

Joint Newsletter of the
**CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, W. H. OVER MUSEUM,
 AND CLAY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Clay County, Vermillion, South Dakota

Spring 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clay County Historical Society (CCHS)
 Wess Pravecek, Executive Director
 15 Austin Street, Vermillion, SD 57069
 605-624-8266
 claycohistory@yahoo.com
 Website: cchssd.org

W. H. Over Museum
 Maxine Jonson, President/Event Chair
 1110 N. University (Physical Address)
 414 E. Clark Street (Mailing address)
 Vermillion, SD 57069
 605-659-6151
 whover@usd.edu
 Website: whovermuseum.org

Clay County Historical Preservation Commission (CCHPC)
 Jim Wilson, Chair
 211 West Main Street, Suite 102
 Vermillion, SD 57069
 605-920-6247
 whitewilson@msn.com
 Website: cchpc.org

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CCHS Annual Meeting April 12

The CCHS fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31. We will hold our Annual Meeting on Thursday evening April 12, beginning at 6:00 pm with the business meeting followed by a very unique program at 7:00 pm at the Austin-Whittemore House. Tom Sorensen will present information about his recent book detailing the history of the Vermillion Fire Department. Coffee and goodies will be served.

With the completion of the accessible ramp into the Austin-Whittemore House in 2017, we will now focus our effort to provide a main floor restroom! This house had no indoor plumbing when built in 1882, and as times have changed we strive to maintain its historic integrity while updating our charming home.

This spring we will break ground to construct a historically correct addition on the northwest corner of the house for an accessible bathroom and

additional storage. Thank you sincerely to Dakota Hospital Foundation for awarding CCHS a \$2,000 seed money grant to kick off this ambitious project! We are anxiously anticipating the “first flush” by fall 2018!

The following is interesting historical information taken from old newspaper files at the Austin-Whittemore House:

The Vermillion Civic Federation, headed by C.E. Prentis, had over 100 members in 1896-including nearly every local businessman. The group continued its uncompromising stand against licensed saloons, and began to show an increasing interest in the community’s physical appearance. There was growing popular support for park and street improvements.

The Civic Improvement League formed during the early 1900’s and was headed by Dean Thomas Sterling of the University School of Law. They were

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Dakota Hospital Foundation representative Linda Kogel (second from the right) presents a check to the Clay County Historical Society. Also pictured are (Left to Right) Gloria Hensley, Dan Christopherson, and Wess Pravecek.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

definitely committed to support of the temperance movement and were successful in defeating every proposal that came up for the licensing of saloons. They also drew attention to the town's laxness in enforcing its curfew ordinance.

In the spring of 1903, Mayor W.C. Bryant (a member of the Improvement League) announced strict enforcement of the curfew law, which required all minors under sixteen to stay off the streets after nine pm. As part of the enforcement program, the City Council created the position of Police Matron, to which Mayor Bryant appointed Mrs. Edward D. Brookman. Her position included the power to make arrests.

Plans were also underway for the further development of Austin Park. The grounds comprised an entire block lying between Clark, Dartmouth, High and Washington Streets which had been deeded to the City in 1893 by Rachel Ross Austin as a memorial to her husband Horace J. Austin. The square remained a park in name only until spring 1905, when concerted efforts were made by some of the town's leading women to improve the grounds.

Hitching posts that lined both sides of Main Street also became a concern for those interested in making the town more attractive. Agitation for their removal began in May 1903 with the Improvement League in full support. Strong opposition to the removal led by A.E. Lee in September 1906 halted the proposed City ordinance indefinitely.

I am very proud of the folks who serve on our board of directors and work so hard to continue the legacy of CCHS and the Austin-Whittemore House. Also thanks to Wess Pravecek, our executive director, for consistently going above and beyond to ensure that we have a fun and exciting environment in which to bring people together to preserve and study our area history!

We are able to continue to operate because of your membership dues and the support of our yearly projects. Annual membership dues are renewable on April first. Thank you for your fantastic and continuing support!

Historically yours,
Dan Christopherson
CCHS President

From the Desk of the Clay County Historical Society

On December 20, 1968, Helen (Pansy) Austin Whittemore passed away and with her passing, the beautiful house that had been built by and for her family in 1882, lost its last family inhabitant. It was indeed a sad time. There was a period of time that it seemed this house would never be home to anyone again. Luckily there were Clay county citizens who recognized the value of saving this historic house that had ties to the Civil War, the development of Dakota Territory, not to mention the work that goes into building and rebuilding a community that flood and fire couldn't destroy. By 1969 the newly organized Clay County Historical Society was enthusiastically working on membership growth and FUNDRAISING. Armed with a mimeograph machine and a phone book with mailing addresses of everyone in the county, this group was inviting everyone to become a part of a group that would bring this beautiful house back to life again. This spirit of energy and interest of what has been and what can be still lives on here at the Austin-Whittemore House. I am humbled every time I walk through the A-W house doors and am excited to be part of a community that continues to support and learn from and about the county of Clay. With our annual CCHS meeting and membership drive coming up soon, I thought it was important to mention where it all began.

The weather outside may have been frightful the last couple of months, but we continue to have interested visitors touring the house. The USD School of Education Social Studies class is once again working on researching Fallen Heroes from Clay County. Dr. Jing Williams, who is a CCHS member, sees the value of the resources that the Austin-Whittemore House has to offer, as these students seek out information on the lives of these fallen heroes, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Dr. David Burrow, USD Associate Professor of History, has had students researching prohibition in Clay County. That was an interesting topic! I also had 20+ OLLI visitors come to hear more about CCHS and the history of the A-W House. It was great fun having this group of lifelong learners come to expand their horizons with us!

Please remember that this house that is filled with history, is also a place that is available for hosting events. The 2018 calendar already has dates scheduled for service group meetings, a bridal shower, a graduation reception, a summer wedding in the gazebo, as well as the other events that are mentioned in this newsletter. Thanks for your support and interest! The house lives on.....

Wess Pravecek
Executive Director



CCHS INFORMATION

Address: Clay County Historical Society,
15 Austin St, Vermillion, SD 57069.
phone: 605-624-8266
web page: cchssd.org
email: claycohistory@yahoo.com
We are on Facebook – Search for
Clay County Historical Society
Vermillion South Dakota

The Austin Whittemore House is open:
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10am-2pm.

A-W is available for family gatherings,
meetings, class reunions, weddings,
showers, business meetings, etc.,
call 624-8266 to schedule.

Upcoming events, quarterly newsletter
and monthly minutes are published on
the CCHS web page. CCHS website
also has a list of pictorial books and
maps of Vermillion and the Clay County
area for sale.

Membership: Individual \$25,
Institutional \$75, Family \$40,
Life Member \$250

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE April 1, 2018

CCHS Elected Board of Directors:
April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018
President Dan Christopherson,
Vice President Gloria Hensley,
Recording Secretary Lisa Johnson,
Membership Secretary Ruth Bylander,
Treasurer Joni Freidel,
Past President Maxine Johnson,
Lifetime Director Ann Serverson,
Directors; Erin Burrow, Barb Campbell,
Kevin Jacobson, Art Rusch,
Judy Sullivan, Marvin Walz

Appointed Positions
Executive Director Wess Pravecek,
CCHPC Representative Jim Stone

CCHS Events

The CCHS Board appreciates the great support from all of you in our 2017 events. The annual “Christmas Tour of Homes” was a huge success Friday, December 1, 2017. We had the best participation in over 25 years which helps to support the Austin-Whittemore House.

2018 Events

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, the CCHS Board will host and prepare a luncheon for the Clay County Commissioners at the Austin-Whittemore House. We want to say thanks for their continued support.

Saturday, April 7, 2018, Board members Judy Sullivan and Gloria Hensley will host “Pansy’s Table” on behalf of the CCHS Board for the annual ESA Tour of Tables. Benefits from the event go to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. The ESA ladies have always been generous with their time by assisting the CCHS events, so we are happy to do this for them. The dishes to be used, belonged to Helen “Pansy” Whittemore. Her granddaughters, Priscilla All and Barbara Humpert, traveled from Kansas to return the dishes to their original home-the Austin Whittemore House. The dishes are Foley Art, hand painted china, Peacock design Pottery from England, the 1910 period. The designer was also referred to as Mr. Peacock. They feature an art nouveau style, Scottish thistle motif and minty teal blue with olive green accents, on a bone white back drop.

Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 5:30, will be the CCHS Annual Board of Directors meeting at the Austin-Whittemore House. Tom Sorensen will be the featured speaker following our business meeting. He will discuss his new book “Courting ‘Old Betsy’ . . . and Taking her Home.”

Thursday, June 21, 2018, from 5-7, is the CCHS Annual Ice Cream Social on the grounds of the A-W house, rain location is the Eagles. Taverns, chips, beverages and assorted desserts with ice cream will be served.

Music Mondays are back again for June, July and August, from 7:00-8:30, on the grounds of the A-W House. You bring your chair or blanket and we will provide the music from a local band and plenty of popcorn. Watch for the dates.

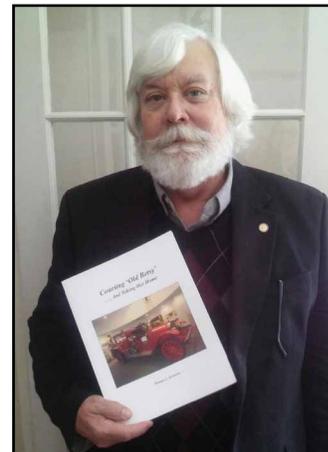
CCHS will have their annual “rummage” fund raiser at the A-W House. Watch for details and date later.

In October CCHS is planning a new event called “Historic Cemetery Tour”. All plans are not in place but watch for details this fall. It will be fun and full of history.

The CCHS Annual Christmas Tour of Homes will be held Friday, December 7, 2018, from 4:30-7:30, with the reception at the Austin-Whittemore House, starting at 5:00. Our annual “Sweets and Treats” fund raiser at the Austin-Whittemore House will be Saturday, December 15, 2018, from 10-1.

We hope to see all of you at our 2018 upcoming events and thank you for your continued support. There may be some additional events in 2018 and we will advertise these events when they come up.

Gloria Hensley
CCHS Vice President



*Tom Sorensen, author of
Courting Old Betsy and
Taking Her Home*

135th Year Anniversary and Events Coming Up at the W.H. Over Museum

This year marks the 135th anniversary of the Museum founded in 1883 as part of the University of Dakota. The first exhibits housed in “cabinets” were also utilized in zoology and mineralogy classes in the Main Hall. When that structure burnt down in 1893 many of taxidermy animals were lost and replaced by specimens purchased at the World’s Fair in Chicago. The Museum moved times in its long history going first to Science Hall built in 1902, to the basement of the Administration Hall (Slagle Hall), to the Carnegie Library, and finally to its current home on Taylor Street. The most famous director of the Museum was William Henry Over who acted as assistant director and then director of the Museum from 1913 until 1948. His remarkable contributions in archeology, botany, zoology, and anthropology helped elevate the size and diversity of items that the Museum collected. Because of his excellent leadership and scholarship, he received an honorary doctorate and the Museum was named after him in 1949. Much has changed from Over’s time, including the running of the



William Henry Over

Museum which is now in the capable hands of the Friends of the W. H. Over Museum, taking over that role in 1997. The Museum contains collections that belong to the State and to the Friends. Currently, the City of Vermillion owns the building and the Board of Regents owns the land. It is fortunate for students at USD and those in grades K-12, Vermillion, and South Dakota, that the Friends conserved this remarkable collection for education, research, and preservation of the history of South Dakota. In the past year about 10 new exhibits were constructed. Please come and see the Old-New Museum that is 135 years old!

Events for the coming spring include the Annual Membership Banquet on March 11, Easter Basket making on March 31st, and a Celebration of all things Rhubarb on June 3rd.



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

Front view of the W. H. Over Museum

Articles in this Issue

There are three articles in this issue highlighting new exhibits. Jim Stone just put the finishing touches on an agricultural exhibit centered on beams from the Fargo Family Barn that was built in Clay County in the 1870’s. Jim also selected many agricultural implements used in farming in the late 19th to the early 20th century and built a scale model of a barn that could have been used in Clay County about this time.

Lynn Muller is constructing an exhibit of aerial cameras used during wartime, especially during World War II and the Korean War. This new exhibit is included with an extensive array of cameras from the 1880’s to the present time.

This fall, Tucker Lutter, a graduate student at the University of South Dakota constructed a new exhibit examining the role of birds in Native American culture focusing on the kite and peregrine falcon. He is interested on ornithology (study of birds) as well as anthropology (study of humans). Tucker also contributed to the development of another exhibit of raptors which include hawks, falcons, eagles, and owls.

**STOP BY THE MUSEUM
AND SEE OUR NEW EXHIBITS**

New Additions to the W. H. Over's Photography Display

Lynn Muller's extensive photographic display of cameras has new additions. These include two aerial/mapping cameras: a T-11 camera used by the United States Air Force in photo reconnaissance and aerial mapping and a K-20 aerial hand-held camera used by the Air force for photo reconnaissance during World War II on B17 Bombers as well as used by the Navy. The third new camera is an 8 by 10 Folmer-Graflex Enlarging/reducing Copy studio Camera. Photos of the three cameras are shown below. Finally, submarine cameras and many Autographic Kodak cameras will be added to the exhibit.

The rugged T-11 camera has a "selected" focal length f/6.3 Type II Metrogon lenses designed and manufactured to rigid cartographic quality standards. The well machined camera has an adjustable lens with a shutter speed from 1/10-1/500 of a second and weighs 67 pounds. It carried 390 feet of film taking 9 by 9 inch photos at speeds up to 3 frames per second and originally cost about \$14,400. It was used in many different aircraft including the high altitude B36 bomber. In some cases two cameras were used to obtain stereoscopic photos.

The eight by ten Folmer-Graflex Enlarging/reducing Copy Camera was made in Rochester, New York. It is a studio camera that has a double bellows, 8 by 10 ground glass back, and measures 38" by 18" by 16". It contains a Goerz Dagor f:6.8 12 inch focus lens.



Photograph of an aviator holding a K-20 camera.



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

A T-11 Camera mounted on a stand with a mirror below to show the lens.



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

The Folmer-Graflex Enlarging/reducing copy camera on display.

The Sylvester Fargo Heavy Post and Beam Barn, Early American Agricultural Implements, and Barn Model Exhibit

Jim Stone constructed an exhibit that highlights a heavy post and beam taken from the Fargo Family barn that was located in Clay County, South Dakota. In addition, the exhibit contains an extensive early American agricultural display and a model Jim constructed of a gambrel roof barn.

The Fargo barn exhibit consists of one of the hand hewn posts with the attached horizontal supports. The beams are hand mortised with tendons into the posts and held with round elm pegs. The workmanship is unbelievable for only using hand tools. This 20.5 foot tall structure was saved from the barn that was dilapidated and was destined to be burned.

The Fargo barn was built in 1870 to 1875 in southwestern Clay County by Sylvester Fargo who with his family came to Dakota Territory in April of 1864. The barn was 30' wide and 60' long with a tee on the north end that was 42' long and 30' wide. All of the 8x8 posts and 8x8 beams were hand hewn from cottonwood trees. The 4x4 diagonal bracing, 6x6 beam supporting the center of the rafters and the 2x4 rafters were also sawn from cottonwood trees by a steam operated saw mill that started up in the area. The barn stored grain and hay and housed livestock.

James S. Fargo was the only child of Sylvester Fargo's to remain in the Clay County. Jim was a long time merchant of Gayville, as the proprietor of the Farmer's Store. Two of Jim Fargo sons, Charles and Stanley, are still reside in this community. The Fargo family has owned the land for several generations. Currently, William L. & Nancy L. Fargo own the farm.

The rest of agricultural exhibit consists of fine examples of implements used to farm from the early days of the Dakota Territory to the turn of the twentieth century. Some

items are for constructing buildings, others farming the land and harvesting crops, and still others were used to employ livestock for farming and transportation. Finally, Jim Stone built a scale model of gambrel roof barn that was in use in Clay County in the 20th century. The scale of the model is $\frac{1}{2}''=1'-0''$ and it is 17'' wide, 24'' wide and 18'' high which would translate to 34' wide, 48' long and 36' high not counting the cupola. This model displays Jim's knowledge and love of barns as noted in a large survey of barns he compiled that is available on the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission website (cchpc.org).



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

Inside view of barn construction on display model



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

Model of gambrel roof barn on display

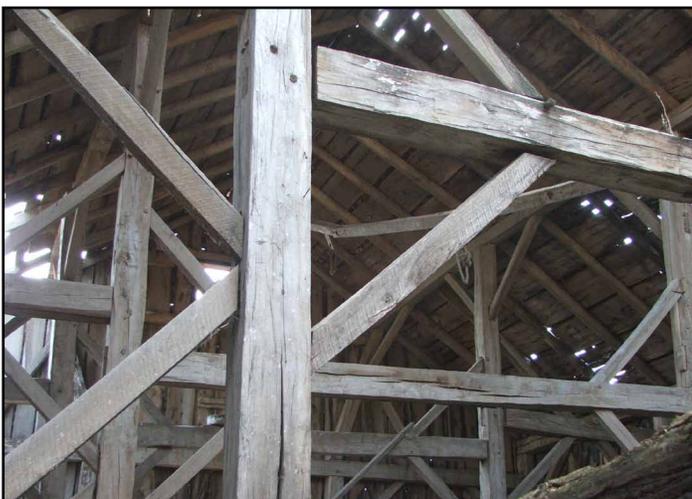


Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

View of heavy post and beam Fargo Family barn

Tucker Lutter Exhibit

My name is Tucker Lutter and I am a student in the Museum and Archive Studies Graduate Certificate program at the University of South Dakota. The History Department started the new program with the goal of preparing students for a professional career in a museum setting. Last fall as part of my studies, I completed an internship at the W.H. Over Museum.

A little about me. I graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH in 2016 with a B.S in Anthropology. My focus was Native American cultures of the Midwest. I spent several summers working on archaeological excavations and I decided to go back to school to learn how to make the information accessible to the public.

When I came to the W.H. Over, my goal was to create an exhibit. My project soon blossomed into a research paper, which I hope to get published in the near future. The idea for the exhibit and paper started many years ago when I was seven. My next door neighbor, who was dying of a blood disorder, passed on his leather bound Audubon Field Guide to the Birds of North America to me. From that moment on I was fascinated with birds. It didn't take long for me to learn that there were many species of birds that no longer live in the Midwest due to habitat destruction. I would often imagine what it was like when America was an untamed wilderness. In the wilderness, there were not only many birds, but also Native American tribes, each with their own story to be told.

During the first day of my internship at the W.H. Over, I was shown the outstanding collection of taxidermy birds. There were dozens of species, but the Swallow-tailed Kite, a distinctive species of raptor, captured my imagination the most. Kites used to nest along wooded river valleys throughout the Midwest before the 1880s; now their range is restricted to the far Southeastern states. Several years ago, I encountered a wayward Swallow-tailed Kite in Mitchell, SD. It hovered within 20 feet above my head while eating a grasshopper that it had clutched in its talons. The white and black feathers contrasted sharply with the blue skies above and the deeply forked tail gave it an appearance unlike any bird I had encountered before.

The striking appearance of the Swallow-tailed Kite also caught the attention of Native Americans. The Ioway, Menominee, Omaha, Winnebago, and other tribes viewed the kite as a sacred bird. They believed that it served as a messenger between humans on earth and the thunderbird deities that lived in the heavens. Thunderbirds were benevolent deities that could intervene in human affairs. Because of the kite's prowess in hunting, Native Americans associated the bird with bringing success in war. The same is true for the Peregrine Falcon which is also featured



Swallow-tailed Kite in flight.

in the exhibit. Falcons are swift predators, reaching speeds of up to 200 mph when they are hunting – they were a symbol of power!

The exhibit guides visitors through the research process that anthropologists use to understand other cultures. Stories, symbols, and religious beliefs are examined and visitors are encouraged to make conclusions based on the evidence.

You can view the exhibit from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday-Saturday (except on major holidays). Be sure to check out the other renovations that are taking place in the galleries. A raptor exhibit featuring over a dozen species of birds will be completed soon and if you visit, you can pick up a pamphlet with information on how to find raptors in southeast South Dakota. We hope to see you at the W.H. Over Museum soon!



W. H. Over Museum
VERMILION, SOUTH DAKOTA

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday through Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed on Holidays

Please call ahead during winter months

605-659-6151 | www.whovermuseum.org

FREE ADMISSION

Donations accepted - Memberships available.

Year-end Wrap-up: 2017

The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) was very active in 2017. Commission Board Members published two books and recognized several groups for their efforts at preservation of buildings. Evelyn Schlenker wrote a book about the history of the Dakota Hospital Association and the building of the first community hospital in Vermillion in 1935, the Dakota Hospital that was demolished in 2016. The book also includes a chapter about hospitals in Vermillion located in houses prior to the construction of the hospital. These private hospitals started in 1902 and the last, Dr. Stansbury's Vermillion Hospital, closed in the early 1930's. The book discusses the formation of a Health Care Development District in 2014 which today includes a hospital, clinics, medical imaging facilities, a nursing home, the USD Student Health clinic, and assisted living apartments. Currently these facilities are owned by Sanford.

Tom Sorensen published a book documenting the history of the Vermillion Fire Department (VFD) which started in 1892. He includes biographies of important firefighters, the evolution of methods used to fight fires, and significant fires in Vermillion and Clay County. Tom has extensive knowledge of the VFD. According to his own account he was an active firefighter for 31 years. When he returned to Vermillion in 1986, he was reinstated on the fire department and resumed training and active service. Tom also served as a secretary-treasurer, trustee, and a weather spotter (first trained in 1979). He became an associate member and remains on the roster of VFD fire-service instructors certified by the South Dakota Fire Marshal's Office. This in depth, well written and researched book contributes greatly to the history of Vermillion and Clay County. Please

look under publications to access a PDF copy of the two books.

This November the CCHPC presented Historic Preservation Awards in three categories: 1. renovating a building 2. restoring several buildings and 3. maintaining the integrity of a building over a long time period. The awards for the first category went to Jim Waters and Monica Iverson for



Photo by Monica Iverson

*15 West Main Street
The Dakota Brick House*



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

*Mart Brothers building
at 3 Prospect Street*



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

*Teresa and Marty Gilbertson restored
property at 104 North University*

restoring 15 West Main Street (The Dakota Brick House) and the Mart Brothers for restoring the building at 3 Prospect Street. In the second category Teresa and Marty Gilbertson are winners who restored a number of buildings in the University Historic District including 216/218 N. Yale St., 104 North University St. and 204 North University St. Their stunning restoration of 416 Park Lane was a labor of love. Finally, the parish of Saint Patrick's Church in Wakonda built in 1904 received the award for maintaining a functional building for over 110 years. A commitment to these levels of preservation deserves recognition. Please see the Power-Point on the cchpc.org website for further information.



Photo by Evelyn Schlenker

*Teresa and Marty Gilbertson restored
property at 1407 East Main Street.*



Photo by George Schlenker

*Saint Patrick's Church in Wakonda
built in 1904.*

The “DAKOTA BRICK HOUSE” Building and Renovation History

by Monica Iverson

In 2016, Dwight and I, along with our business partners, Jim and Heidi Waters, became the proud owners of 13 and 15 W. Main St. We loved the historic look of the building, but at that time we did not know enough about it to say that it was historically significant. Although the Victorian style and oriel windows are unique, and the two apartments above were enticing selling features, one of the biggest draws for us was the large, open, Main St. outdoor patio area. The more renovating we did, the more interested I became in finding out exactly how historical the buildings were!

This property was sold by Cyrus Snyder to Horace Austin as part of the Vermillion Bluff Addition to Vermillion in 1871, before the flood of 1881. The original building was made of wood and was known as William’s Meat Market. The brick building, including the two upstairs, one-bedroom apartments, the two Victorian-style oriel windows, and the cast iron outdoor staircase, were constructed between the years of 1880 -1892. Although the original documents state that this building was erected in 1880, but we have not been able to find any picture/physical/legal proof that the building, other than the mortgage documents. We found some fire damage in the basement highly concentrated in one area suggesting that the building survived at least one downtown fire.

The Dakota Brick House actually consisted of two separate buildings that were joined by Harlowe Hatle in 2005 (13 & 15 W. Main St.). The building on the west side, 15

W. Main, was added a year or two later, and was erected between the two existing buildings, which meant that for at least a year or two, that the empty space used as an alley was what now is 13 W. Main. This makes sense since there is a large painted advertisement on the inside of the brick wall at Dakota Brick House. The tin ceiling is original to the east side. The west ceiling was renovated by Jim & Monica in 2016. They found reproduction tin that mimicked the original on the east ceiling and then installed it, along with the tin crown molding. On close inspection, you can see that the border/trim does not match between the two sides. The original maple floors are still on the west side. To duplicate the maple floors on the east side old maple flooring from old houses found at an antique millwork shop in Paulina, Iowa, was used. The entire floor was then sanded, stained and sealed.

There were several upgrades made to the building. The two wooden patio doors, and the front breezeway door are antique doors rescued from Iowa, (ND Millworks), as well as the light fixtures in the bathrooms. The exterior front was refaced with cedar from old local telephone poles to make the two buildings look more alike. The copper bar was made from copper sheets, which we torched for color and sealed with epoxy. The bar light fixture and most of the other lights were created by Jim and Monica. The ball/sphere fixtures were made by placing the metal exterior frame over existing fixtures. The bar fixtures were created

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Two photos below showing the building of 13/15 West Main Street, Downtown Vermillion, SD



Photo Courtesy CCHS



Photo by Monica Iverson

Top: The present day building of Dakota Brick House.

Left: Kale’s Cafe the 1920’s.

The “DAKOTA BRICK HOUSE” Building and Renovation History continued

by using a metal deer-hunting ladder from Campbell’s Supply, some old commercial mixer whisks that Monica had collected and a few metal/mesh trash cans.

As the building is one of the oldest standing in downtown Vermillion, it required reinforcement of weak brick areas throughout. The building needed to be completely renovated and restored. This included restructuring of the electrical, plumbing, flooring, ceiling, insulation, windows, upstairs apartments, and everything in between. Nothing has gone untouched. During renovation, we decided to expose a few brick “windows” in order to create an interest wall on the west side. As Jim was removing the plaster, he uncovered a letter, which led to our curiosity. He was able to uncover, “CHEW SPEAR HE..”, and an arrow logo. We believe that the rest of the advertisement continues to run all the way down the west wall, but we didn’t want to lose our men’s bathroom to find out! In our effort to save the 3rd bathroom, but also include the finished word that was hidden, “HEAD”, was completed to finish “CHEW SPEAR HEAD”. We believe the rest of the sign reads “TOBACCO” or “PLUGS”. The name inside the arrow is very telling, “P. J. Sorg Co.” Paul John Sorg, from Middletown, Ohio, organized Spearhead Tobacco Co. in 1876. The Sorg Co. was one of the largest and most aggressive manufacturers of plug tobacco in the world.* In 1898, the Continental Tobacco Co. merged with the American Tobacco Co. and bought Sorg out. We believe that this is an original advertisement, and it is was probably painted on the wall before the company went out of business. If you walk toward the men’s restroom, you

will see a frame with an original advertisement for the company posted on a framed piece of old wood.

*The Cyclopaedia of American Biography (1918), James E. Homans, editor, Sorg, Paul John.

VIP’S OF RENOVATION A labor or love; hands on! Contractor: Jim Waters, Design & Décor: Monica Iverson. Owners: Monica & Dwight Iverson, and Jim & Heidi Waters. Dwight Iverson: Bookkeeping/Host/Manager; Heidi Waters: Bookkeeping/Payroll/Manager; Josh Sherrer: Assistant Contractor & General Manager; Derek Iverson, Monica’s son: Branding; General Construction: Harry & Bonnie Lund, Monica’s parents; Lucas Iverson, Monica’s son; Jonah Wonnemberg, Amberly Baus, S.L. Martin, Joe Bob Geis, and Chip LongSoldier.



Photo Courtesy CCHS

An old photo showing the two windows above the what is now the Dakota Brick House.

In somewhat of a chronological order, here are some of the businesses these buildings have been.

13 W. Main (east side)

AKA: Abrahamson’s bldg (1925)

- William’s Meat Market (1884-)
- Goodwin & Snyder’s Meat Market (1892-98)
- Bendixon Linoleum & Paint; (back of bldg: 1898-1939)
- Butler Photography Studio (prior to 1915)
- Kale’s Café (1928-)
- Goltz Café (1933-)
- The White Elephant Store (1934+)
- Ben Franklin Variety (1937-1939)
- Ausdal’s Variety Store (1939-)
- Evergreen Dairy Bar (1943-)
- Abrahamson’s Grocery : (Quality Indep. Grocer’s Alliance Market (IGA) (1930’s or 40’s -1959)
- Ben Franklin Arts & Crafts (1956-)
- Hanny’s Men’s & Boy’s Wear (1962-)
- Gentleman’s Quarters, (1977-)
- Emma’s Kitchen (late 90’s)
- Old Town Bristro (late 90’s)
- The Back Nine (golf-theme bistro: 2001-2003)

15 W. Main (main entrance; west side)

AKA: Anderson’s bldg (1904)

- Pharmacy (1883-)
- The Blue Front Variety Store (1889-1898)
- Vermillion Bargain Store (1898; O.G. Anderson)
- Anderson’s Bargain Store (1899-)
- Vermillion Plain Talk (1900-1904; Anderson bldg)
- Smeerin’s Dept. Store (S & H Dept. Store: 1921)
- Hirschfield’s, “The Big Triple (Dept) Store”: 1922-)
- Abrahamson’s (C & N) General Merchandise Dept Store: (1925-1935)
- The Clothing Cupboard (1956-)
- Duke’s Colony Shop (men & young men clothier: 1967)
- The Sport & Fad Shop (1969-1972-)
- Nook n’ Cranny (1975-1977)
- Dallas Jewelry (1978-2004)

Current history:

- 13 & 15 W. Main became one building joined by Harlow Hatle:
 - Open Mike’s Bar (2004-5)
- Building Renovation: 2006
- Razel’s Bar & Grill: 2006-2016)
- DAKOTA BRICK HOUSE (2016-)



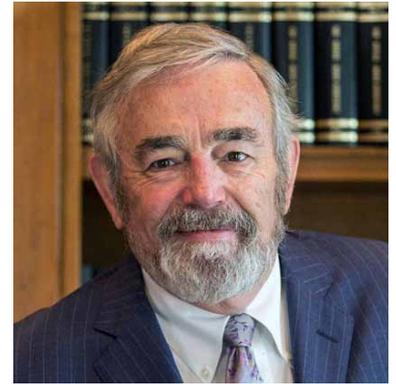
May Historic Preservation Meeting in Vermillion

On May 16-18th historic preservation professionals and activists from across South Dakota and surrounding states will attend a conference in Vermillion highlighting the economic advantages of historic preservation and other historic preservation topics. The conference is hosted primarily by the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission (an agency of the Clay County Commission) that is dedicated to inform and encourage historic preservation throughout the county.

The highlight of the conference will be a presentation and conversation with Donovan Rypkema (pictured above), president and chief executive of Place Economics of Washington, D.C. A native of Rapid City and graduate of the University of South Dakota and Columbia University, Rypkema pioneered historic preservation in downtown Rapid City before establishing his consulting business in Washington. He is generally regarded as the leading American authority on the economics of historic preservation and consults across United States and the world. Rypkema holds a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Columbia University. He teaches a graduate course in preservation economics at the University of Pennsylvania where he received the Perkins Award for Distinguished Teaching. In addition, Rypkema teaches an international planning praxis summer course at Penn that focuses on cutting edge issues in heritage conservation and has taken place in Shanghai, Serbia, Myanmar, and Ireland. In 2012 Rypkema received the Crowninshield Award from the National Trust. This award is the nation's highest preservation honor and awarded for lifetime contribution to historic preservation in the United States.

Among other topics covered at the conference will be

comparisons of preservation methodologies utilized in South Dakota and other neighboring states. The conference begins in the evening of May 16th with a reception at the historically restored downtown home of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company on Main Street.



Donovan Rypkema

The Rypkema presentation is scheduled for the morning of May 17th at the Coyote Twin Red Steakhouse Theater, followed by a picnic lunch at the Austin Whittemore House, home of the Clay County Historic Society. Afternoon panels will follow at the Edith Siegrist Public Library's Kozak Room. The conference concludes on the morning of May 18 with another series of panels and presentations at the W.H. Over Museum. Among other collaborating organizations supporting the conference are the South Dakota State Office of Historic Preservation, the Yankton County Historic Preservation Commission, the Clay County Historical Society, the W.H. Over Museum, the Edith Siegrist Library, and the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company.

The conference is open to the public. A registration fee of \$20 will be charged for the three day conference. Registration will be handled by the Vermillion Chamber and Development Company. For further information please contact - Ted Muenster at tmuenster@vyn.midco.net

Missouri Valley Regional Historic Preservation Conference May 16-18, 2018, Vermillion, SD

Registration: <http://vermillionchamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/missouri-valley-regional-historic-preservation-conference-19449>

For more detailed conference information: County Historic Preservation Commission, <http://cchpc.org/>
Informal opening registration reception: Wednesday, May 16, 5:30 p.m., Dakota Brickhouse
Expected Adjournment: Friday May 18, early afternoon, at the W.H. Over Musuem

Contract Information: tmuenster@vyn.midco.net

To register, please follow the directions on this site.

Professionals, citizen activists and the curious are welcome to attend with a \$20/person registration fee payable by credit card on this site or at the door.

Advance registration is strongly encouraged.



*Clay County Historic
Preservation Commission*
cchpc.org

Joint Newsletter of the
CLAY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
W. H. OVER MUSEUM AND
CLAY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
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Thank you for your support!



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