



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HISTORIC CONTEXT

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INTRODUCTION

The University of South Dakota Historic Context has been developed to provide a broad overview of the history of the resources built on the USD campus between 1883 and 1975. This context document is designed to be used as a guide for the identification, evaluation and treatment of a particular set of physical elements that exist in and derive significance from the university's historic development. It identifies periods and patterns of development on the campus, which provide the basis for understanding the context in which particular resources exist.

Context-based planning, as developed by the National Park Service for organizing activities for preserving historic resources, is detailed in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Preservation Planning* and is based on the following principles:

- Significant historic properties are unique and irreplaceable
- Preservation must often go forward without complete information
- Planning can be applied at any scale
- History belongs to everyone

Information in this document will aid in planning efforts and decision-making with regards to historic resources related to the University of South Dakota's physical development. As the University continues to develop and expand, historic resources may be at particular peril under development pressures, especially if the historic resources are thought to be expendable or unimportant to the history of the campus. This document helps to identify the historic resources and their significance and may aid in the protections of these resources.

Information presented in this document is the result of research through various records documenting the campus history, including records maintained by the South Dakota State Archives, the South Dakota State Library, the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, the University of South Dakota, and the Vermillion Public Library. An inventory of the campus resources was completed in conjunction with this historic context project (*University of South Dakota Building Inventory*).

The author wishes to stress that this is a working document that will continue to evolve as research and careful consideration dictate. It is intended to address a wide audience from the cultural resource management professional to the layperson interested in researching local history. Readers should note that photographs in this document are labeled by current name, as well as the resource's historic name at the time of construction.

The author also wishes to thank the many people that assisted in this project, including but not limited to the Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission, the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission, and the staff at the USD Archives and Special Collections.

CONTEXT DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION

Context studies are best understood when their boundaries are clearly defined. Generally, these boundaries are defined by three parameters: “theme,” “place,” and “time.” Each of these elements contributes to the context definition and description.

THEME

Defining the “theme” of a context study names *what* is to be studied. The theme of this project is the University of South Dakota main campus. It addresses the development of resources, such as buildings, structures, sites, and objects that were constructed on the campus in Vermillion, South Dakota.

PLACE

Defining the “place” or spatial boundary of a context study describes its geographic limits. The spatial boundary for this project includes the USD main campus located in Vermillion, South Dakota, as defined by university campus maps published in 2023.

TIME

Defining the “time” or temporal boundary of a context study establishes bracketing dates for the period under study. The temporal boundary for this project has been established as the years from 1883 (the date of portions of the oldest surviving resource on campus) and 1975 (which will be the 50-year mark as designated by the National Register of Historic Places at the completion of Phase 2 of this project in 2025). Additionally, two periods of historic significance have been identified within this temporal boundary. The first, 1883 to 1930, corresponds with the development of the historic core area of campus, while the second period, from 1940 to 1975, corresponds with development as a result of funding from the Great Depression’s New Deal Era programs and development following World War II. Each of these periods is defined by the dates of construction of the extant buildings on campus. Resource constructed after 1975 fall into a third category of non-historic.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief historic overview of the University of South Dakota and the development of the campus from 1883 to 1975. It provides a context for understanding and evaluating the physical resources that were developed on the campus during this historic period. It should be noted that this section is intended to provide an overview rather than a comprehensive history of the University and the campus. There are a number of published resources that provide more detailed information about the University's history. Among those resources are two specific books that readers may wish to access for further information. Those books are *The University of South Dakota 1862-1966* by Cedric Cummins (Vermillion, SD: Dakota Press, 1975) and *The University of South Dakota, 1967-1982* by Richmond L. Clow (Vermillion, SD: USD Centennial Project, 1983). Also of interest may be the *Tour of The University of South Dakota's Historic Buildings* publication (Clay County Historic Preservation Commission), which is a guide for a walking tour of the campus. Providing a broader perspective of the history of the City of Vermillion and Clay County, and the University's place in that history, is Herbert S. Schell's book *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past* (Vermillion: The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985).

A BRIEF 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 was established on April 17, 1860.¹ A census conducted in 1862 showed that 256 persons lived in the Vermillion area.²

The creation of Dakota Territory on March 2, 1862 gave stability to the new settlements. The Territorial Legislature authorized the University 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.³ Articles of incorporation for Vermillion were filed that year, and the city was incorporated in 1873.⁴ The population of Vermillion was 714 in 1880.⁵

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.⁶ 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.⁷

¹ "Vermillion Founded," Heritage Notes, Clay County Historical Society, September 3, 2013.

² Herbert S. Schell. *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past* (Vermillion, SD: The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985), 3.

³ Schell, 167.

⁴ City of Vermillion, "Our History." City of Vermillion. http://www.vermillion.us/about_history.aspx.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, "Census of Population and Housing."

⁶ Schell, 27-28.

⁷ Dan Christopherson. *The History of Vermillion, South Dakota Since the Great Flood of 1881* (Vermillion: City of Vermillion, 2007).

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.⁸

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S BEGINNINGS

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. No money was appropriated for a university at that time. 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." And again, no funds were appropriated.⁹

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. 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.

Because the legislature would not meet again until 1883, local citizens decided to establish an educational institution in Vermillion using local resources and then present it to the legislature. On April 30, 1881, a non-profit association, known as "The University of Dakota," was formed with a board of seven trustees, which include four men from Vermillion and three more from other communities in the state. Formal status as a corporation was obtained from the territorial government on May 21, 1881.¹⁰

A vigorous campaign followed and a special county election in March 1882 passed a \$10,000 ten-year bond issue. The vote was nearly two to one in favor of building the university in Vermillion. Work began immediately. A twenty-acre site in the northeastern part of town was selected for the campus; ten acres were donated by Judge Jefferson Kidder and ten acres adjoining this site on the east were purchased from G.B. Bigelow with funds donated by citizens.¹¹ Wallace L. Dow, an architect from Sioux Falls, was retained to design a two-story building made of Sioux quartzite and construction began. 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.¹² Dr. Ephraim Epstein, a minister from Yankton, was hired as the "principal and teacher."

⁸ Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken the Year 1910* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1913), 679.

⁹ Cedric Cummins. *The University of South Dakota 1862-1966* (Vermillion, SD: Dakota Press, 1975), 4-5.

¹⁰ Cummins, 9.

¹¹ Schell, 168.

¹² Cummins, 11.

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.¹³

When the legislature assembled the following January, a 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.” The legislature went on to provide the issuance of \$30,000 in bonds “to pay the costs of completing and furnishing the present building [which became the west wing of University Hall] of the University of Dakota and for constructing and furnishing a main building for the same [which was the center portion of University Hall].”¹⁴ The official transfer 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)

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAMPUS AND THE FIRST BUILDINGS

The university officially opened its first building, referred to as the “West Wing,” on September 18, 1883.¹⁵ Construction was underway on the “main building” (central unit) from 1883 to 1885. This portion of the building opened for fall classes that year. It, like the west wing, was designed by Wallace Dow and was constructed with Sioux quartzite.

The 1885 legislative session 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.

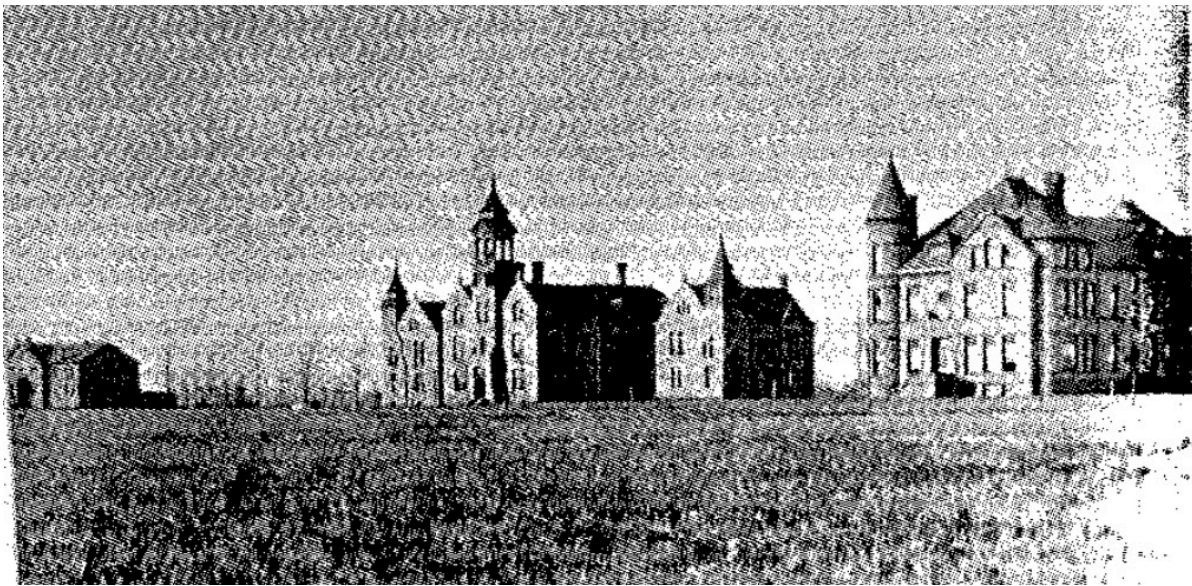
¹³ Schell, 168-169.

¹⁴ Schell, 169.

¹⁵ Schell, 170.

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. 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.¹⁶

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 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*)

The first construction on campus as the "University of South Dakota" and the last construction of the 19th century was necessitated when University Hall was gutted by fire in October 1893. 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 re-construction 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.¹⁷ The building is now called Old Main.

¹⁶ Schell, 171.

¹⁷ Cummins, 52-56.

CAMPUS GROWTH IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY (1900 TO 1930)

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).¹⁸

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 served as the southern edge of campus. Further acquisitions followed, and by 1914, the campus encompassed 62 acres.¹⁹

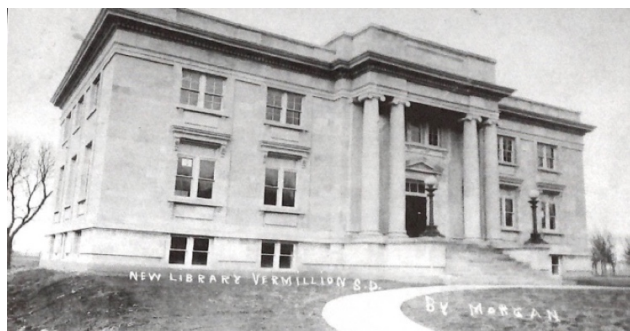
To provide proper facilities as enrollments increased, five new buildings were constructed in thirteen years. Science Hall was constructed in 1902 (demolished in 1958) and housed the new Colleges of Engineering and Medicine. The Armory (now Belbas Center), built in 1905, housed military science and served as the gymnasium. The College of Law was housed in the west wing of University Hall until the new School of Law building (now Arts & Sciences Building) was opened in 1908. In addition to these three new buildings, the university’s Library (now the National Music Museum) was constructed in 1911 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie, and a new Chemistry Building (now Pardee Estee Laboratory) 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 1925. 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)



School of Law (built 1908)
(photo from Coyote Yearbook)



University Carnegie Library (built 1911)
(photo from Clay County Historical Society)



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

¹⁸ Cummins, 82.

¹⁹ Schell, 177.

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 a new power plant and well house (now the Service Center) occurred in 1909 and 1912. The Observatory (demolished) was built in 1917. The Engineering Shops were built in 1918 (demolished in 1975). Dakota Hall was built in 1919.



Dakota Hall, (built 1919)
(photo from Tour of The University of South Dakota's Historic Buildings)



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

The 1920s saw continued construction. In 1924, Inman Field and Stadium were constructed (demolished 1979). A new auditorium (now Aalfs Auditorium) was built in 1925. The New Armory and Gymnasium (now Al Neuharth Media Center) was built in 1929. And the South Dakota Union building was constructed in 1930.

Addition academic divisions were added to the university between 1929 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.²⁰ The Great Depression and World War II, however, created delays in building facilities for the new academic programs.

As a result of the placement of the buildings from the earliest days of the college through 1930, an open greenspace was developed and was known as the Quad. Spaces such as this were common on many college and university campuses. It is unknown how intentional the making of this open greenspace was, as no information has been found about its design. With minor changes, the Quad continues to provide a park-like space and vistas on the south side of campus and is at the center of the earliest buildings built and remaining on campus.

DEVELOPMENT DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND POST-WORLD WAR II (1940 TO 1975)

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 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.²¹

²⁰ Schell, 179.

²¹ Michelle L Dennis, *Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 5.

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. 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.

Building on campus came to a stop after 1930 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.²²

In 1938, the Board of Regents requested Federal relief grants for an addition to the library, completion of the Administration Building, construction of a Medical Arts buildings, a new power plant, a Law Library, and various repair and remodeling projects. Only two projects were funded with Federal relief grants. The first of these was an addition on the rear of the University Carnegie Library (now National Music Museum) in 1940, which was funded in part through a PWA grant. The second as the Administration Building (now Slagle Hall), designed to be cross-section addition to 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 fifth floor were abandoned.²³

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 G.I. Bill to attend college.²⁴ 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.²⁵ Vets' Villa was demolished in 1950, University Park in 1960.



A view of trailers at University Park
in the 1950s

²² Cummins, 203.

²³ Cummins, 215-216.

²⁴ Cummins, 243.

²⁵ Cummins, 245-246.

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 and on the third and fourth floors of the Union building following the war. In addition, single rooms for women in East and Dakota Halls were converted to double rooms to accommodate the growing enrollment of single women.²⁶ The 1949 legislative session appropriated \$500,000 for the construction of Julian Hall, a men's dormitory located on the west side of campus; it was constructed in 1950 and housed 180 men. 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 on the north end of Dakota Hall, which was completed in 1954.²⁷

The 1949 legislature also appropriated funds for academic building improvements and construction. Included was funding for the construction of a new law library (now McKusick Technology Center), 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 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 (now Davidson Hall) started in 1949 and was completed in 1950.²⁸

The 1950s again saw an increase in enrollments and growing needs for student housing. In 1956, four wooden buildings (known as Annexes A, B, C, and D) were moved from Pickstown at Fort Randall Dam to campus to house 96 men. After the construction of Julian Hall Addition in 1958 (which housed 393 men), the annexes were converted to academic and administrative space until they were demolished in the 1960s. Brookman Hall, located at the west side of campus near Julian Hall, was constructed in 1963 (demolished 2022) as housing for men. In addition to the construction of Noteboom Hall for women, Grace Burgess Hall was constructed to house 180 women (completed in 1960) and Eleanor Norton Hall (attached to Burgess via common lounge space) was completed in 1964. The first two co-education dormitories were constructed on the new "North Campus," north of Cherry St., in 1966; they were the Grace L. Beede Hall for women and the George T. Mickelson Hall for men and were considered co-ed by virtue of shared lounge space. A similar complex of dormitories was constructed in 1968. Also located on the North Campus were the Edward Olson and Mabel K. Richardson dormitories.²⁹ These four dormitories, along with The Commons dining facility (1968), served as an anchor at the north side of campus.



Beede & Mickelson Halls (built 1966)
(photo by M. Dennis)



Richardson & Olson Halls (built 1968)
(photo by M. Dennis)

²⁶ Cummins, 246.

²⁷ Cummins, 267-268.

²⁸ Cummins, 268-69.

²⁹ Cummins, 284-285.

Housing for married students continued to be needed as well. To accommodate them, two new complexes with small apartments on the east side of campus were constructed. The first, Cypress Court, was built in 1958. Its companion, Redwood court, was built in 1960. Both have been demolished.

On the academic side of development, the legislature appropriated funds in 1955 for the construction of the School of Business (now Patterson Hall); it was completed in 1957. Appropriations from the 1957 legislature include funds for a renovation of East Hall and a repair of the fire-damaged third floor of the Chemistry Building (Pardee Estee Laboratory). When the old Science Hall was condemned in 1958, there was an immediate need to find adequate facilities for the departments and programs displaced by its closure. The 1959 legislature appropriated funds for the construction of a new Science Center (now Akeley-Lawrence Science Center) and a new research wing for the Medical School. The Science Center was completed in 1962. A new School of Education building (now Delzell Education Center) followed in 1963 and the new I.D. Weeks Library in 1967. And finally, after years of seeking funding for its construction, the Fine Arts building (now Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts) was funded and construction completed in 1973.³⁰



School of Education (built 1963)
(photo by M. Dennis)



I.D. Weeks Library (built 1967)
(photo by M. Dennis)

Two additional buildings to serve student needs were constructed during this time period. The first, constructed in 1954, was the Danforth Chapel. Designed by Harold Brookman, long-term faculty of USD, it was conceived of as an inter-denominational meditation chapel. The chapel was funded in part by a gift from William Danforth of St. Louis. The second building was the new Student Union building. Designed by Harold Spitznagel of Sioux Falls, it was “impressive, expensive and the most utilized” new building of the time. Construction was completed in 1965 at a cost of \$1,324,784 from self-liquidating revenue bonds and accumulated student fees, it was named the Coyote Student Center in 1966 (demolished 2006).³¹

In addition to the several new buildings constructed 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. As part of that plan, a “mall” would be developed on the north-south axis from Old Main 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 vistas, particularly from the north looking south to Old Main.³²

³⁰ Cummins, 287-288.

³¹ Cummins, 289.

³² Clow, Richmond L. Clow, *The University of South Dakota, 1967-1982* (Vermillion, SD: USD Centennial Project, 1983), 6.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1975

Growth and development continued on the University of South Dakota's main campus, sometimes at a variable pace. In addition to the buildings mentioned in the previous section, two more buildings were added to the campus in the late 1970s. These were the Churchill-Haines Laboratory in 1977 and the Dakota Dome in 1979. The impressive Dakota Dome had been planned for a number of years and was one of the first multi-purpose indoor domed athletic facility in the country. The original plans called for a rigid roof, but the expense was so great that the roof was instead built with a soft fiberglass suspended by air pressure. The project cost \$7,850,000 and was completed in 1978. Before USD could accept the final structure, a section of the roof tore and the air suspension roof collapsed. Following re-construction of the roof structure, the building was ready for use in 1979.³³

Building was slow in the 1980s and 1990s. Only two buildings were constructed: the new School of Law (now Knudson School of Law) in 1981 and the W.H. Over Museum in 1984. The only other development of note during this decade was the installation of the Shakespeare Garden located south of the Chemistry Building (Pardee Estee Laboratory) in 1988. There were no new buildings constructed in the 1990s, but the university purchased two existing buildings near campus and renovated them for different uses. The first of these was the Brighton Heights Apartments, which was converted to student housing and renamed McFadden Hall. The second was a doctor's office that became the Wagner Center, the home of the USD Foundation and Alumni Association Offices.

Three substantial additions to the campus were made in the late 2000s. In 2008, students got a new student center building when the Muenster University Center (commonly called the MUC) replaced the Coyote Student Center. Also in 2008, the Lee Medicine and Sciences Building renovations and remodeling was completed and all vestiges of the 1950s building and early additions were erased. In 2009, the School of Business got a new home when Beacom Hall was constructed.

A new, suite-style residence hall, known as Coyote Village, was constructed in 2011 on the north side of campus. Near there, a new Wellness Center was also built that year. Development in the north side of campus continued with the addition of the Sanford Coyote Sports Complex in 2016 and the Lillibridge Track/First Bank and Trust Soccer Complex, also in 2016.

Additions to buildings have been constructed in the past few years. The Health Sciences addition to the Lee Medicine and Sciences Building was completed in 2022. A major addition to the National Music Museum, known as the Lillibridge Addition, was built in 2021-2022. And a substantial addition to the Wellness Center is being constructed in 2023.

NOTE

It should be noted that the university is in ownership of and uses a number of buildings constructed as private homes in neighborhoods adjacent to the university. At least two of these were gifts to the university by the original owners. These are the H.M. Cook House, given to USD in the 1960s, and the Wm. O. Farber House, given to the university after his death in 2007. Both are located on Clark St. A third house on Clark is now used as the Native American Cultural Center; no information about this house has been found. A fourth house, located on the north side of Cherry St., is the Burr House. It is currently used for the International Student Office. The final house is north of the campus and serves as the John T. Vucurevich Children's Center. The house was constructed in 1962; it is not known how long the university has owned and used the house.

³³ Clow, 42-43.

CAMPUS PLANNING

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 are formal, others were informal.

It is likely that the founders and early planners and administrators of the University of South Dakota had visited, or were at least aware of, some of the campuses of America's institutions from the late 18th and early to mid-19th centuries and brought ideas of what a campus should look like with them to Vermillion. That said, however, to date no evidence has been found that indicates that the layout of the original buildings was planned in a cohesive way with intent of design for the long range. The siting of University Hall flanked by West Hall and East Hall was likely a conscious decision, as were the placements of the buildings constructed over the next several years. The historic core generally was arranged in what might be described as a rectangle surrounding an open greenspace (the Quad), although the rectangle is not entirely symmetrical. It does appear certain, however, that those making decisions about the placement of the buildings were interested in preserving the view of the campus, especially Old Main, from the town (that line of view was intact until Slagle Auditorium and the Administration building were constructed). But no attempt to create a cohesive appearance by adopting a specific style of architecture is evidenced. Old Main and East Hall, having been designed by the same architect in the same style and by the use of the same materials creates a 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.

Archival research uncovered evidence of only two comprehensive campus plans that were developed. The first, as part of President Moulton's "beautification program," was developed by the architectural firm of Fritzell, Kroeger, Griffin & Berg from Sioux Falls, in the 1966. 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. None of the plan, however, was ever realized, 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.³⁴

CAMPUS ARCHITECTURAL STYLES AND MATERIALS

The buildings on the University of South Dakota campus include excellent examples of several architectural styles. Included in these styles are examples of Richardsonian Romanesque, Neo-Classical, Gothic Revival, Modernistic, International Style, 20th Century Contemporary and 21st Century Contemporary, as well as examples of architectural styles perhaps best described as Eclectic (where more than one style appears). Unlike some university campuses, the University of South Dakota did not adopt one stylistic application for the

³⁴ Koch Hazard Baltzer Ltd., *Campus Planning and Design Study, University of South Dakota* (Facilities Task Force of the University Planning Committee, 1999).

architecture of its buildings, but rather, it embraced a variety of styles that exemplify the shift in styles that were popular at different periods of time.

Likewise, the materials used for the construction of the campus buildings include several materials and variations of a number of materials. This variety provides for a look with various textures and colors, rather than a uniform appearance, and clearly illustrates the use of various materials through the decades. Some of the materials that were used on the campus 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 (poured, pebbled, and pre-stressed panels).

ARCHITECTS

A number of architects contributed to the design of the USD campus, although the designers of each of the buildings is, of yet, not unknown. Archival research provided the following information and it is hoped that further research will provide the names of additional architects and designers.

The two oldest extant buildings (Old Main and East Hall) were designed by Wallace L. Dow of Sioux Falls. 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. He also designed the “South Dakota Building” for the 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 1894.

Another well-known early architect in the state, Joseph Schwarz of Sioux Falls, contributed to the design of early campus buildings. He was responsible for the design for the old School of Law (now Arts & Sciences Building) completed in 1908, the University’s Carnegie Library (National Music Museum) in 1911, and the Chemistry Building (Pardee Estee Laboratory) in 1914, as well as the additions to East Hall in 1907 and 1911.

The old Armory (Belbas Center) 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. Dakota Hall, completed in 1919, was designed by the firm of Holmes & Finn, also of Minneapolis.

The firm of Perkins & McWayne, also of Sioux Falls, designed the original Slagle Auditorium (now called Aalfs Auditorium), which was completed in 1925. They also designed the Administration Building (attached to the auditorium and now called Slagle Hall), completed in 1944 as a WPA project. The 1930 South Dakota Union building was designed by this firm, as was the McKusick Law Library (now Technology Center) in 1950. After Perkin’s death, McWayne established a partnership with an architect names McLaughlin. They designed the old School of Business building (Patterson Hall) in 1957.

Another Sioux Falls firm, George C. Hugill & Wildred F. Blatherwick, left their mark on USD campus design as well. Included in the buildings they were responsible for is the New Armory & Gymnasium (Al Neuharth Media Center) in 1929, and the 1940 addition to the University’s Carnegie Library. Prior to joining Hugill, Blatherwick worked as a draftsman for the Perkins & McWayne firm. Hugill & Blatherwick’s firm expanded to include W.C. Fritzel and together the firm designed the new Power Plant (Davidson Building) in 1949 and Noteboom Hall in 1954. After Blatherwick’s death in 1960, Jean R. Kroeger joined the firm and eventually firm expanded into Fritzel, Kroeger, Griffin, & Berg. Together, these architects designed the School of Education (now Delzell Education Center) in 1963; Beede Hall and Mickelson Hall in 1966; Olson Hall, Richardson Hall and The

Commons in 1968; the Center for Continuing Education (1973), Churchill-Haines Laboratory (1977), and the Dakota Dome (1979). In addition to these extant resources, the Hugill & Blatherwick firm also designed three buildings that no longer exist, including Julian Hall (1950), the 1959 Julian Hall Addition, and the original Lee Medical Arts & Sciences Center (1953).

Sometimes referred to as South Dakota's foremost 20th Century architect, Harold Spitznagel of Sioux Falls (under the firm names of Harold Spitznagel Architects, Harold Spitznagel & Associates, and The Spitznagel Partners, Inc.) was responsible for the design of some of the buildings on campus. Included are the Science Center (now Akeley-Lawrence Science Center, 1962), the I.D. Weeks Library (1967), and the Warren M Lee Center for Fine Arts (designed by Wally Steele of the Spitznagel firm in 1973). Spitznagel was also responsible for the design of the Coyote Student Center, built in the early 1960s and demolished in 2006 to make room for the new Muenster University Center.

Since 1975, a number of buildings have been added to the campus and several architects have been responsible for their designs. Architects included in recent campus development include Leroy E. Bean & Richard Dempster (Knudson School of Law, 1981); Koch Hazard (Lee Medicine & Sciences Building, 2008); Charles Rose of Somerville, MA (Muenster University Center, 2008, and Beacom Hall, 2009); Ambling University Design Group (Coyote Village, 2011); and Architecture Incorporated (Sanford Coyote Sports Center, 20216).

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC CAMPUS RESOURCES

For the purposes of this document, the historic campus resources have been categorized in accordance with the National Register of Historic Places guidelines. This system identifies significant resources classified as buildings, structures, objects and sites. In addition, properties with large acreage or a number of resources as considered districts. Brief descriptions of each category follow. A master list of campus resources can be found in the appendices.

BUILDINGS

It is important to understand the definitions of the types of historic resources found on the USD campus. In general, “buildings” are created principally to shelter human activity. For the purposes of this study, the buildings on the USD campus have been divided into three categories (in alignment with USD’s categorization of campus buildings): Academic and Administrative Buildings, Residence Halls, and Other Buildings. The buildings are listed in this document according to their *current* names to facilitate ease in locating these buildings on campus maps. It is a typical practice on university campuses for the use of buildings to evolve and change over the years as needs dictate, and often the names of buildings change too. Where appropriate, the historic names and uses of the buildings are also noted. In addition, the listing here is further divided into the two historic time periods called out in the context description: 1883-1930 (the historic core development) and 1940-1975 (the Great Depression and Post World-War II development); development after 1975 is non-historic.

Academic & Administrative Buildings

Historic Academic & Administrative Buildings (1883 to 1930)

- Al Neuharth Media Center (1929; originally the New Armory & Gymnasium building; at one time known as the E.O. Lawrence Telecommunications Center)
- Arts & Sciences Building (1908; originally the School of Law)
- Belbas Center (1905; originally the [old]Armory; also known as the Gymnasium and “the Bastille”)
- Burr House (1913, originally a private residence)
- Cook House (c.1920, originally a private residence)
- Dakota Hall (1919)
- East Hall (1887, 1907, 1911)
- Farber House (1918, originally a private residence)
- National Music Museum (1911; built as the University’s Carnegie Library, subsequently was the Shrine to Music Museum and the W.H. Over Museum; additions in 1940 and 2021)
- Native American Cultural Center (c.1925; built as a private residence)
- Old Main (originally built 1883/1885/1888, burned in 1893 and reconstructed using portions of the 1883 structure; originally called University Hall, later Main Hall)
- Pardee Estee Laboratory (1914; originally called the Chemistry Building)
- Slagle Hall & Aalfs Auditorium (1925, 1944; originally called the Administration Building and Slagle Auditorium)
- South Dakota Union Building (1930; sometimes referred to as the Student Union building)

Historic Academic & Administrative Buildings (1940 to 1975)

Akeley-Lawrence Science Center (1962, originally called Science Center)
Center for Continuing Education (1973; was called the Statewide Education Service Building)
Delzell Education Center (1963; was called School of Education)
I.D. Weeks Library (1967; 1997)
McKusick Technology Center (1950; was the McKusick Law Library)
Noteboom Hall (1954; originally called Charlotte Noteboom Hall)
Patterson Hall (1957; originally called the School of Business)
The Commons (1968)
Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts (1974)

Non-Historic Academic & Administrative Buildings (post-1975)

Beacom Hall (2009)
Churchill-Haines Laboratory (1977)
Dakota Dome (1979)
Knudson School of Law (1981; originally called [new] School of Law)
Lee Medicine & Sciences Building (2008, 2022)
Muenster University Center (2008)
Sanford Coyote Sports Center (2016)
Wagner Center (1995)
Wellness Center (2011, 2023)

Residence Halls

Historic Residence Halls (1940-1975)

Beede Hall and Mickelson Hall (1966)
Burgess Hall (1960)
Norton Hall (1964)
Olson Hall and Richardson Hall (1968)

Non-Historic Residence Halls (post-1975)

Coyote Village (2010)
McFadden Hall (1990)

Other Buildings

Historic Other Buildings (pre-1975)

Danforth Chapel (1954)
Davidson Building (1949, 1970; originally called the [new] Power Plant)
Service Center (1909, 1912; original Power Plant)
The Commons (1968)
John T. Vucurevich Children's Center (1962; originally a private residence)

Non-Historic Other Buildings (post-1975)

Sanford Coyote Sports Center (2016)
W.H. Over Museum (1984)

STRUCTURES AND OBJECTS

In addition to the buildings on campus, there are structures and objects that have been identified and included in the study. “Structures” are distinguished from buildings in that their function is usually for purposes other than creating shelter for human activity. “Objects” are primarily artistic in nature, usually relatively small in scale, and simple in construction. They may be, by nature or design, movable or stationary but are associated with a specific setting or environment.

The Gateposts (c.1930)
Lillibridge Track/Soccer Complex (2016)
Patriots Plaza (2022; includes the Medal of Honor Recipient plaques)

SITES

A “site” is associated with historical activities or patterns of events, and may be the location a designed or natural feature, as well as the location of historically significant buildings, structures and objects (whether extant or not). In addition, designed landscapes and greenspaces can be considered sites.

The Quad (developed as open greenspace between c.1883 and 1930)
The Mall (developed as open greenspace between 1968 and 1976)
Shakespeare Garden (1988)

DISTRICTS

A “district” is a grouping of buildings, structures, objects and/or sites that are united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Districts derive importance from being a unified entity where its buildings, structures, objects and sites can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment or be an arrangement of historically or functionally related resources.

This context study and inventory of campus resources identified two potential historic districts. A discussion about each is included in the Recommendations for Preservation section of this document.

USD BUILDINGS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Two buildings on the main campus are individually listed on the National Register. They are:

- Belbas Center – constructed in 1905 as the Armory; listed in 2002
- Old Main – originally constructed in 1883, it burned in 1893 and was rebuilt 1893-94 (using parts of the 1883 structure); restored in 1994-95; listed in 1973

Under the University's ownership and use, although not located on the main campus, is the Inman House, located at 415 E. Main St. in Vermillion; construction began in 1882, with various additions and alterations over the years; it was listed on the National Register in 1976.

Also, under the University's ownership and use, is the Cook House (constructed in 1930) located at 605 E. Clark St. It was built as a private home in the residential neighborhood just south of the main campus. It is listed as a "Contributing" resource in the University Historic District (1975; revised 2010).

USD RESOURCES NO LONGER EXTANT

There are a number of resources that were constructed on the campus over the years, but which no longer exist. Most were demolished either due to obsolescence and/or the need for the space to build new resources. The following is a list of resources that no longer exist on the campus.

West Hall – constructed in 1883; burned in 1905

Science Hall – constructed in 1901-02; demolished in 1958 (after it was condemned and deemed unsafe for further use)

Engineering Shops – constructed in 1917 and 1918; raised in 1975 to make space for Churchill-Haines Lab

Observatory – constructed in 1917; raised in 1972

Inman Field & Stadium – constructed in 1924; demolished in 1979 to make space for the new Law School Julian Hall (1944) and Julian Hall Annex (1958-59); razed in 2022

Vets Villa and University Park – trailer parks for veterans and their families established in 1946; the Villa was demolished in 1951, the Park demolished in 1960

Tennis courts – constructed in 1947; date of demolition unknown

North Hall – a building moved from Sioux Falls airbase to campus in 1948; razed in 1975

Annexes A, B, C, & D – buildings purchased in 1956 and relocated from Fort Randall Dam; razed

Cypress Court (1958) & Redwood Court (1960) – housing for married students; demolished for parking

Brookman Hall – (1964), demolished in 2022

Coyote Student Center – built in 1965; demolished to make room for the Muenster University Center

Quirk Carillion – completed in 1971; removed in 2006

EVALUATING HISTORIC CAMPUS RESOURCES

Evaluation is the process by which the significance of identified resources is determined within its historic context. Because age alone is insufficient grounds for historic designation, evaluation of historic resources is based on architectural, historical and/or cultural significance. As resources associated within a historic context are surveyed, they were evaluated for significance and classified according to a rating system as either “eligible” or “not eligible” (for consideration for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places) or as either “contributing” or “non-contributing” for potential listing in a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Generally speaking, a resource must be at least 50 years of age to be considered historic. The National Register of Historic Places makes exceptions for “younger” resources, but the exceptions are stringent and based on truly exceptional quality or importance of a resource.

Criteria for evaluation are set forth in the National Register of Historic Places guidelines (see the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*). These criteria address the significance and integrity of historic resources, including buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts.

Significance and integrity, as they pertain to the USD historic context, are discussed in the following sections, as is the process of rating the resources.

SIGNIFICANCE

The National Register criteria recognize that historic resources may have associative value, design or construction value, or informational value. When evaluated within its historic context, a resource must be shown to be significant in at least one of the following areas to be considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register:

Criterion A: Events/Patterns of History

The resource is associated with an event (or events) and/or with a pattern of events or historic trend(s) that has made a significant contribution to the history of a community, the state, or the nation; or

Criterion B: Person(s)

The person(s) associated with the resource is (are) individually significant and made demonstrated contributions to the history of a community, the state, or the nation; and the resource is associated with the person(s)’s productive life, reflecting the time period in which he or she achieved significance; or

Criterion C: Design/Construction

The resource embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and/or the resource represents the work of a master; and/or the resource possesses high artistic value; or the resource represents a significant and distinguished entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion D: Information Potential

The resource has yielded information important to history or prehistory; or the resource may be likely to yield information important to history or prehistory (this criterion is most commonly applied to archaeological sites).

All resources associated with this USD historic context share a common associative attribute in that they were built on the USD main campus in Vermillion for use in the operation of the University (with the exception of those buildings constructed as private properties but which are now under University ownership and usage). The resources evaluated in association with this context were constructed between 1883 (the date of a portion of the oldest surviving building on campus) and 1975 (the National Register's standard for the 50-year cutoff when this project is completed in 2025).

All resources eligible for the National Register under this context will be significant under Criterion A. They are important for their direct association with the development of the University of South Dakota's main campus and are significant in the area of Education. Some of the resources may also be significant in additional areas such as Architecture, Engineering, and Landscape Architecture, as well as others.

There may be some resources also eligible under Criterion B, although the use of this criterion in this context will be rare. To be considered eligible in this context, the resource must be associated with the person's productive life and it must be shown that the person gained importance within his or her profession or group during the periods of significance. The resource must also represent the *most* important property associated with the person, or be the last remaining property associated with that person, to be considered eligible. Resources in this category may be of local, state, or national significance. If the person is an architect, artist or engineer, the property may be eligible under Criterion C.

Resources within this context that clearly embody distinctive characteristics associated with USD development may be considered eligible under Criterion C. Distinctive characteristics include the use of architectural styles and/or building materials associated with the periods of significance. If a resource represents the work of a significant architect, artist, engineer, or builder or possesses high artistic values, it may be eligible under this criterion as outlined in the National Register guidelines.

Resources may also be eligible under Criterion D if it can be demonstrated that they have yielded or are likely to yield information important to history in the context of the University of South Dakota campus development.

Generally speaking, individual resources associated with this context should be considered locally significant. If a specific resource represents the only known example in the state of a particular resource sub-type within a general resource type, or it is one of the few remaining examples of that resource type, it might be considered significant on a state-wide level.

Resources constructed as part of a larger complex generally are evaluated in terms of the broader contexts associated with the complex and are considered districts. An individual resource constructed as part of a complex is not usually considered eligible individually unless it represents a significant example of an architectural style, an engineering or construction method, or the work of a master, or it alone best represents a significant person's productive life.

INTEGRITY AND CONDITION

Integrity is the authenticity of a resource's historic identity, or its intactness of historic form and original construction materials. Integrity is essential to the resource's ability to convey its significance. Alterations, either historic or contemporary, should be examined for compatibility. There must be identifiable evidence in all or some of the seven aspects of integrity (discussed below) for a historic resource to be considered eligible for the National Register. Which aspects must have integrity should be determined on a case-by-case basis, as some aspects are more important in conveying significance than others, depending in part on the resource type.

Condition of a historic resource should not be confused with integrity. Condition is generally defined as "state of repair." A resource can be in poor condition but retain a high degree of integrity. The reverse may be true when a resource is in good condition but may have lost a good deal of its historic integrity. Ideally, a resource will have a high degree of integrity and be in good condition, but it is not necessary for a resource to be in good condition to be considered eligible for the National Register. The use of condition as a criterion for evaluation, however, may be useful when deciding which resources to protect and preserve. Those that are determined to be significant and have a high degree of integrity, but are in poor condition, may be a lower priority for preservation simply for practical reasons.

A resource must possess sufficient integrity to convey its significance within its context. Generally, a resource will possess several, and usually most, of the following aspects of integrity:

(1) *Location*: Because the relationship between a resource and its historic associations is usually destroyed if the resource is moved, it is most desirable that the resource remain in its original location. If the resource has been moved from its original location it must meet Criteria Consideration B for moved properties as indicated in the National Register guidelines.

(2) *Design*: A resource should retain a combination of elements that conveys its original design. These elements may include the form, plan, organization of space, structural systems, technology, materials, and style. Generally, a resource should retain its overall original form and massing. Subsequent additions to resources should be set back so as to not obstruct the original form, should be of a compatible scale, and should not be on the primary façade of a building. Window replacement in buildings may be acceptable if fenestration patterns remain intact; enlargement of window or door openings may render a building ineligible if the alterations significantly change the wall-to-opening ratio. The filling of openings, if the original openings are readable, may be considered on secondary facades only. Original plans and organization of space should be evident, even if the use of the space has changed over time. Original surface materials should remain intact. The type, amount and style of ornamentation must reflect the original design.

(3) *Setting*: The physical environment in which the resource exists should reflect its historic features, including topography, vegetation, simple constructed features, and the relationship between the resource and its surroundings. Natural and created landscape features should be evaluated for significance in relation to the resource.

(4) *Materials*: A resource must retain the key materials dating from the period of its historic significance. If a resource has been rehabilitated, historic materials and significant features must be preserved. A resource whose historic materials have been lost and then reconstructed may be eligible only if it meets Criteria Consideration E for reconstructed properties as indicated in the National Register guidelines.

(5) *Workmanship*: A resource must retain the physical evidence of workmanship.

(6) *Feeling*: A resource should retain sufficient original physical features that, when taken together, convey the resource's historic character. This will generally include the combination of original design, materials, workmanship, and setting. Because feeling depends on individual perceptions, its retention alone is never sufficient to support eligibility for the National Register.

(7) *Association*: To retain association, the direct link between the resource and its association with an important historic event or person must be sufficiently intact to convey that relationship to an observer. Association, like feeling, requires the presence of original physical features that convey the resource's historic character. Because association depends on individual perceptions, its retention alone is never sufficient to support eligibility for the National Register.

CRITERIA FOR RATING

After significance and integrity are evaluated, resources may be rated in relation to their significance, integrity and condition. Rating (or ranking) allows for the determination of a resource's status within a district or as one of several individual resources within a city or county. Although rating criteria may differ from community to community, it will generally include standards of eligibility for local landmarks and local historic districts (where they exist), as well as National Register-eligible resources.

Ratings for individual resources may be divided into "Eligible" and "Ineligible" categories. To be considered eligible, a resource would need to be determined to be significant within its context and retain sufficient integrity to convey that historic significance. For resources within a district setting, each resource may be rated for its potential to contribute to the district's significance. Those that are determined to retain a high degree of integrity and can convey the historic significance of the district may be listed as "Contributing" while those resources that have been altered or remodeled in ways that have compromised their historic integrity would be listed as "Non-Contributing" in the district. Non-historic resources also would be listed as "Non-Contributing."

Some communities have developed their own rating or ranking systems to assist them in determining the relative importance of their historic resources. It is recommended that in evaluating resources associated with this context, that local jurisdictions be contacted to determine if a local system exists for the purposes of rating or ranking resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVATION

The primary purpose of this study was to identify and evaluate resources on the main campus of the University of South Dakota for potential listing on the National Register of Historic Places. With this in mind, two approaches to National Register listing were considered.

The first approach would be to list individual buildings on the National Register. To be eligible for individual listing, a resource would not only have to meet the criteria for age and significance, but have to meet a threshold for integrity of design, materials and workmanship of **both** exterior **and** interiors of the buildings, as well as the other areas of integrity noted in that section of this document. If the exterior of a building is of such exceptional quality and significance, the threshold for the interior integrity may be lessened to some degree. While there may be some allowances for alterations over time, the resource would have to clearly demonstrate its association with the significance of its period of development within the University of South Dakota context.

With regards to this approach, there are very few buildings that might warrant individual listing on the campus (in addition to those already listed), in part due to loss of interior historic integrity through the years, as a result of renovations on the interiors or a series of exterior alterations and additions. In each case, a thorough evaluation of the interiors would need to be undertaken in order to determine individual eligibility (interiors of buildings were not assessed as part of this project). Seven buildings identified in this project that might be potentially individually eligible (depending on further evaluation) are:

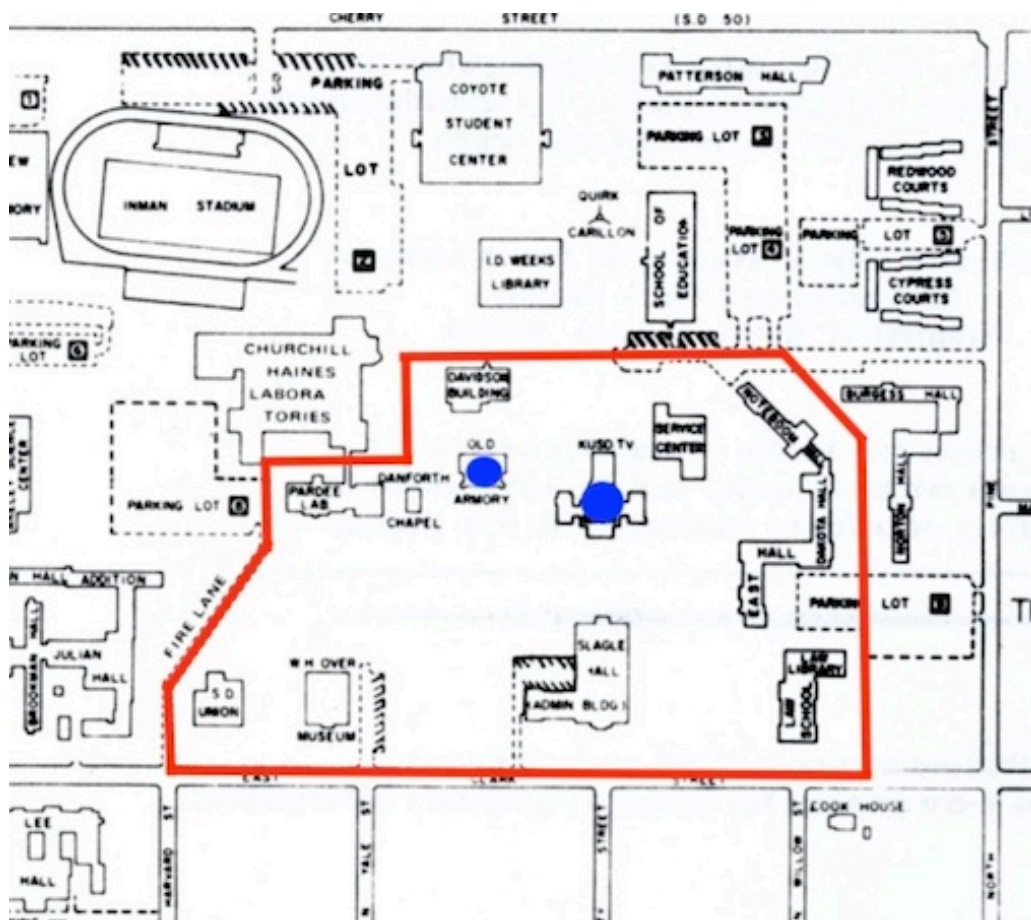
- East Hall – the oldest surviving intact building from the university’s early development; has exceptional architectural qualities; in continual use since its construction
- Danforth Chapel – essentially unchanged since its construction; excellent example of ecclesiastical architecture on a university campus and one of few gifts in SD from the Danforth Foundation
- Arts & Sciences – may be significant for architecture, possibly significant as first law school
- National Music Museum – has been determined eligible (by the SD State Historic Preservation Office); recent addition was done sensitively with regards to the historic building; another example of early 20th century architecture, is associated with Carnegie libraries, and is associated with projects funded by the Public Works Administration during the Great Depression (the first addition)
- Dakota Hall – has been somewhat altered, but a good example of early 20th century architecture on the campus
- Pardee Estee Laboratory – excellent example of early 20th century architecture on the campus; interior has been altered (following 1957 fire and remodeled in 2010)
- South Dakota Union Building – good example of architecture, associated with the student-led and funded construction of a student union building on the campus; the interior has been remodeled twice and may have diminished integrity

The second approach to National Register listings would be to designate a historic district. As described in the Identification of Historic Campus Resources section of this document, a “district” is a grouping of buildings, structures, objects and/or sites that are united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Districts derive importance from being a unified entity where its buildings, structures, objects and sites can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment or be an arrangement of historically or functionally related resources. Districts, unlike individually listed resources, focus on exteriors only of buildings when evaluating whether or not they are considered “Contributing” or “Non-Contributing.”

This context study and inventory of campus resources identified two possible options to historic districts (see maps on the following pages and resource lists in the appendices).

DISTRICT OPTION #1: HISTORIC CORE DISTRICT

The first option would be to create a district that encompasses the historic core of the campus, where the initial development and construction occurred. This district would align with the first period of significance identified in the historic context, which is from 1883 to 1930 (the extant construction prior to the Great Depression). It is centered around the Quad and would include 10 of the 11 buildings from this time period (the Al Neuharth Media Center dates to this time period but is located outside of the proposed boundaries), plus the Quad and the Gateposts. Also located within the proposed boundary would be four buildings from the second period of significance, which is from 1940 to 1975. All of these resources would be considered “Contributing” in this historic district. There is only one resource (the 1988 Shakespeare Garden) located within these boundaries that would be considered “Non-Contributing.”

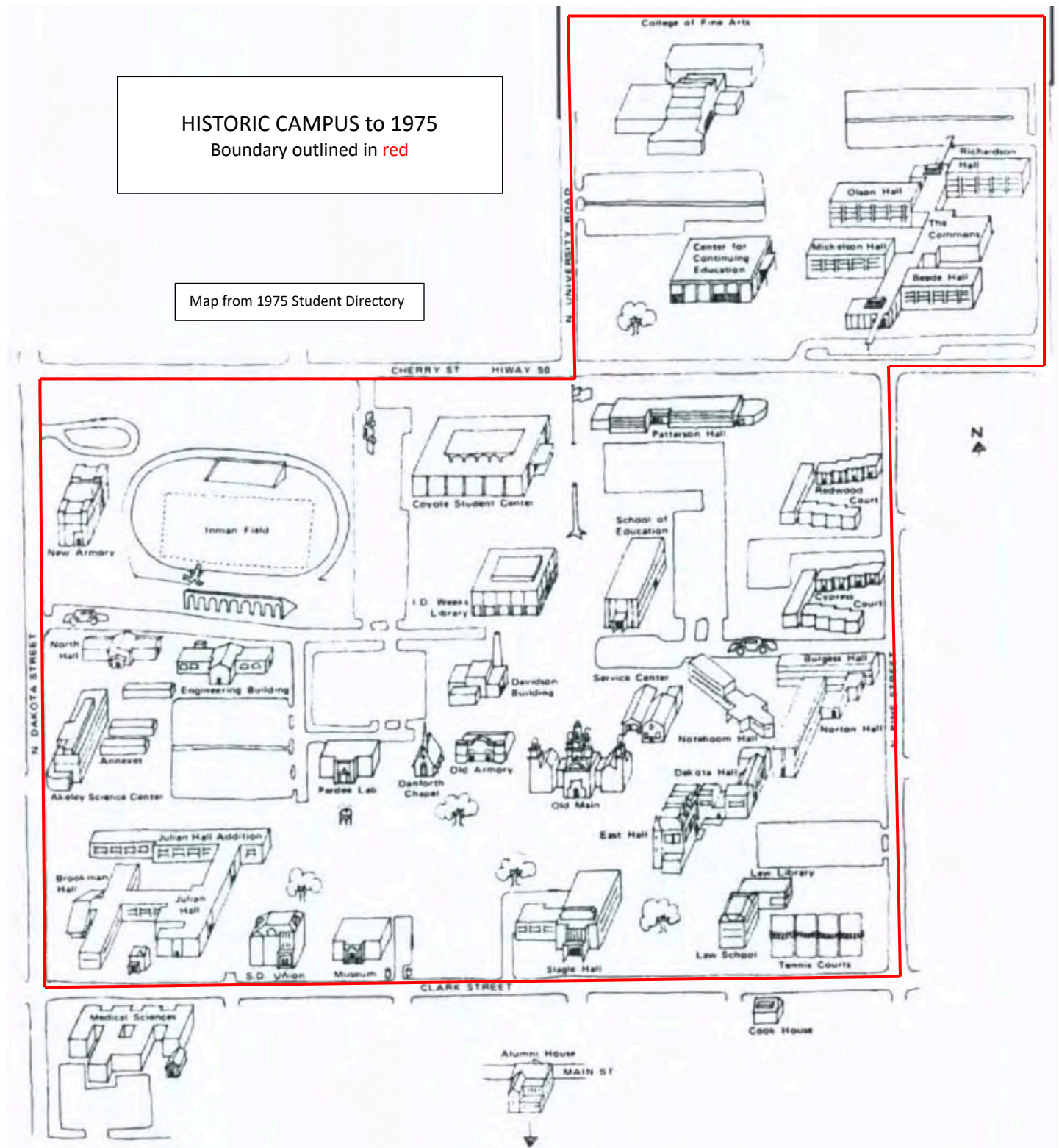


(Map from USD Undergrad Catalog 1979-80)

Proposed Historic Core of Campus District
(outlined in red; blue dots indicate resources already listed on the National Register)

DISTRICT OPTION #2: HISTORIC CAMPUS TO 1975

The second option to district listing would be a much larger district that essentially corresponds with the campus as it existed in 1975. It would encompass all the extant resources within the boundary as outlined in red on the map below. This district would include all the resources within the historic core district (above) plus 14 additional “Contributing” buildings, one “Contributing” site (the Mall), four “Non-Contributing” buildings (those within the boundary that were constructed after 1975), and one “Non-Contributing” site (Patriots Plaza).



CONCLUSION

The *University of South Dakota Historic Context* study examined the history and development of the resources on the main campus of the university, located in Vermillion. The *University of South Dakota Building Inventory* was created as a companion document in which all of the extant resources on the campus (based on 2023 maps) were documented.

The study illuminated a substantial concentration of resources on campus that are considered historic and are associated with two periods of development. The first period, from 1883 to 1930, illustrates the initial development and subsequent upbuilding prior to the Great Depression. The second period, from 1940 to 1975, includes building additions funded in part by the Public Works Administration and the Works Projects Administration, part of the relief programs created during the Great Depression, through the extensive development following World War II in the 1940s and followed by continued growth in the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s.

An assessment and evaluation of the resources identified a handful of individual historic buildings that might be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Further evaluation of each would need to be undertaken to confirm their eligibility.

The resources were also evaluated as “groupings” to determine potential historic districts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. To that end, two potential historic districts were identified. The first district is the Historic Core of the campus; the second larger district, would encompass all of the development that existed on the campus by 1975. Descriptions of each of these potential districts, along with maps that identify suggested district boundaries, is included in the “Recommendations for Preservation” section of this document.

In addition to providing information for use in future National Register projects, this document and its companion inventory may be useful to the Vermillion Historic Preservation Commission in their continued efforts to identify, acknowledge the significance of, and protect the community's resources.

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APPENDIX A: **USD CAMPUS RESOURCES – MASTER LIST OF RESOURCES** (alphabetically)

Current Name	Historic Name	Date of Construction	Rating
Akeley-Lawrence Science Center	Science Center	1962	C
Al Neuharth Media Center	New Armory Y& Gymnasium	1929	C
Arts & Sciences Building	Law School	1907	C
Beacom Hall	Beacom Hall	2009	NC
Beede Hall	Beede Hall	1966	C
Belbas Center	Armory & Gymnasium	1905	NR Listed
Burgess Hall	Burgess Hall	1960	C
Burr House	Private residence	1913	C
Center for Continuing Education	Statewide Education Services	1973	C
Churchill-Haines Laboratory	Churchill-Haines Laboratory	1977	NC
Cook House	Private residence	c.1920	NR listed (C)
Coyote Village	Coyote Village	2011	NC
Dakota Dome	Dakota Dome	1979	NC
Dakota Hall	Dakota Hall	1919/1946	C
Danforth Chapel	Danforth Chapel	1954	C
Davidson Building	Power Plant (new)	1949/1970	C
Delzell Education Center	Education Hall	1963	C
East Hall	East Hall	1887/1907/1911	C/Ind. Eligible
Farber House	Farber House	1918	NC
I.D. Weeks Library	I.D. Weeks Library	1967/1997	C
John T. Vucurevich Children's Center	Private residence	1962	NC
Knudson School of Law	School of Law	1981	NC
Lee Medicine & Science Building	Medical School	2008/2022	NC
Lillibridge Track/Soccer Complex	Lillibridge Track/Soccer Complex	2016	NC
McFadden Hall	Brighton Heights Apartments	1990	NC
McKusick Technology Center	McKusick Law Library	1950	C
Mickelson Hall	Mickelson Hall	1966	C
Muenster University Center (MUC)	Muenster University Center	2008	NC
National Music Museum	University Library	1911/1940/2022	C
Native American Cultural Center	Private home	1925	NC
Norton Hall	Norton Hall	1964	C
Noteboom Hall	Noteboom Hall	1954	C
Old Main	University Hall, Main Hall	1883/1894	NR Listed
Olson Hall	Olson Hall	1968	C
Pardee Estee Laboratory	Chemistry Building	1914	C
Patterson Hall	School of Business	1957	C
Patriots Plaza	Patriots Plaza	2022	NC
Richardson Hall	Richardson Hall	1968	C
Sanford Coyote Sports Complex	Sanford Coyote Sports Complex	2016	NC
Service Center	Power Plant (old); Physical Plant	1909/1912	C
Shakespeare Garden	Shakespeare Garden	1988	NC
Slagle Hall/Aalfs Auditorium	Administration Bldg/Slagle Auditorium	1925/1944	C
South Dakota Union Building	Student Union Building	1930	C
The Commons	The Commons	1968	C
The Gateposts	The Gateposts	c.1930	C
The Mall	The Mall	c.1970s	C
The Quad	The Quad	188-1930	C
Wagner Center	Private doctor's office	1995	NC
Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts	Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts	1973	C
Wellness Center	Wellness Center	2011/2023	NC
W.H. Over Museum	W.H. Over Museum	1984	NC

APPENDIX B: USD CAMPUS RESOURCES – EXTANT RESOURCES BY DEVELOPMENT PERIOD/DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1883 – 1930 [17 resources remain from this period of development; 12 of them form the historic core of campus, one (Neuharth Media Center) is associated with campus development during this time period but is located outside the historic core; four others (noted with *asterisks*) were constructed adjacent to the campus as private residences and are not associated with the historic development of campus but are noted here because they are now owned and used by the University].

1883/1894 Old Main	1919 Dakota Hall
1887 East Hall	c.1920 Cook House*
1905 Belbas Center	1925 Slagle Hall & Aalfs Auditorium
1908 Arts & Sciences	1925 Native American Cultural Center*
1909 Service Center	1929 Al Neuharth Media Center
1911 National Music Museum	1930 South Dakota Union Building
1913 Burr House*	c.1930 The Gateposts
1914 Pardee Estee Laboratory	1883-1930 The Quad
1918 Farber House*	

1940 – 1975 [18 resources remain from this period of development; one of these (noted with *) was constructed adjacent to the campus as a private residence and is not associated with the historic development of campus]

1949 Davidson Building	1964 Norton Hall
1950 McCusick Tech Center	1966 Beede & Mickelson Halls
1954 Danforth Chapel	1967 I. D. Weeks Library
1954 Noteboom Hall	1968 Olson & Richardson Halls
1957 Patterson Hall	1968 The Commons
1960 Burgess Hall	1973 Center for Continuing Education
1962 Akeley-Lawrence Science Center	1973 Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts
1962 Vucurecich Children's Center*	1970s The Mall
1963 Delzell Education Center	

1975 – 2024 [15 resources exist from this time period]

1977 Churchill-Haines Laboratory	2008 Muenster University Center
1979 Dakota Dome	2009 Beacom Hall
1981 Knudson School of Law	2011 Coyote Village
1984 W.H. Over Museum	2011 Wellness Center
1988 Shakespeare Garden	2016 Sanford Coyote Sports Center
1990 McFadden Hall	2016 Lillibridge Track/Soccer Complex
1995 Wagner Center	2022 Patriots Plaza
2008 Lee Medicine & Science Building	

APPENDIX C: **HISTORIC CORE DISTRICT RESOURCES** (listed alphabetically)

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date Built</u>	<u>Rating within District</u>
Arts & Sciences	1908	Contributing
Belbas Center	1905	Contributing (NR listed)
Dakota Hall	1919	Contributing
Danforth Chapel	1954	Contributing
Davidson Building	1949	Contributing
East Hall	1887	Contributing
McCusick Technology Center	1950	Contributing
National Music Museum	1911	Contributing
Noteboom Hall	1954	Contributing
Old Main	1883/1894	Contributing (NR listed)
Pardee Estee Laboratory	1914	Contributing
Service Center	1909	Contributing
Shakespeare Garden	1988	Non-Contributing
Slagle Hall & Aalfs Auditorium	1925/1944	Contributing
South Dakota Union Building	1930	Contributing
The Gateposts	c.1930	Contributing
The Quad	1883-1930	Contributing

APPENDIX D: **HISTORIC CORE DISTRICT RESOURCES** (listed by date of construction)

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date Built</u>	<u>Rating within District</u>
Old Main	1883/1894	Contributing (NR listed)
East Hall	1887	Contributing
Belbas Center	1905	Contributing (NR listed)
Arts & Sciences	1908	Contributing
Service Center	1909	Contributing
National Music Museum	1911	Contributing
Pardee Estee Laboratory	1914	Contributing
Dakota Hall	1919	Contributing
Slagle Hall & Aalfs Auditorium	1925/1944	Contributing
South Dakota Union Building	1930	Contributing
The Gateposts	c.1930	Contributing
The Quad	1883-1930	Contributing
Davidson Building	1949	Contributing
McCusick Technology Center	1950	Contributing
Danforth Chapel	1954	Contributing
Noteboom Hall	1954	Contributing
Shakespeare Garden	1988	Non-Contributing

APPENDIX E: **HISTORIC CAMPUS TO 1975 DISTRICT RESOURCES** (listed alphabetically)

Name of Resource	Date Built	Rating within District
Akeley-Lawrence Science Center	1962	Contributing
Al Neuharth Media Center	1929	Contributing
Arts & Sciences	1908	Contributing
Beacom Hall	2009	Non-Contributing
Beede & Mickelson Halls	1966	Contributing
Belbas Center	1905	Contributing (NR listed)
Burgess Hall	1960	Contributing
Center for Continuing Education	1973	Contributing
Churchill-Haines Laboratory	1977	Non-Contributing
Dakota Hall	1919	Contributing
Danforth Chapel	1954	Contributing
Davidson Building	1949	Contributing
Delzell Education Center	1963	Contributing
East Hall	1887	Contributing
I.D. Weeks Library	1967	Contributing
Knudson School of Law	1981	Non-Contributing
McCusick Technology Center	1950	Contributing
Muenster University Center	2008	Non-Contributing
National Music Museum	1911	Contributing
Norton Hall	1964	Contributing
Noteboom Hall	1954	Contributing
Old Main	1883/1894	Contributing (NR listed)
Olson & Richardson Halls	1968	Contributing
Pardee Estee Laboratory	1914	Contributing
Patriots Plaza	2022	Non-Contributing
Patterson Hall	1957	Contributing
Service Center	1909	Contributing
Shakespeare Garden	1988	Non-Contributing
Slagle Hall & Aalfs Auditorium	1925/1944	Contributing
South Dakota Union Building	1930	Contributing
The Gateposts	c.1930	Contributing
The Commons	1968	Contributing
The Mall	1970s	Contributing
The Quad	1883-1930	Contributing
Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts	1974	Contributing

APPENDIX F: **USD HISTORIC CAMPUS TO 1975 DISTRICT** (listed by date of construction)

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date Built</u>	<u>Rating within District</u>
<i>Resources from the First Period of Significance (1883-1930)</i>		
Old Main	1883/1894	Contributing (NR listed)
East Hall	1887	Contributing
Belbas Center	1905	Contributing (NR listed)
Arts & Sciences	1908	Contributing
Service Center	1909	Contributing
National Music Museum	1911	Contributing
Pardee Estee Laboratory	1914	Contributing
Dakota Hall	1919	Contributing
Slagle Hall & Aalfs Auditorium	1925/1944	Contributing
Al Neuharth Media Center	1929	Contributing
South Dakota Union Building	1930	Contributing
The Gateposts	c.1930	Contributing
The Quad	1883-1930	Contributing
<i>Resources from the Second Period of Significance (1946-1975)</i>		
Davidson Building	1949	Contributing
McCusick Technology Center	1950	Contributing
Danforth Chapel	1954	Contributing
Noteboom Hall	1954	Contributing
Patterson Hall	1957	Contributing
Burgess Hall	1960	Contributing
Akeley-Lawrence Science Center	1962	Contributing
Delzell Education Center	1963	Contributing
Norton Hall	1964	Contributing
Beede & Mickelson Halls	1966	Contributing
I.D. Weeks Library	1967	Contributing
Olson & Richardson Halls	1968	Contributing
The Commons	1968	Contributing
Center for Continuing Education	1973	Contributing
Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts	1974	Contributing
The Mall	1970s	Contributing
<i>Resources Built Post-1975</i>		
Churchill-Haines Laboratory	1977	Non-Contributing
Knudson School of Law	1981	Non-Contributing
Muenster University Center	2008	Non-Contributing
Beacom Hall	2009	Non-Contributing
Shakespeare Garden	1988	Non-Contributing
Patriots Plaza	2022	Non-Contributing