *Campus Planning and Design Study, University of South Dakota* prepared by Koch Hazard Baltzer Ltd., an architecture and planning firm from Sioux Falls. This plan evaluated the campus based on various landscape principles, current building use concerns, and future needs. A number of the recommendations made in the plan have been implemented, most of the changes made as a result of this campus plan are located outside of the proposed district boundaries.⁷⁷

THE ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARCHITECTS OF USD

A variety of architectural styles characterize the campus. Styles found in the historic core include Richardsonian Romanesque, Chateausque, Neo-Classical, Gothic Revival, American Renaissance, Modernistic, International Style, and 20th Century Contemporary, as well as examples of architectural styles perhaps best described as Eclectic (where more than one style appears). The variety of styles exemplify the shift in styles that were popular at different periods of time and the district's buildings illustrate how these styles were adapted for academic use. Although there are examples of some of these styles elsewhere in the community of Vermillion, they are spread out with some located in the downtown commercial area and others within residential neighborhoods. The Historic Core District has the best collection of architectural styles in town, representing over 70 years of architectural evolution concentrated in a relatively small area on the campus.

The materials used for the construction of the campus buildings also illustrates the evolution of materials used for various architectural styles in an academic setting. The variety of materials provides for a look with various textures and colors, rather than a uniform appearance. Some of the materials that were used in the Historic Core District include stone (Sioux Falls quartzite, sandstone, and limestone), brick (in various colors, finishes, and sizes; some structural, some as veneer), metal (steel and aluminum), wood, glass, and concrete.

A number of architects contributed to the design of the building within the historic core of the USD campus. The two oldest extant buildings (Old Main and East Hall) were designed by Wallace L. Dow. Dow, considered the "most famous architect in the early days of South Dakota," designed several important buildings in the state, including the South Dakota State Penitentiary, county courthouses, school buildings, churches, railroad depots, commercial buildings, and private homes.⁷⁸ He also designed the "South Dakota Building" for the

⁷⁶ Clow, 6-7, 19.

⁷⁷ Koch Hazard Baltzer Ltd., *Campus Planning and Design Study, University of South Dakota* (Facilities Task Force of the University Planning Committee, 1999).

⁷⁸ Liz Almlie, "Dow, Wallace L." in *History in South Dakota* blog.

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Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) in Chicago in 1893. He designed USD's original west wing of University Hall (Old Main) in 1883, as well as the center portion (1885) and the east wing (1888), and was responsible for the re-design of the building following the fire in 1893, for which some of the materials from the South Dakota Building at the Columbian Exposition were used. He was a resident of Yankton when he first began designing building for USD, but he relocated to Sioux Falls for the remainder of his career.

Another well-known early architect in the state, Joseph Schwarz, contributed to the design of early campus buildings. He was responsible for the design for the College of Law building completed in 1908, the University's Carnegie Library in 1911, and the Chemistry Building in 1914, as well as the additions to East Hall in 1907 and 1911. Schwarz was raised in Wisconsin before settling in Sioux Falls where he practiced architecture for nearly 40 years. As a devout Catholic, he was associated with the Diocese of Sioux Falls and between 1895 and 1924, he designed at least twenty churches in eastern South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. He also designed the Carnegie Library of Sioux Falls in 1903, Sioux Falls High School (Washington High School) in 1906, and the Administration Building at South Dakota Agricultural College (SDSU) in 1912-1918, as well as commercial buildings and county courthouses. In addition to designing the University Library on campus, he designed the Vermillion Carnegie Library (1903).⁷⁹

The old Armory/Gymnasium was designed by the architectural firm of Frank Kinney & Menno Detweiler of Minneapolis in 1905. It was constructed by a local Vermillion builder, Erick Nylen. Kinney & Detweiler designed a number of buildings in Minnesota and Iowa, including several county courthouses, public schools, and commercial buildings. Their work in South Dakota included the Horace Fishback House in Brookings (1902) and a building on the SDSU campus (1901). In partnership with architect C.E. Bell, Detweiler was responsible for the design of the South Dakota State Capitol building in Pierre (1905-1910).⁸⁰

Dakota Hall, completed in 1919, was designed by the firm of Holmes & Finn, also of Minneapolis. They were also responsible for the design of the first unit of the Engineering and Machine Shop (1917, demolished).

The firm of Perkins & McWayne, also of Sioux Falls, designed the original Auditorium building, which was completed in 1925. They also designed the Administration wing to the Auditorium, completed in 1944 as a WPA project. The 1931 South Dakota Union building was designed by this firm, as was the McKusick Law Library in 1950. Robert A. Perkins and Albert McWayne formed a partnership in 1917, after which they designed many buildings in the state. Included are the South Dakota State Capitol Annex (1932); courthouses in Lyman County (1925), Douglas County (1927), Codington County (1929), Jerald County (1930), and Haakon County (1930); public schools in Rapid City (1923), Deadwood (1925) and Sturgis (1937); churches, commercial and residential buildings. In addition to designing buildings at USD, they also designed the Administration Building at Augustana College (1920), and Lincoln Hall (1927), the Coolidge Sylvan Theater (1928) and the Coughlin Campanile (1929) at SDSU.⁸¹

Another Sioux Falls firm, Hugill & Blatherwick, left its mark on USD campus design as well. The partnership began in 1921 and in 1950, it became Hugill, Blatherwick & Fritzel. In 1963, the firm became Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffin and Berg. The firm specialized in institutional and commercial buildings. Among their commissions were courthouses for Ziebach, Clark, Hughes, and Lake counties; schools in Lake Preston, Yankton, Vermillion, Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls; the Soldiers & Sailors War Memorial and the Federal Building in Pierre.⁸² At USD, they

⁷⁹ Michael Bedeau, "Joseph Schwarz, 1858-1927" in *The Encyclopedia of the Great Plains* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2011).

⁸⁰ "Detweiler" in *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950* (www.dictionarofarchitectsincanada.org) accessed September 2024.

⁸¹ "Perkins & McWayne" in Wikipedia (www.en.wikipedia.org) accessed September 2024.

⁸² "Hugill & Blatherwick" in Wikipedia (www.en.wikipedia.com), accessed September 2024.

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were responsible for the designs of the New Armory & Gymnasium (1929), the 1940 addition to the University Library, the New Power Plant (1949), Noteboom Hall (1954), the Andrew E Lee Memorial Medicine and Science Hall (1953), the School of Education Building (1963, now Delzell Education Center), four residence halls on the north campus (1966-1968), the Statewide Education Services Building (1973, now Center for Continuing Education), Churchill-Haines Laboratory (1977), and the Dakota Dome (1979).

CONCLUSION

The University of South Dakota has played an important role in the history of Vermillion. From its designation as the site of the University of the Territory of Dakota by the Territorial Legislature in 1862, shortly after the town's founding in 1859, Vermillion has embraced and celebrated the University as its own. In fact, had it not been for a group of influential citizens who were tired of waiting twenty years for legislative funding to build the university, it is not known if and when the university would have actually been built. This group was instrumental in getting community support, as well as securing local funding for the University of Dakota's construction through a county-wide bond election in the spring of 1882. It is to their credit that the first building (the west wing of University Hall) was built, faculty was hired, and classes began in the fall of 1882 (albeit in the new county courthouse as the university building was not yet ready for use). This group then presented the university (its building and property) to the legislature in January 1883, where it was accepted and legislative funding was secured for operations and additional construction. The University of Dakota became known as the University of South Dakota in 1891. The community's commitment to the university was further demonstrated in 1893, following the fire that gutted University Hall. The townspeople and others living in the county financed the rebuilding, which began immediately.

Enrollments at the university increased through the years as additional programs were offered and the campus grew. When it opened in 1882, there were 69 students. Periods of growth largely corresponded with periods of economic stability, periods of decline were experienced during economic downturns. By the end of the Period of Significance for the district (1954), the enrollment was just over 1,802. From 1956 to 1974, the enrollments increased from 2,042 to 5,560.⁸³ Today the enrollment is around 10,000 students.

The university opened with the academic division known as the College of Arts & Sciences. The College of Law was added in 1901, as was the College of Music (which became the College of Fine Arts in 1931). The College of Medicine was added in 1907, as was the College of Engineering. The School of Business and the School of Education were both added in 1927, and the Graduate School was added in 1929. Additional academic programs were added with the School of Nursing in 1954 and Dental Hygiene in 1966, both of which are now part of the School of Health Sciences.⁸⁴ Today the university boasts more than 200 academic programs and majors for undergraduates and more than 80 graduate programs and offerings.

Today, the university continues to play a vital part of the community. It is the largest employer in the city and county; most of the employees are residents of Vermillion. The student population makes up a significant percentage of residents in the city and contributes to the economy in many ways. Student activities, such as Dakota Days and sporting events, keep a number of community members engaged with university-related activities. There are a number of events held on campus, such as a wide variety of performing arts events, that draw residents of the community to the campus. Local residents, as well as visitors to the city, avail themselves of the various museums and galleries on campus, including the National Music Museum, the Oscar Howe

⁸³ Cummins, 311-313.

⁸⁴ Cummins, 316.

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Gallery, and the W.H. Over Museum. The campus itself, with its open greenspaces, is an attraction for many living in town who often stroll through the Quad or along the Mall, enjoying the park-like atmosphere and the variety of architecture.

The University of South Dakota Historic Core District is also eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance. It has the best collection of architectural styles in town, representing over 70 years of architectural evolution concentrated in a relatively small area on the campus. The buildings in the district illustrate the transition and evolution of architectural styles between 1883 and 1954 and include examples of "Late Victorian" styles such as Richardsonian Romanesque and Chateauesque, "Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals" such as Neoclassical, American Renaissance, and Beaux Arts, and examples of styles of the "Modern Movement" of architecture. They also represent the works by a number of significant South Dakota architects, including Wallace Dow, Joseph Schwarz, Perkins & McWayne, and Hugill & Blatherwick.

The period of significance begins in 1883, when the first building (the west wing of the University Hall) was constructed on the campus. It ends in 1954, when the last buildings located within the district boundaries were built. After that point in time, all new buildings on the campus were constructed outside of the historic core area of campus. All of the extant buildings on campus dating to the period of significance, with the exception of two (the New Armory & Gymnasium [Al Neuharth Media Center], built in 1929, and the New Power Plant [Davidson Building], built in 1949-50), are located within the district boundaries.

The district is significant at a local level for its significant associations and contributions to the City of Vermillion.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing
- Previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- Designated a National Historic Landmark
- Recorded by Historic American Building Survey # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository USD Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): See SHPO ID# for each resource in Section 7

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 18.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude _____
Longitude _____

3. Latitude _____
Longitude _____

2. Latitude _____
Longitude _____

4. Latitude _____
Longitude _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

See continuation pages.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property)

At the southwest corner, the district boundary begins at the driveway from Clark St. to the west side of the South Dakota Union building. It extends northward along the western edge of the Quad to the parking lot west of Pardee Estee Laboratory (Chemistry Building), then east to the southwest corner of that building, then north to the northwest corner of the building. The boundary then extends eastward, on the north side of Pardee

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Estee Laboratory and Danforth Chapel to Belbas Center (Old Armory/Gymnasium), then north along the western side of that building to its northwest corner. The boundary then extends eastward to the Service Center (Old Power Plant), then northward along the west side of that building to its northwest corner, then eastward toward Noteboom Hall, where it cuts diagonally to the northeast around that building to its northernmost point before cutting diagonally along the northeast side of Noteboom to the northeast portion of Dakota Hall. The boundary then extends southward along the east side of Dakota Hall, East Hall, McKusick Technology Center (McKusick Law Library) and the Arts & Sciences Building (College of Law Building) to a point at the southeast corner of the district. From that point, the boundaries extends directly west, along the north side of Cherry Street, to its beginning point.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the buildings, sites and objects that represent the development of the University of South Dakota campus between its beginnings in 1883 through the mid-1950s, the point at which the core of campus was essentially complete and further development occurred outside the boundaries. The resources within the boundaries retain integrity to the period of significance (1883 to 1954) and clearly reflect the periods of development from its early beginnings through the initial period of upbuilding following World War II.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Michelle L. Dennis
Organization M.L. Dennis Consulting
Street & number 513 Meade St.
City or town Rapid City State SD Zip code 57701
E-mail michdenn513@gmail.com Telephone 541-517-3811
Date September 2024

Additional Documentation (Submit the following items with the completed form)

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- Sketch map for historic district and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.

Following photographs and in continuation pages.

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 dpi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: University of South Dakota Historic Core District

City or Vicinity: Vermillion

County: Clay State: SD

Photographer: M.L. Dennis

Date Photographed: July 2023; August 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. University Hall (Old Main), front (south) elevation (camera looking northwest)



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2. East Hall, south west corner (camera looking northeast)



3. Armory/Gymnasium (Old), south elevation (camera looking north)



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4. College of Law, front elevation from northwest corner (camera facing southeast)



5. Old Power Plant, south and west wings, southwest corner (camera facing northeast)



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6. University Library, front (south) elevation (camera facing northeast)



7. Chemistry Building, front (south) elevation (camera facing northwest)



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8. Dakota Hall, front (west) elevation (camera facing east)



9a. Auditorium from northeast (camera facing southwest)



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9b. Administration Building (on right), Auditorium (on left) from northwest of Auditorium (camera facing south)



10. South Dakota Union, front (south) and west elevations (camera facing northeast)



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11. McKusick Law Library, west elevation (camera facing east)



12. Charlotte Noteboom Hall, front (south) elevation (camera facing northwest)



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13. Danforth Chapel, front (south) and west elevations (camera facing northeast)



14. Bird Bath/Fountain, north side (camera facing south)



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15. The Gateposts, west and north sides (camera facing east/southeast)



16a. The Greenspace, from the west end of the Quad near the Shakespeare Garden (camera facing east)



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16b. The Greenspace, between Old Armory (left) and University Hall (right), from the Quad (camera facing north)



16c. The Greenspace, from mid-Quad looking east, University Hall (left), East Hall (center), McKusick Law Library (right in distance), edge of Auditorium (right) (camera facing east)



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16d. Greenspace, the Mall looking south (area adjacent to University Hall, in the distance, is within the district boundaries) (camera facing south)



A. Shakespeare Garden, main entrance on north side (camera facing southwest)



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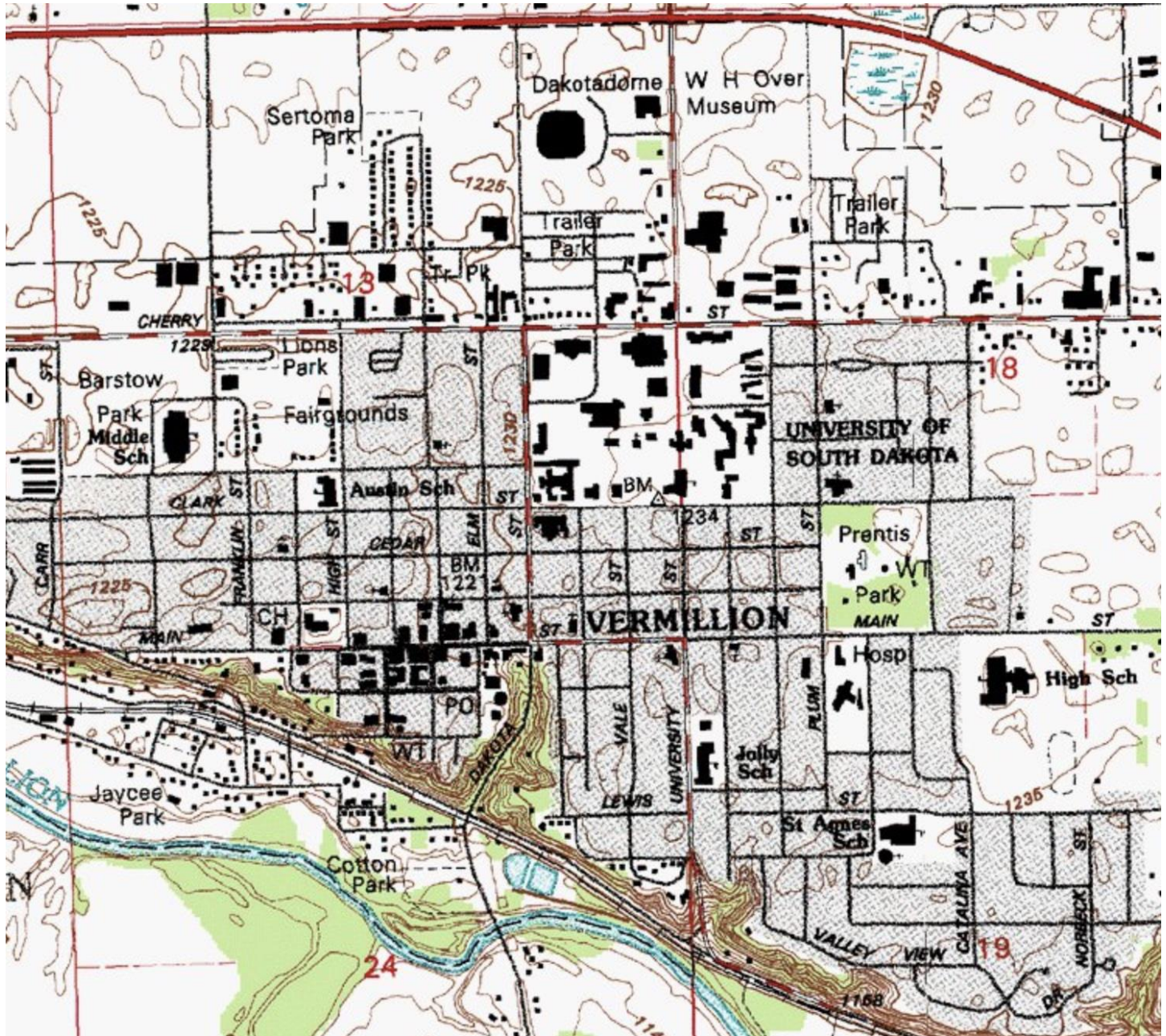
B. "Doc" Farber Statue, west side (camera facing east)



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USGS Topo Map of Vermillion:



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Aerial Photo of University of South Dakota

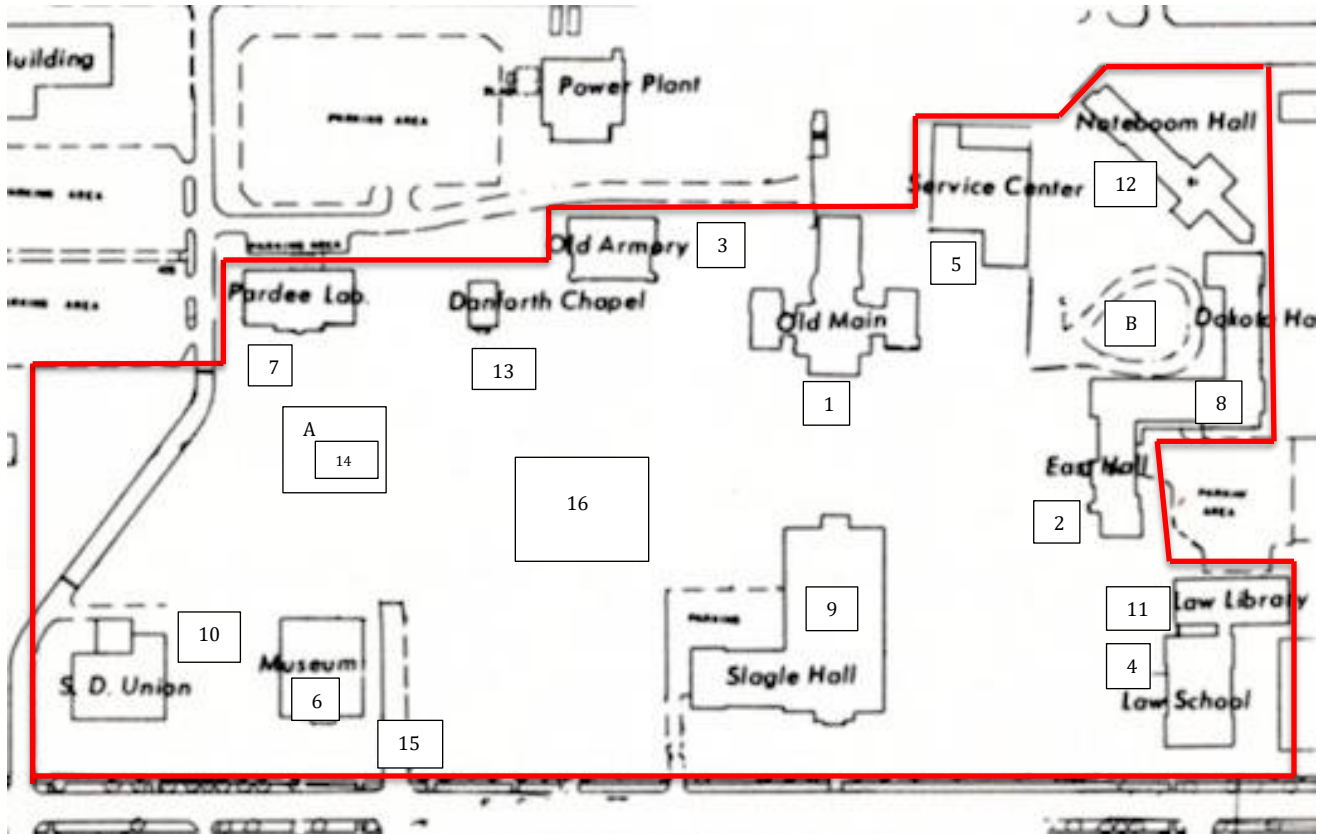
Historic Core District outlined in red



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District Map with Resource Numbers



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

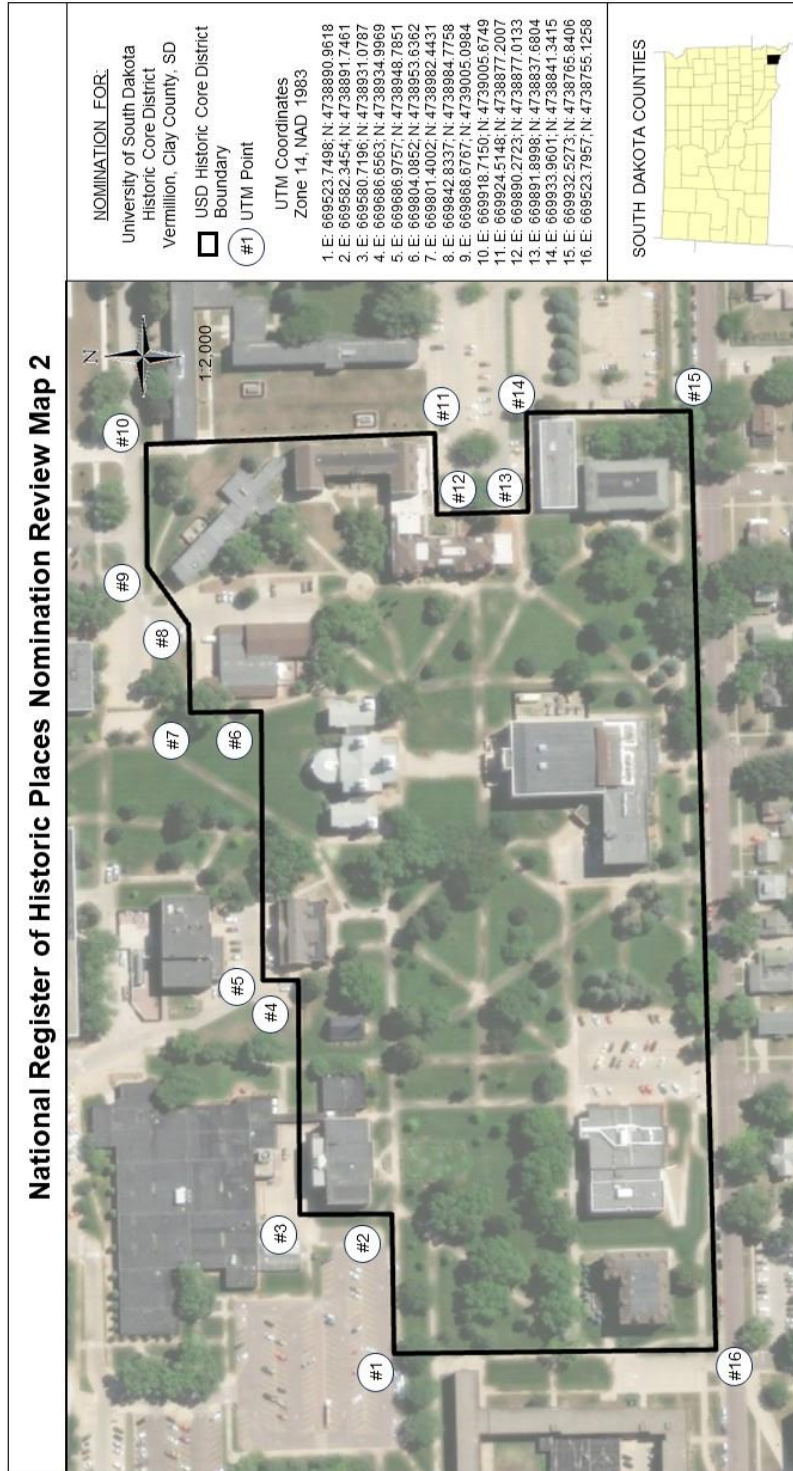
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5. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669686.9757</u>	Northing <u>4738948.7851</u>
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11. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669924.5148</u>	Northing <u>4738877.2007</u>
12. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669890.2723</u>	Northing <u>4738877.0133</u>
13. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669891.8998</u>	Northing <u>4738837.6804</u>
14. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669933.9601</u>	Northing <u>4738841.3415</u>
15. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669932.5273</u>	Northing <u>4738765.8406</u>
16. Zone <u>14</u>	Easting <u>669523.7957</u>	Northing <u>4738755.1258</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

University of South Dakota Historic Core District
Name of Property
Clay, South Dakota
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 2

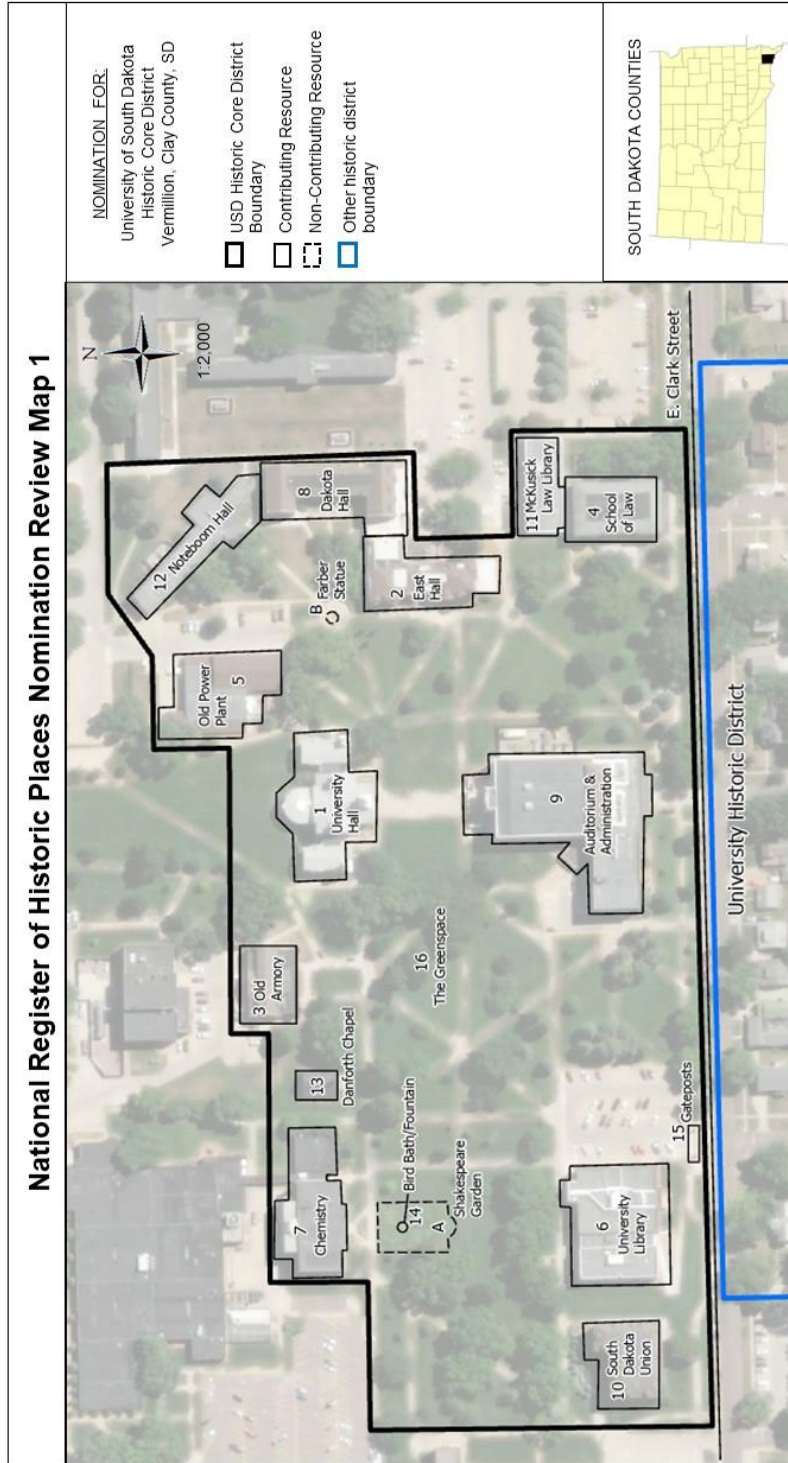


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

University of South Dakota Historic Core District
Name of Property
Clay, South Dakota
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 3

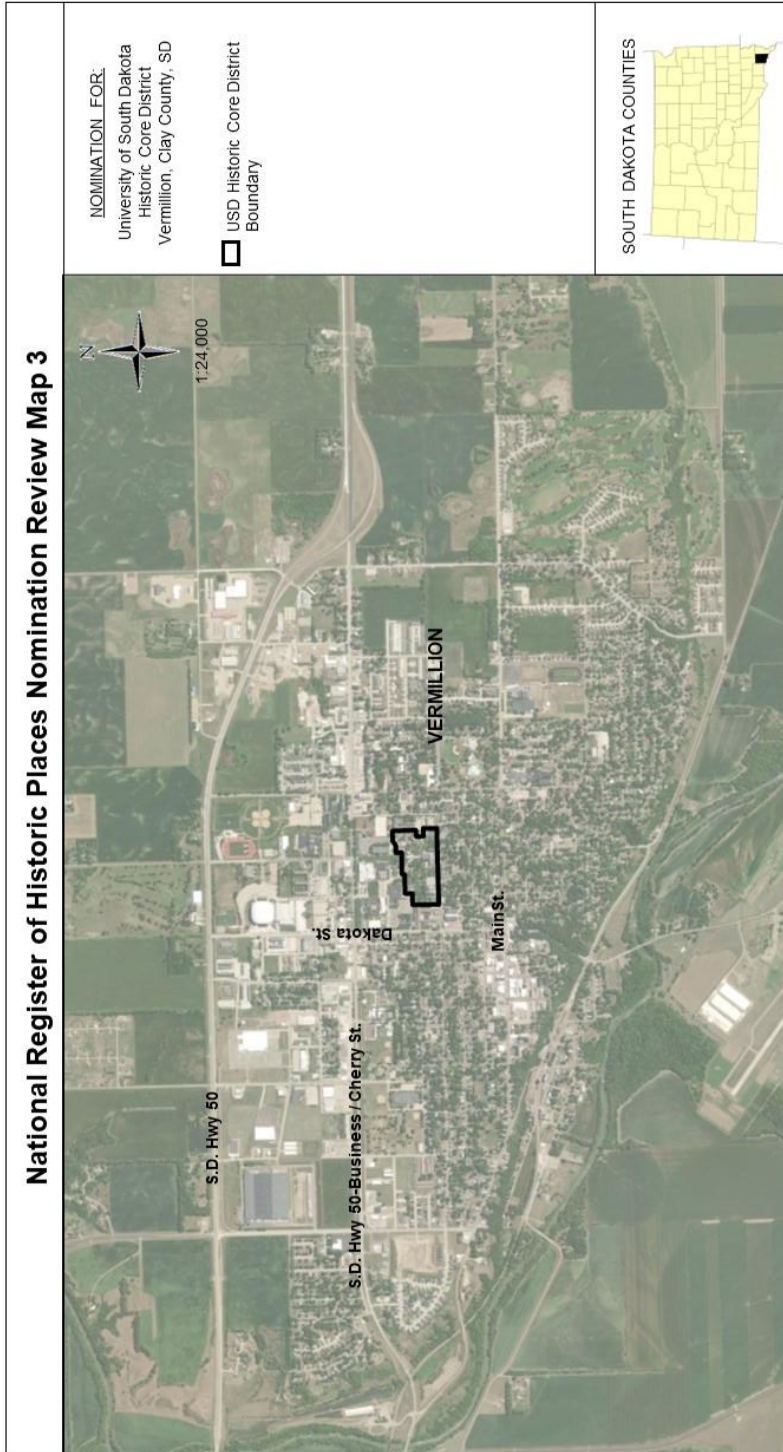


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

University of South Dakota Historic Core District
Name of Property
Clay, South Dakota
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 4



**THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION'S REPORT
FOR UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORIC CORE DISTRICT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

NAME OF CLG (Certified Local Government): Vermillion
DATE OF SDSHS BOARD MEETING: December 13, 2024

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Does the nomination meet the Criteria for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places? Yes No

Has public comment been included? Yes No Explain:

2 COMMISSION MEETINGS INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS.
THE DOCUMENT WAS MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE THROUGH
EMAIL CONTACTS.
CITY COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS IT.

Other recommendations: _____

THE UNIVERSITY IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE.

Checklist:

- The Historic Preservation Commission has filled out the above Report.
- The Historic Preservation Commission has shared and transmitted the above comments to the Chief Elected Official. The Chief Elected Official will mail the above Historic Preservation Commission Report, along with the Chief Elected Official's Report, to the South Dakota State Historical Society, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501.

Signature of Chair: _____

Date: 11/13/24

(Questions about this form may be directed to Historic Preservation Specialist Liz Almlie at (605) 773-6056.)

**THE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORT
FOR UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORIC CORE DISTRICT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

NAME OF CLG (Certified Local Government): Vermillion
DATE OF SDSHS BOARD MEETING: December 13, 2024

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL

Does the nomination meet the Criteria for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places? Yes No

Has public comment been included? Yes No Explain:

The opportunity for public comment on the nomination was
announced at the October 21, 2024 and November 4, 2024
City Council meetings.

Other recommendations: See attached

Checklist:

- The Chief Elected Official has filled out the above Report.
- The Chief Elected Official has received the Historic Preservation Commission's Report.
- The Chief Elected Official will mail the Chief Elected Official's Report and the Historic Preservation Commission's Report to the South Dakota State Historical Society, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501.

Signature of Chief Elected Official:  Date: 11/20/24

(Questions about this form may be directed to Historic Preservation Specialist Liz Almlie at (605) 773-6056.)

Jonathan D. Cole
Mayor, City of Vermillion
25 Center St
Vermillion, SD. 57069

South Dakota State Historical Society
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD. 57501

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to address the recent proposal to nominate a significant portion of the University of South Dakota for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. While I appreciate the intent to honor and preserve our shared history, I must respectfully oppose this recommendation for several reasons.

First and foremost, the University of South Dakota itself neither requested nor supports this designation. As a vital institution of higher learning, the University has been diligently renovating its older buildings with a dual focus on preserving historical integrity and ensuring these spaces meet the modern, practical requirements of an educational environment. A prime example of this thoughtful approach is the recently renovated South Dakota Union Building, which successfully balances historical significance with the needs of a contemporary student body.

Moreover, we must trust in the leadership of the University to continue maintaining and honoring the historical significance of its campus. The University has already demonstrated its commitment to this balance through past projects and proven its ability to integrate respect for history with the demands of a modern educational institution. Placing additional restrictions on the University could inadvertently stifle this thoughtful and effective approach.

Designating a large portion of the campus as a historic district could also impose limitations that might hinder the University's ability to adapt to evolving academic and technological needs. Such restrictions may conflict with the University's mission to provide a dynamic, state-of-the-art learning environment for its students, faculty, and community.

As the Mayor of Vermillion, I deeply value the University's role as an educational and cultural cornerstone of our city. While I strongly support initiatives that celebrate and preserve our history, I believe they must align with the practical and strategic goals of those most directly impacted—in this case, the University of South Dakota.

Thank you for considering this perspective as part of your deliberation process. I would be happy to discuss this matter further or provide additional input.



Sincerely,
Jonathan D. Cole
Mayor, City of Vermillion