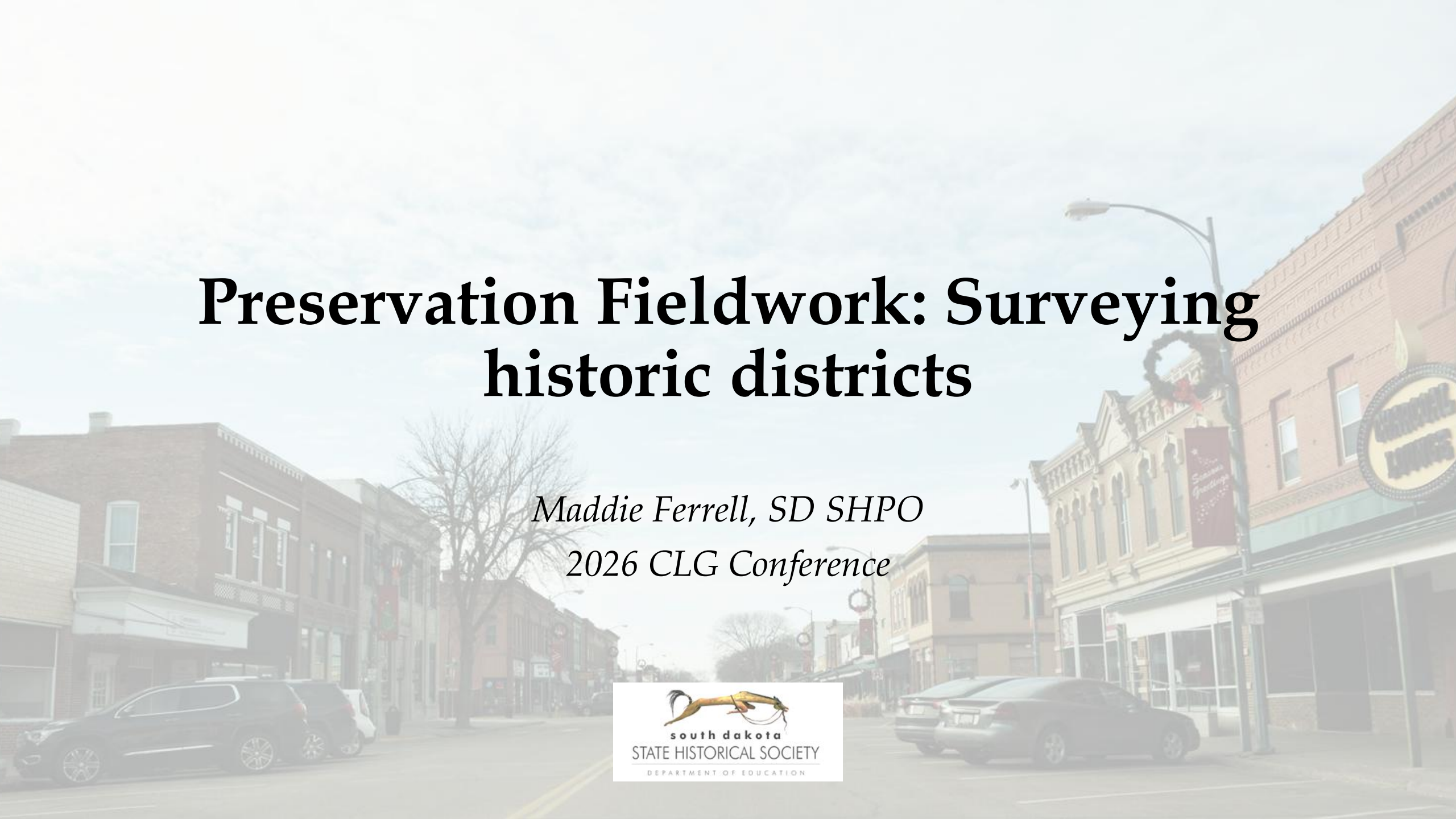
Preservation Fieldwork: Surveying historic districts

Maddie Ferrell, SD SHPO

2026 CLG Conference



Why survey?

- Research and identify historic properties
- Understand our history; develop local contexts and make connections
- Document the cultural landscape – both built and archaeological
- Comparative analysis and evaluation of resources – local, state, national
- Planning purposes – community and property owners
- Education, information, and outreach
- Promote historic preservation within the community and beyond





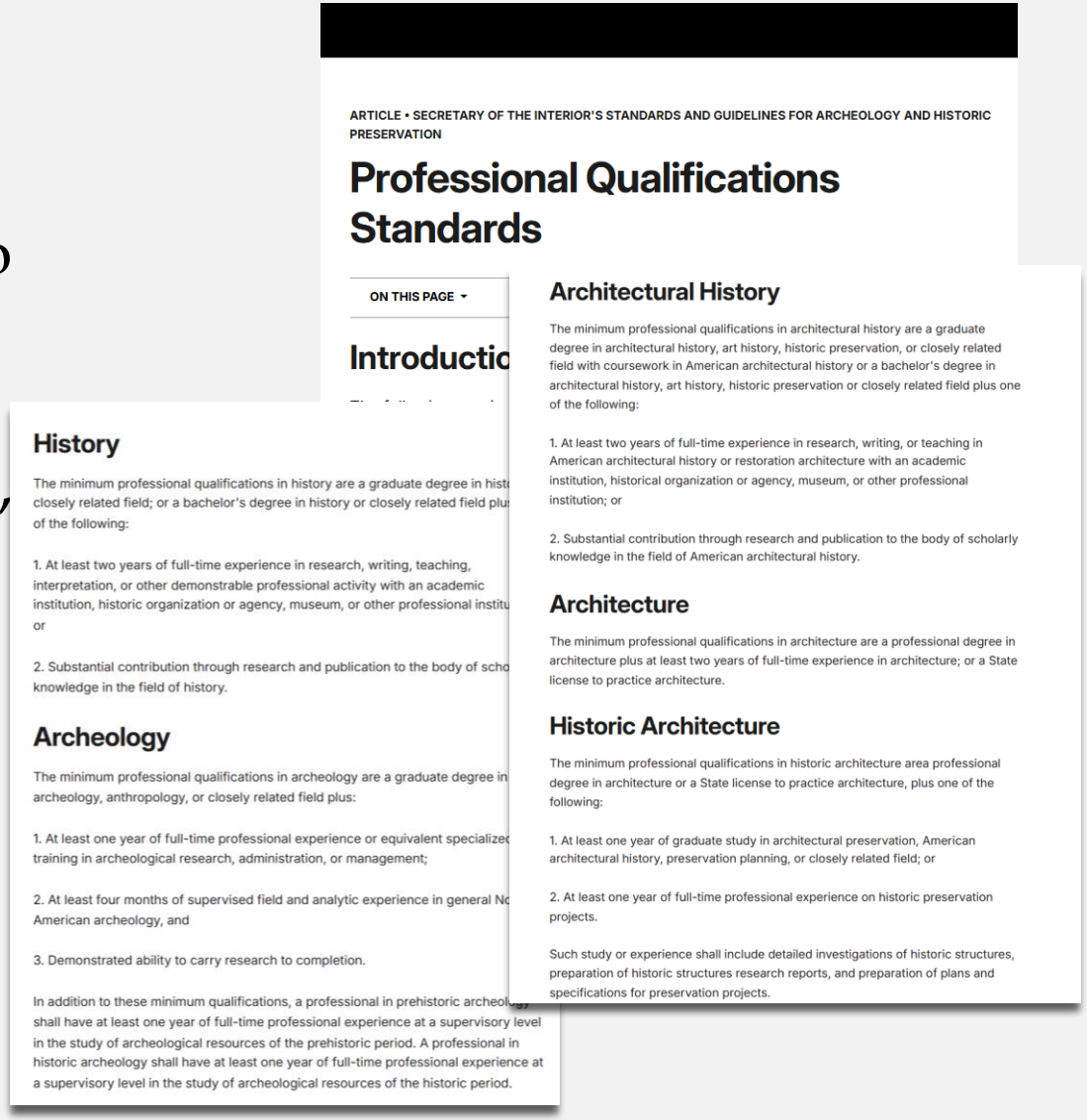
Who should survey?

Consider the process from start to finish – who is involved?

Experienced, committed, knowledgeable team members necessary for all stages of the project, but requirements will vary

Project Roles

- Sponsors
- Consultants
- Volunteers



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Professional Qualifications Standards

ON THIS PAGE

Introductio

History

The minimum professional qualifications in history are a graduate degree in hist
closely related field; or a bachelor's degree in history or closely related field plu
of the following:

1. At least two years of full-time experience in research, writing, teaching, interpretation, or other demonstrable professional activity with an academic institution, historic organization or agency, museum, or other professional institu
or

2. Substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scho
knowledge in the field of history.

Archeology

The minimum professional qualifications in archeology are a graduate degree in
archeology, anthropology, or closely related field plus:

1. At least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized
training in archeological research, administration, or management;

2. At least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general No
American archeology, and

3. Demonstrated ability to carry research to completion.

In addition to these minimum qualifications, a professional in prehistoric archeol
shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the prehistoric period. A professional in historic archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the historic period.

Architectural History

The minimum professional qualifications in architectural history are a graduate degree in architectural history, art history, historic preservation, or closely related field with coursework in American architectural history or a bachelor's degree in architectural history, art history, historic preservation or closely related field plus one of the following:

1. At least two years of full-time experience in research, writing, or teaching in American architectural history or restoration architecture with an academic institution, historical organization or agency, museum, or other professional institution; or

2. Substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scholarly knowledge in the field of American architectural history.

Architecture

The minimum professional qualifications in architecture are a professional degree in architecture plus at least two years of full-time experience in architecture; or a State license to practice architecture.

Historic Architecture

The minimum professional qualifications in historic architecture area professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture, plus one of the following:

1. At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely related field; or

2. At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation projects.

Such study or experience shall include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation projects.

What is survey?

Systematic process of identification, data collection, and evaluation from which conclusions are made; varies in scope and scale

Architectural survey is conducted two ways:

- **Reconnaissance**
  - Covers more ground but yields general information
  - Key for determining project area/scope, usually leads to intensive survey
- **Intensive**
  - Requires a deeper level of research/survey, usually pursued when more information and context is required for the NRHP, tax credit applications, local designations, Section 106 review, etc.

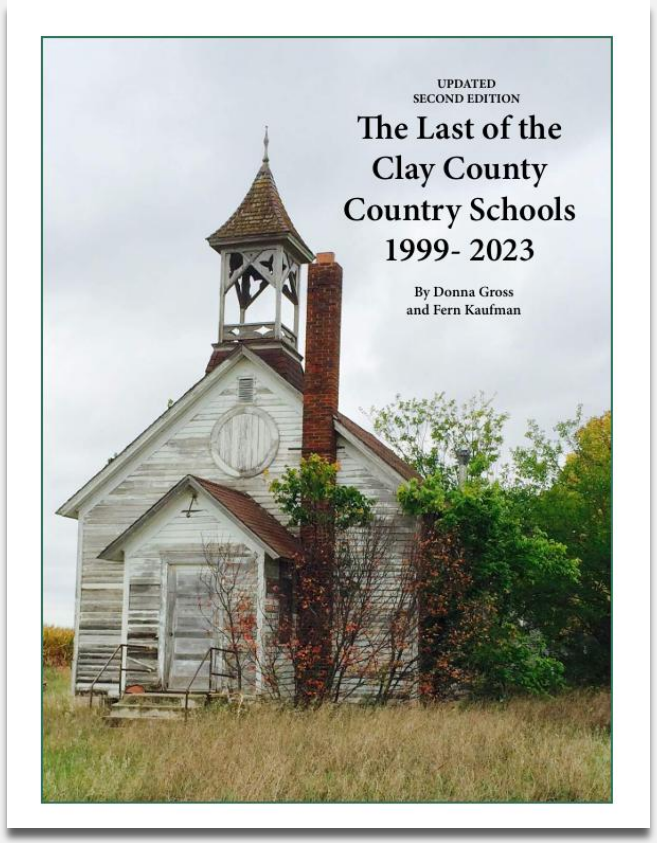
When and *where* to survey?

New Districts

- Assess what's known and documented already
  - Areas of older construction? Residential, commercial, etc.
  - Consider the history of your jurisdiction – grounds for a thematic survey?

Resurveying Districts

- No hard and fast rule here – monitoring is important
- Consider development and growth – how has the district changed since its nomination?
  - Should the district be amended?



Remember:

- Engage the public in the planning process
- Look elsewhere in the state
- Ask SHPO for ideas!

How to survey?

Consider **project area**:

- Historic areas
- Areas experiencing heightened development
- Architectural trends

Consider **proposed boundary**:

- Historical
- Stylistic
- Thematic
- Practicality

Understand the Scope

Consider the **approach** and **methodology**:

- Reconnaissance
- Intensive
- Scheduling needs

Survey Focus

- County
- City
- District
- Thematic

How to survey?

Understand the goal(s)

What is the desired outcome?

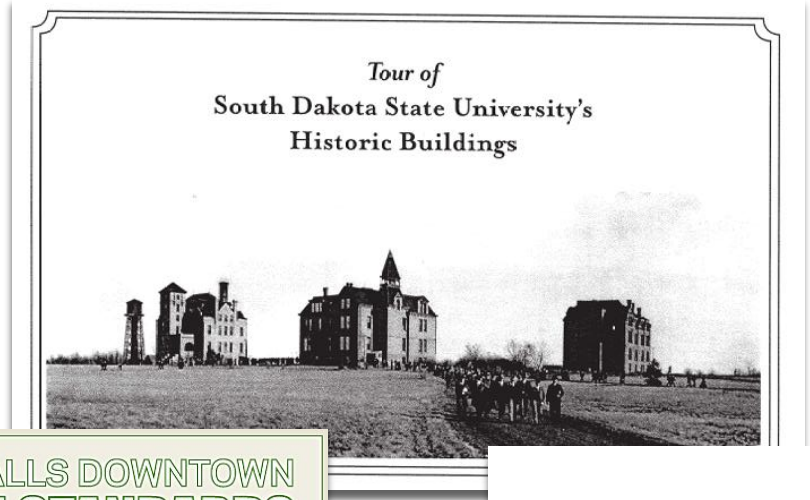
Products

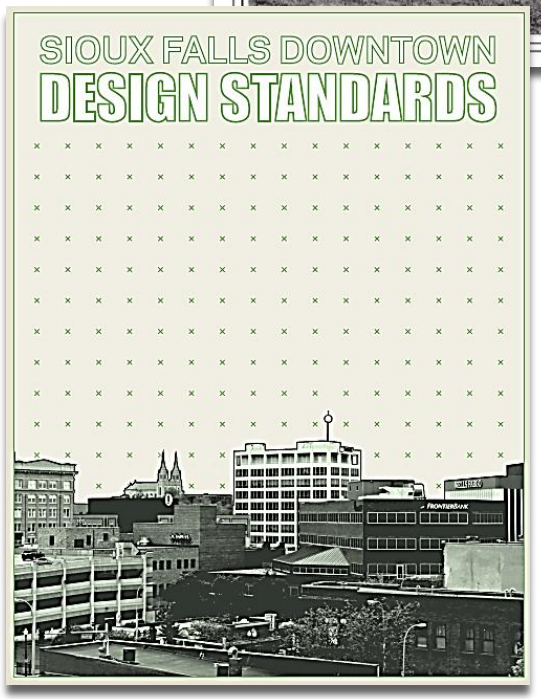
- Survey records on CRGRID
- Deliverables
  - Survey report, historic contexts, determinations for NRHP, planning materials
- Public products
  - Brochures, walking tour pamphlets, presentations, websites, social media content, education programs

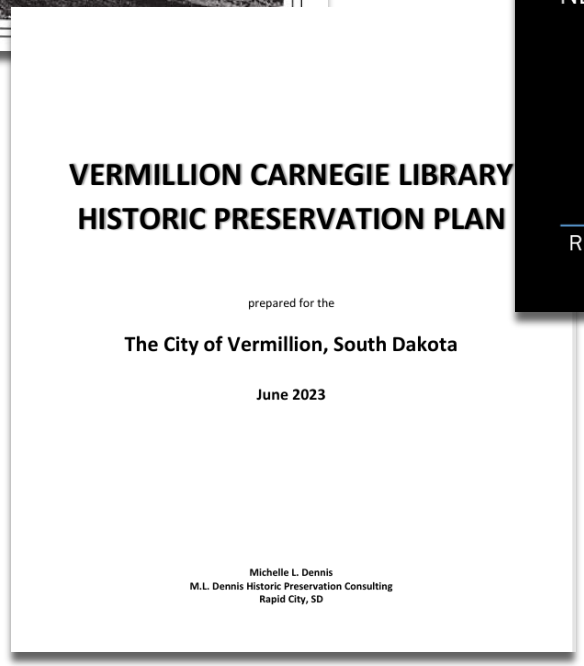
Remember:
Who is the audience?
Who benefits from the project?
Think about community involvement now

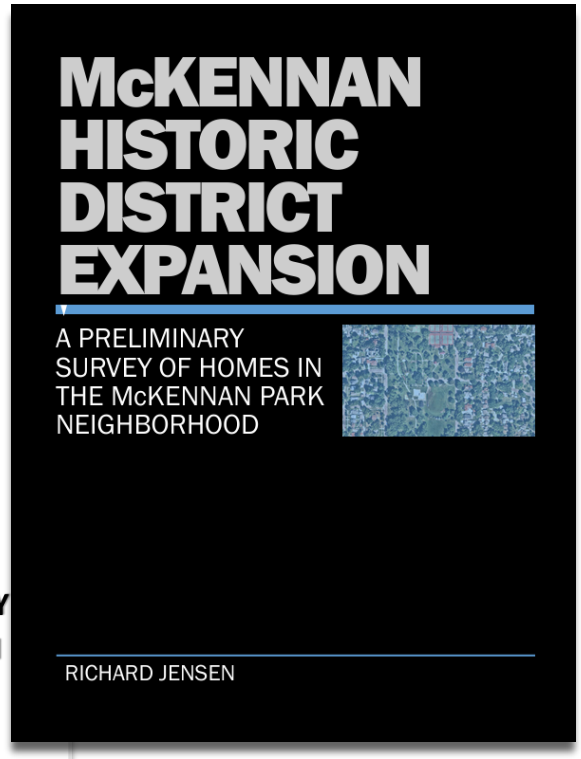
How to survey?

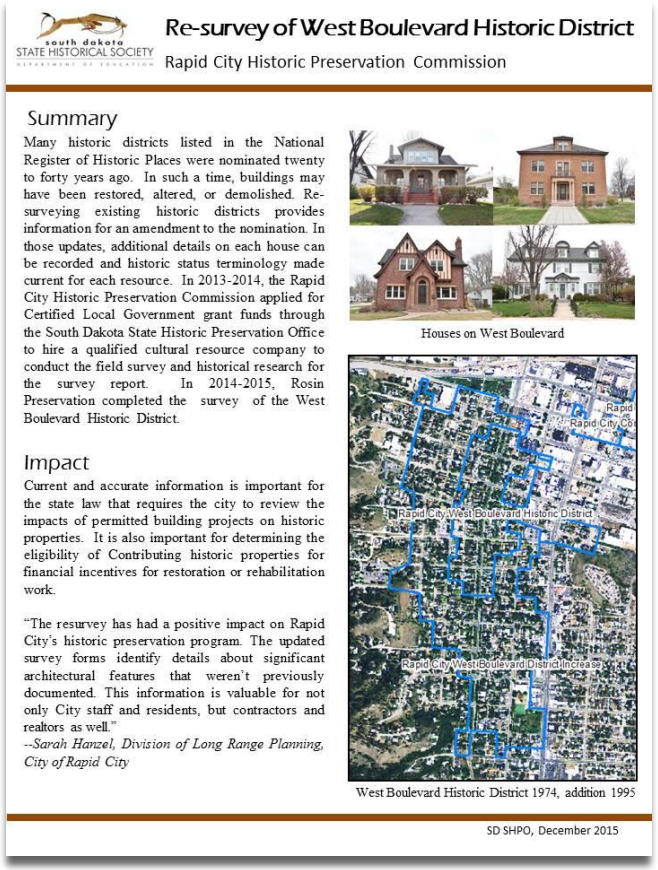
Examples of products











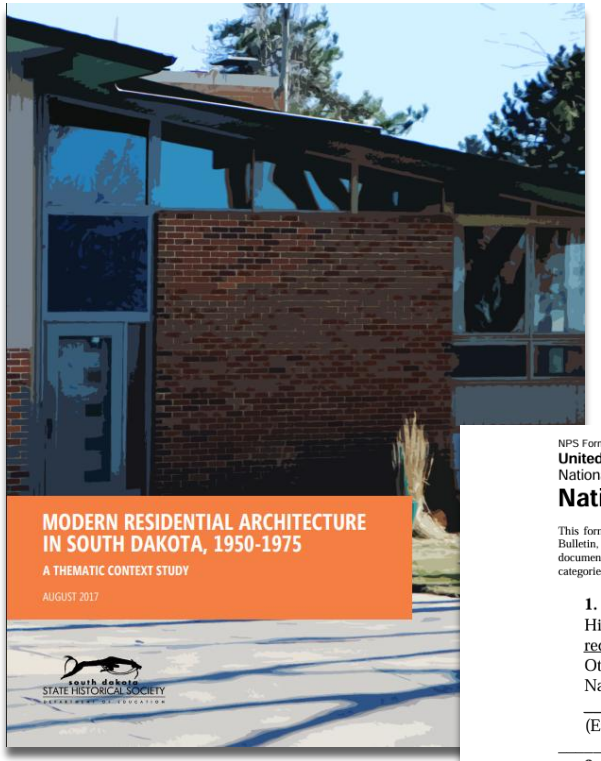
Work with what you got!

- Assess your resources during planning
  - Equipment?
- Decide early who leads the project and who will manage details (survey subcommittee, city/county staff, etc.)
- Will the work (research, survey, writing) be done in-house or with a contractor?
- Speak with city/county early about certain requirements – bid process and contracts
- Involve SHPO early – requirements, guidance
- Invite community engagement

Work from what you know!

SHPO resources

- Historic contexts
- Previous survey reports
- Survey records on CRGRID
- Survey Manual, CRGRID guide
- NRHP nominations, Inventories, Multiple Property Listings





South Dakota Architectural Survey Manual

south dakota
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
South Dakota State Historical Society
S.D. Department of Education
900 Governors Drive, Pierre SD 57501
https://history.sd.gov/preservation/

February 2021
Last updated: April 2025

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property
Historic name: _Hot Springs Historic District Amendment (boundary decrease and reclassification)
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:
__n/a_____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location
Street & number: Roughly North & South River St. and adjoining blocks between Albany Ave and Summit Rd.; also Battle Mountain Sanitarium
City or town: _Hot Springs_____ State: ___SD_____ County: _Fall River
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

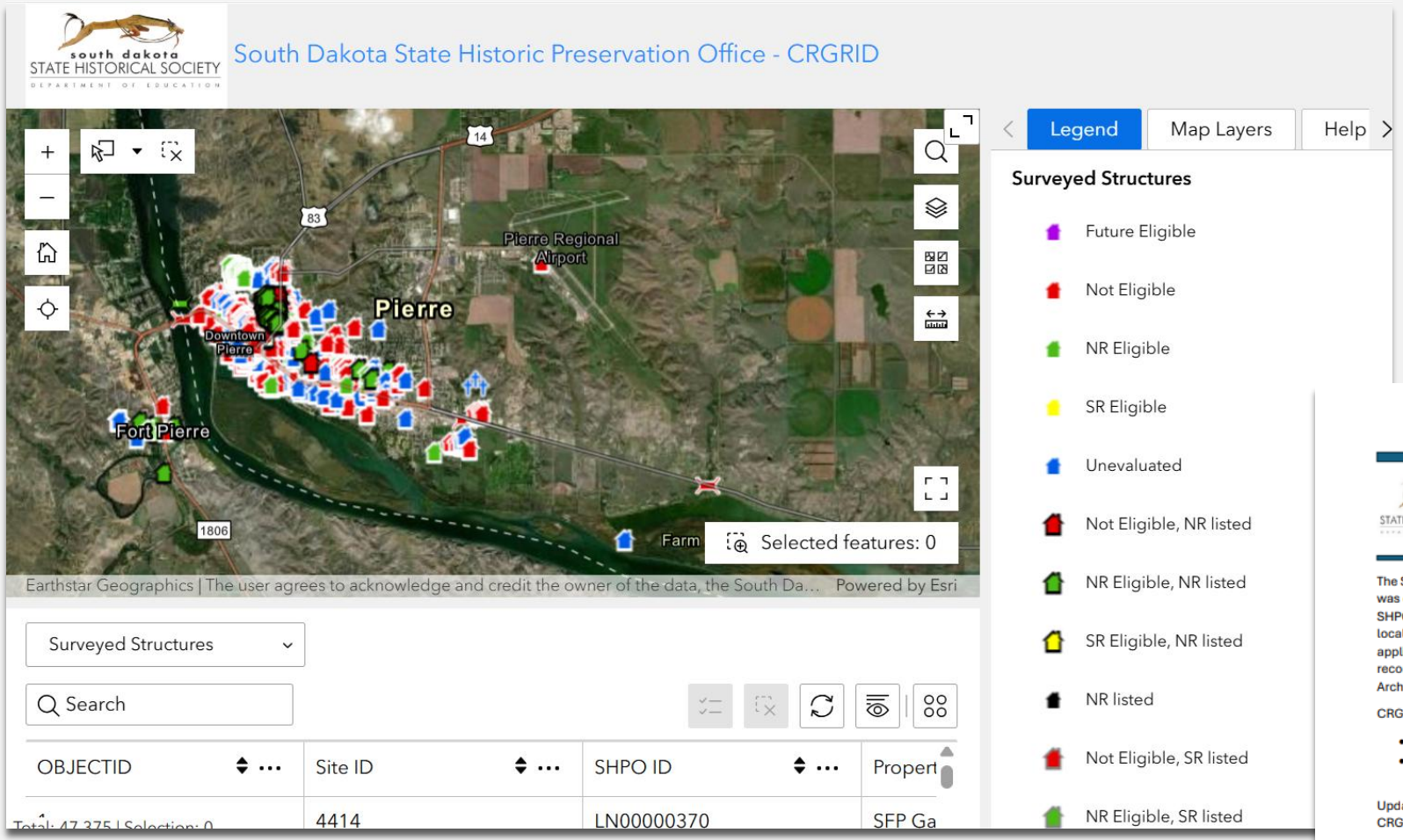
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

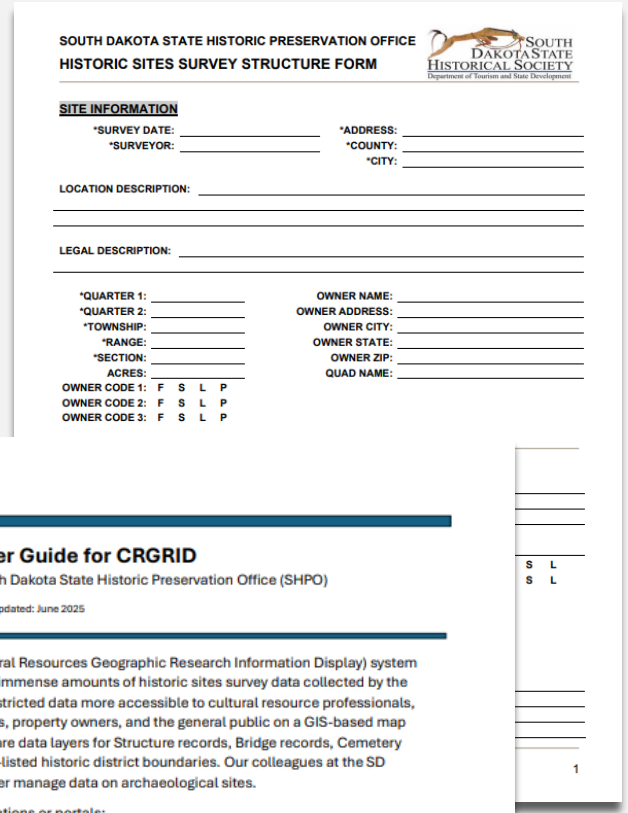
I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

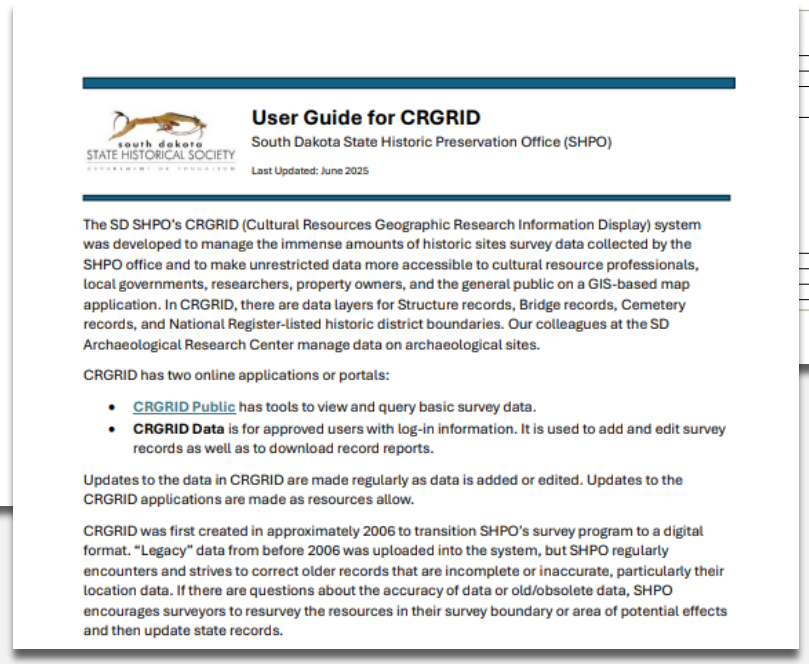
In my opinion, the property _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:

Work from what you know!

CRGRID Public and SHPO Survey Program



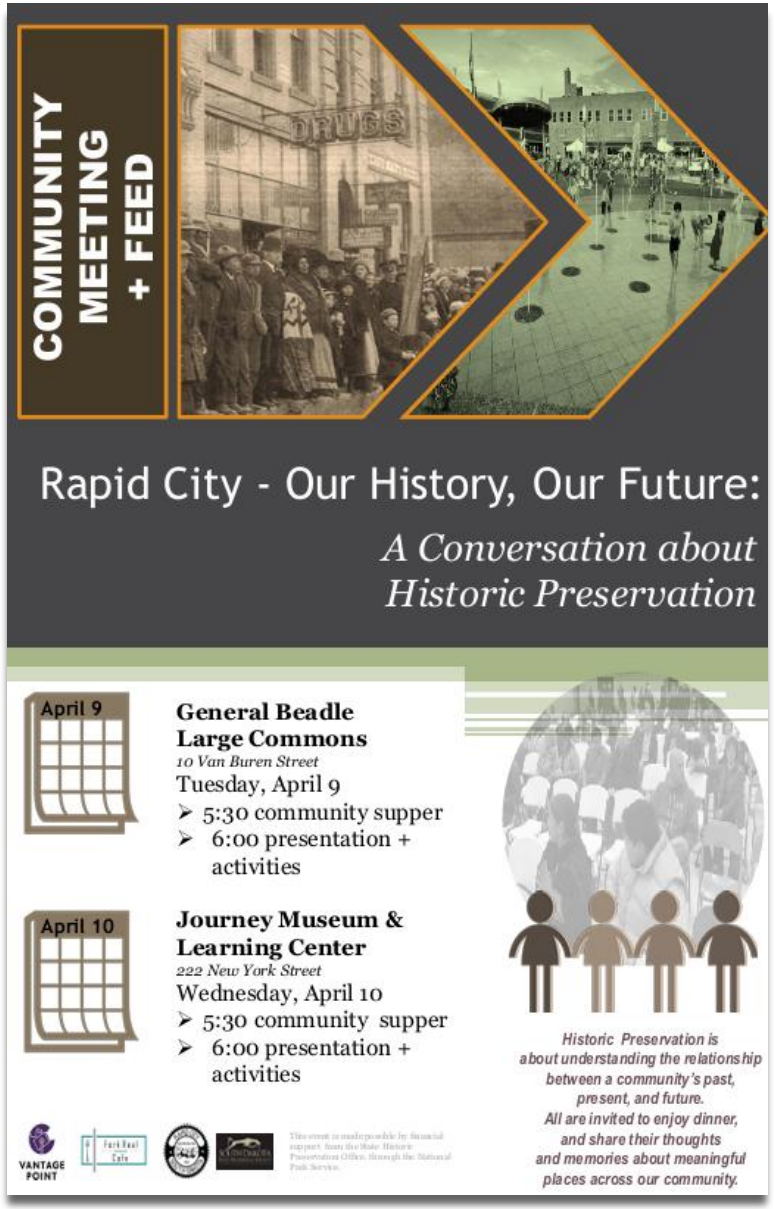




Work from what you know!

Leverage resources within your community

- City/county support, other boards and commissions
- Libraries/archives
- Academic institutions
- Local historical/genealogical societies
- Public engagement
- Experience among commission members
- Previous commission projects



Things to consider - TEAM

Planning

- Commission to decide early who will manage project internally and work with the appropriate city/county staff to handle logistics, paperwork, and payments

Volunteer/in-house effort

- Commission or external volunteers should be experienced in survey/research or training opportunities should be made available
- Will commission also prepare final products from survey?

Contractor

- Ask SHPO for resources
- Commission to initiate bid process, develop contract, manage performance
- Will a contractor survey and/or prepare final products?

Things to consider - COST

Remember: Surveying projects are a priority of the Historic Preservation Fund, which is sub-granted to CLGs

Cost will differ across projects; factors to consider – project area, scope, contractor vs in-house, contract length/personnel

A contractor-led reconnaissance survey of a large residential area will vary greatly in cost from an intensive, thematic survey of a particular style/type building led by a commission/volunteer effort

In recent years …

- 2017 – Large project ~135 properties on 18 blocks, hired contractor: $20,000
- 2017 – Survey for potentially eligible NRHP, countywide, hired contractor: $35,000

Things to consider - TIME

- Once determined if work will be contracted or done in-house, consider planning logistics
- Schedule work within CLG grant year, phase work/adjust scope if necessary
- If surveyors require training, build workshop/training opportunities into the schedule before fieldwork
- Preparing survey products after fieldwork
- The commission should review survey products and then share with SHPO – reviews will take time
- Engage public early and after work concludes

Discussion

- Has your community been surveyed in the past? If so, what was surveyed?
- Any successes from past projects? Limitations?
- What resources were at your disposal? What resources were used?
- Other survey projects your commission would like to pursue?

Thank you!