



RAPID CITY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Rapid City Historic Preservation Plan 2021–2031



Figure 1: Rapid City Journal, July 19, 1937.

Prepared for the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission
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Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission

Mission Statement

The Historic Preservation Commission enhances the quality of life in Rapid City by engaging in activities that protect historic structures and sites. It works to cultivate a shared understanding of history and culture through ongoing dialogue that strengthens social bonds, shapes community identity, and helps to bridge the city's past to its future.



Figure 2: Skyline Drive looking northwest beyond Rapid City. Like a road aimed at the horizon, historic preservation planning connects past, present, and future to help shape strong communities.

Acknowledgement of Grant Funding

This program receives federal financial assistance from the National Park Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and South Dakota law SDCL 20-13, the State of South Dakota and U. S. Department of the Interior prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, ancestry or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: South Dakota Division of Human Rights, State Capital, Pierre, SD 57501, or the Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 201 I Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Figure 3: This digital rendering of "the Gap" in Rapid City shows the relationship between landscape, waterscape, and urban development within the community. A prominent ridgeline bisects the community along a north-south (left-right) axis, while Rapid Creek flows from west to east through the heart of the city.

Table of Contents

<u>List of Figures</u>	5
<u>Section A. Executive Summary</u>	6
<u>Section B. Introduction</u>	7
<u>Section C. History Matters</u>	11
<u>Section D. Importance of Preservation Planning</u>	13
<u>Section E. Summary of Progress, 2009–2021</u>	15
- Achievement by Goal, 2009–2021	15
- Further Development	16
<u>Section F. Goals and Priorities for 2021–2031</u>	17
- Mission Statement	17
- Strategic Goals	17
- Priorities	18
<u>Section G. Collaboration</u>	23
- Using this Preservation Plan	23
- Supporting Rapid City Plans	23
- Supporting the Pennington County Comprehensive Plan	25
- Supporting the South Dakota Preservation Plan	26
- Supporting National Park Service Plans	27
- Supporting Trends in International Cultural Resources Management	28
- Integration and Future Studies	29
<u>Section H. Conclusion</u>	30
<u>Appendices</u>	31
- Appendix 1: Legal Basis for Historic Preservation	31
- Appendix 2: Detailed List of RCHPC Goals and Objectives, 2009–2016	35
- Appendix 3: Potential RCHPC Projects	38
- Appendix 4: Recent Surveys and Additional Resources	51
- Appendix 5: Glossary, Commonly-Used Terms, and Abbreviations	54

List of Figures

*Unless noted, all photographs by Vantage Point Historical Services

Figure 1: Bird's Eye View of Rapid City, <i>Rapid City Journal</i> , July 19, 1937	Cover
Figure 2: Skyline Drive looking northwest	2
Figure 3: Rapid City ridgeline, Google Maps, 2021	3
Figure 4: Duhamel Building on Sixth Street	7
Figure 5: Community event	9
Figure 6: Robbinsdale advertisement, <i>Rapid City Journal</i> , September 19, 1956	10
Figure 7: Lazy U Motor Lodge, historic postcard	10
Figure 8: First Congregational Church, planning document	10
Figure 9: Main Street Square	12
Figure 10: Markings on Founders Rock	13
Figure 11: West Boulevard home	14
Figure 12: Tourist cabins	16
Figure 13: Osh Kosh Camp, <i>Rapid City Journal</i> , April 10, 1953	17
Figure 14: James A. Garfield Elementary School	19
Figure 15: Wagon wheel	20
Figure 16: Sioux San sign	22
Figure 17: RC Comprehensive Plan, City of Rapid City	23
Figure 18: RC Downtown Area Master Plan, City of Rapid City	24
Figure 19: RC Cultural Plan, City of Rapid City	24
Figure 20: Pennington County Comprehensive Plan, Pennington County	25
Figure 21: SD Preservation Plan, SD State Historic Preservation Office	26
Figure 22: National Park Service logo	27
Figure 23: HUL pamphlet	28
Figure 24: Rapid Creek at Founders Park	29
Figure 25: Rapid City water tower	30

Section A. Executive Summary

In 2018, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission (RCHPC, “the Commission”) engaged Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc. to assist with the updating of its Preservation Plan and Historic Context Document. This project evolved into a three-year strategic planning and updating initiative. It included multiple public outreach and community engagement efforts and the development of a series of research and survey assets that focus on the histories of racial, ethnic, and religious groups that have called Rapid City home before and throughout the city’s history; the environmental history and public memory of the community; and the expansion of the built environment during the postwar boom between 1945 and 1972, when a devastating flood marked a critical turning point in Rapid City’s history. Overall, this work has strengthened the Commission’s understanding of Rapid City’s history and articulated a vision for the role the Commission, history, and historic preservation planning can play in Rapid City’s ongoing growth and development.

This Preservation Plan provides a roadmap for the Commission’s work between 2021 and 2031 and beyond. It was designed to be used alongside “Out History, Our Future: The Rapid City History Context Document (2021).” Together, these resources position the RCHPC to build upon its previous work to support broader goals and planning objectives at all levels of government.

Strategic Goals 2021-2031

- **Be a resource for community members interested in learning about, preserving, and promoting Rapid City history**
- **Protect Rapid City’s historic and cultural resources through stewardship and compliance with local, state, and federal laws**
- **Strengthen opportunities for protecting historic and cultural resources**

Priorities 2021-2031

- **Develop and diversify the Commission**
- **Strengthen community engagement**
- **Improve legal and administrative reporting**
- **Rethink the role of the RCHPC and become a community resource**
- **Help cultivate Rapid City’s identity**
- **Promote and strengthen protection for historic and cultural resources**
- **Expand education programs and digital outreach**
- **Engage in advocacy**

Section B. Introduction

History and Historic Preservation as Community Assets

In 1886, ten years after Rapid City was established, a small crowd gathered in the dimly lit express office to trade stories of the early days. Many of these tales referred to landmarks and structures—a particular cottonwood tree on John Brennan’s property or the log house that served as the city’s first hotel. For “the crowd of newcomers” in the room, that night marked one of many early efforts to interpret the city’s past and foster a shared understanding of its significance and meaning.¹

For hundreds of years, people who have lived in and around Rapid City have traded stories and information about the past and the relationship of people to place. For many years these stories have been passed on in the oral traditions of Native and Non-Native families and communities. History has also been preserved in artifacts, documents, and photographs, as well as in structures and landscapes that connect current residents to previous generations and help them understand how today’s challenges and opportunities are shaped by past events.

Formal efforts to preserve historic structures and sites gained momentum across the country and in Rapid City in the second half of the 20th century. History-minded community members initially focused their attention on the West Boulevard neighborhood. In the mid-1970s, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission was formed and the West Boulevard Historic District and the Rapid City Historic Commercial District (also known as the “Downtown Historic District”) joined the National Register of Historic Places. Both



Figure 4: Historic businesses like the Duhamel Building on Sixth Street have been part of the Downtown Historic District since the 1970s.

districts have remained focal points for historic preservationists ever since.² One year after the creation of the West Boulevard Historic District, the City of Rapid City created the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission (RCHPC, “the Commission”) to nominate and review historic properties across the city. In the late 1980s, the RCHPC

¹ *Rapid City Journal*, July 29, 1886.

² “[Survey Report: West Boulevard Historic Resources Survey, District and Expansion, Reconnaissance Level Survey](#),” 2016, 1.

commissioned a Historic Context Planning Document. Completed in 1989, that report has remained a cornerstone of the city's historic preservation planning efforts.³

The 1989 report provided the foundation upon which the RCHPC developed a series of comprehensive plans beginning in 1993. These plans have been revised and updated several times, most recently in 2009.⁴ The development of these plans mirrored state and national efforts to develop policies to manage cultural resources like historic buildings, archaeological sites, and artifacts. Based upon Department of the Interior guidelines, Rapid City's Historic Context Planning Document and early comprehensive plans focused on cataloguing and protecting structures that fit federal definitions. Given the Department of the Interior's emphasis on the built environment, the work of the RCHPC focused on architecture and infrastructure. Most existing reports and contexts catalogue Victorian and Edwardian-era homes; wagon and railroad tracks, stations, and infrastructure; early mining and industrial buildings; government offices; and significant downtown businesses. Today, there are over 30 individual structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the West Boulevard Historic District and the Downtown Historic District.⁵

Meanwhile, across South Dakota, attention to historic preservation was also growing. In 1989, the state legalized gaming in the historic mining town of Deadwood, dedicating a portion of the resulting tax revenues to bolster the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Combined with significant investments of state and federal resources and private support, the Deadwood funds have helped the SHPO invest in communities across the state, offering grants for planning and preservation projects, research, and more. The SHPO also conducts oversight reviews of a variety of local, state, and federal preservation projects and generates a statewide preservation plan. That document, which the SHPO updates periodically, serves as an anchor point from which municipal preservation plans can work as they seek to connect preservation and planning efforts to statewide initiatives.

South Dakota's commitment to historic preservation paralleled various competing currents of ongoing, national conversations about public memory and cultural resources. On one hand, scholars, historic preservationists, cultural resources managers, civic leaders, and many residents have come to see preservation as an important pillar of urban planning strategies because buildings and landmarks remind people of the ways in which history has shaped community and identity and framed many of the challenges and opportunities that engaged citizens and civic leaders face in the present. In communities like Rapid City, historic sites also bolster economic development and attract heritage tourism, which provide benefits to the whole community.

In the realm of historic preservation, as in many other arenas involving city planning and public safety, community interests often have to be balanced with the rights of property

³ See Jeff Buechler, "[City of Rapid City Historic Context Planning Document](#)" (1989).

⁴ Michelle L. Dennis, "Comprehensive Plan for Rapid City, South Dakota, Prepared for the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Rapid City" (2009), 1.

⁵ "[City of Rapid City Comprehensive Plan](#)" (2014), A-29.

owners. While champions of preservation have urged cities to adopt policies designed to protect historic properties in the interests of the community as a whole, some owners have expressed concern that city ordinances go too far in limiting their use of their own property. These conversations have contributed to an important dialogue about the balance between individual and collective interests in the identification, preservation, and rehabilitation of historic properties and the role these properties play in contributing to a shared sense of community and identity.

While these larger conversations have continued to percolate, the City of Rapid City’s approach to the relationship between urban planning, historic preservation, and cultural resource management has evolved. When the RCHPC produced its first comprehensive plan in 1993, the City of Rapid City did not integrate historic preservation into its master plans.⁶ The RCHPC’s 2009 update to the comprehensive plan, however, included a section outlining strategies for integrating the work and recommendations of the RCHPC with planning documents created by other city departments and commissions (like transportation, public works, parks and recreation, and zoning), as well as with statewide historic contexts and planning documents. References to the significance of historic resources to the economy and identity of Rapid City appear in the community’s Comprehensive Plan (2014), Downtown Area Master Plan (2016), and Cultural Resource Plan (2016). These documents show that stakeholders across Rapid City consider inclusive strategies for assessing, interpreting, and using cultural and historic assets as an important thread in the fabric of Rapid City.

Today, the RCHPC seeks to situate itself at the confluence of these developments around urban planning, historic preservation, and cultural resource management. By meeting and exceeding its traditional mandate to evaluate historic and potentially eligible historic structures, the RCHPC can become a champion for the recognition and adaptive reuse of built and natural historic assets, a driver of economic development and heritage tourism, a sponsor for ongoing conversations about history and community identity, and a catalyst for collaboration among Rapid City’s cultural institutions and historically-oriented organizations.



Figure 5: Rapid City residents attend a historic preservation outreach event in 2019. Input collected during this and other public listening sessions shaped the preservation planning process.

⁶ Dennis, “Comprehensive Plan” (2009), 1.

This Preservation Plan outlines action steps towards these ends, enabling the RCHPC to help move Rapid City forward while harnessing the power of its historical and cultural assets and preparing the community for new opportunities.



Figures 6, 7, and 8: Rapid City grew dramatically in the postwar era, bringing a flood of new homes (top), roadside motels (left) and other businesses, and churches (right) to the community. Photos: (top) *Rapid City Journal*, September 19, 1956; (left) historic postcard, (right) planning document from First Congregational Church.

Section C. History Matters

Why are history and historic preservation important? History provides a place to look for lessons about enduring values, long-term processes, and the relationship between yesterday's decisions and the lived realities of today. An awareness of our collective past contributes to and enhances quality of life and strengthens the overall health of communities in concrete and constructive ways. History and historic preservation:

- Promote a sense of shared identity: Urban communities incorporate a complex mosaic of ethnic and cultural traditions, religious and political beliefs, personal interests, individual and institutional values, and lived experiences. For longtime residents and recent transplants alike, understanding the history of a place through stories and spaces can reinforce communal bonds that can overcome differences and divisions.
- Inspire critical dialogue and community cohesion: All communities confront uncomfortable parts of their collective stories. In towns and cities across the nation, expansion, industrialization, and economic and social processes have created opportunities for some while exposing others to disadvantage. Unearthing uncomfortable stories can serve as a starting point for constructive dialogue. Preserving and curating spaces and places offers opportunities for reflection and discussion.
- Help uncover lost narratives and community stories: Archival documents, photographs, and old newspapers only capture select pieces of a community's history. Often, stories associated with particular places and structures live on in the memories of longtime residents or their friends and family members. By promoting a culture that values history, communities can encourage residents to share their stories and supplement existing records.
- Encourage community members to learn from the past: For forward-thinking communities, the past is the great testing ground. Natural disasters and economic panics reveal weaknesses in planning, preparedness, and community support services. On the other hand, fruitful community efforts—like the creation of a new park, the establishment of efficient and successful partnerships or social services, or bold economic development initiatives—offer lessons in how to achieve and sustain success. By assessing and commemorating moments of significant loss or achievement, history and historic preservation help residents make sense of the past and strengthen local decision making.

- Help connect youth with elders: We live in an age of technological contradictions. On one hand, the internet, social media, smartphones, and other technologies are connecting more people across greater distances faster than ever before. On the other hand, these same technologies contribute to a growing sense of disconnection between generations. History and historic preservation help bridge this gap, creating interpretive tools and physical reminders of our shared past. These assets promote dialogue between generations about the stories, experiences, and cultural traditions that bind us together.

- Offer an anchor for heritage tourism: Rapid City's economy is heavily reliant upon the tourism industry. Each year, millions of people from around the world come to the Black Hills to see stunning landscapes, view wildlife, and visit the many state and national parks and monuments in the region. Many also come to better understand the geological and paleontological histories of the Northern Plains, to immerse themselves in Native American history and culture, to experience the Wild West, or to explore the legacies of American presidents. By promoting these stories and creating an environment that supports history and heritage tourism, historic preservation creates opportunities for new and existing businesses to educate and connect with visitors.



Figure 9: The combination of sculpture and landscape design in Main Street Square complements the historic architecture of the Downtown Historic District. Together, these elements promote a sense of community identity while supporting heritage tourism.

- Bolster economic development: Adaptive re-use of historic structures beautifies urban centers and neighborhoods and contributes to a sense of place that is enormously important to residents and visitors. Historic preservation inspires creative architectural, building, and landscape design solutions that maintain the integrity of historic structures and spaces while opening them to modern uses. Meanwhile, understanding the roots of local culture and residents' commitments to place can help incentivize locals to stay and invest while inspiring outsiders to open new businesses.

Section D. Importance of Preservation Planning

Comprehensive plans outline goals and articulate strategies for implementing them. They create benchmarks for reviewing and evaluating ongoing projects. They also offer opportunities to survey residents and solicit their feedback about the community's priorities, reevaluate the role of organizations like the RCHPC, and adapt policies and processes to complement broader municipal and statewide plans.

This update to the RCHPC's Historic Preservation Plan comes at an especially important moment in Rapid City's history. In addition to the excitement and energy surrounding future growth, Rapid City has been home to several grassroots initiatives related to local history, historic preservation, and heritage tourism. Nearly 20 years ago, for example, a group of civic leaders raised funds to plan, commission, and install commemorative statues of U.S. presidents on downtown street corners. A few years later, a group of volunteers installed commemorative and interpretive signage at Founders Park. A similar effort to remember the Black Hills Flood of 1972 through interpretive signage has provided learning opportunities along the city's greenways and bike paths.

Meanwhile, in the last few years, a conversation about the history of Native Americans in Rapid City has emerged as a critical component of the city's efforts to heal itself after decades of racial division. This work focuses on issues relating to the use and re-appropriation of the Sioux San lands on the west side; the destruction of makeshift Native villages like the Oshkosh Camp (aka "Indian Town") along Rapid Creek; and the creation of the Sioux Addition, Lakota Homes, and other predominately Native neighborhoods in North Rapid. Halley Park is now home to a sculpture garden celebrating several prominent Native American leaders and intellectuals. Meanwhile, recent preservation projects have led to the reconstruction of the McGillicuddy House on Mount Rushmore Road, the rehabilitation of the former Rapid City High School into the Performing Arts Center, and the adaptive reuse of Garfield School or the Dusek Building for housing, the old Sears Building on Main Street to help create the Shops on Main Street Square, or the renovation of historic structures like the Landstrom's Building (a former power plant) in the Gap or Murphy's Pub and Grill on Main Street to provide venues for offices, breweries, or restaurants.



Figure 10: In 1877, early settlers carved their initials into the rocks along Rapid Creek. In some cases (see the shadowed grooves at lower left and lower right), their inscriptions were laid over markings left by Indigenous peoples millennia ago, symbolizing the overlap of cultures, peoples, and memories on the Rapid City landscape.

In addition to these activities, several of Rapid City’s recently updated municipal planning documents include references to the significance of history and historic preservation to the aesthetics, culture, and quality of life of the community. The city’s 2014 Comprehensive Plan calls upon the community to cultivate a sense of inclusivity and a “mix of historic charm and modern development and amenities” and to “promote and strengthen the protection of historically and culturally significant resources that contribute to the community’s unique identity and history and its marketability as a tourism destination.”⁷ The plan further calls for the preservation of natural landscapes and cultural resources, the integration of historic and cultural sites into neighborhoods where possible, and the adaptive reuse of historic structures to meet contemporary needs.⁸ Additionally, a 2013 community preferences survey showed significant support for historic preservation and adaptive re-use among Rapid City residents. Finally, Rapid City’s 2016 Cultural Plan identified a community wide need to “enhance public understanding, appreciation, and respect for all cultures, achieving diversity, equity and inclusion, with a focus to strengthen Native American artists and organizations as an inherent strength of our region.”⁹

By identifying, protecting, and promoting dialogue and education about Rapid City’s history, a robust historic preservation plan can bolster all of these grassroots efforts and support the City’s plans.



Figure 11: Since the 1970s, intentional preservation planning has maintained numerous historic homes in Rapid City. The architecture of this home on West Boulevard, with its Bavarian motifs that reflect the German heritage of many settlers to the Great Plains, communicates a sense of continuity with the past.

⁷ [“City of Rapid City Comprehensive Plan”](#) (2014), 23.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 95.

⁹ [“Experience Rapid City: Rapid City Cultural Plan”](#) (2016), 19.

Section E. Summary of Progress, 2009-2021

In its 2009 Comprehensive Plan and during a 2016 strategic planning session, the RCHPC outlined a series of goals and objectives. Since 2009, the Commission has met or exceeded several of these benchmarks. Specifically, the Commission completed a series of surveys; applied for and secured grant funding for discrete projects; drafted design guidelines; recommended standards for fringe areas between planning zones; and developed a website and made other strides in its broader efforts to increase its community outreach, education, and engagement.

Achievements by Goal, 2009-2021

*For a full list of this work, see Appendix 2

Goal A: Continue Survey and Inventory Efforts

- Updated Historic Context Document and Preservation Plan (2019-2021)
- Updated Downtown Historic District survey (completed by SHPO, 2018)
- Updated West Boulevard District survey (2015)
- Surveyed East of Fifth area (2017)
- Secured Certified Local Governments funding and City funding for survey and other projects, as needed
- Implemented evaluation standard for surveyed resources, based on “South Dakota Historic Resource Survey Manual (2006)”

Goal B: Protect Resources through National Register, State Register, and Local Register Listings

- **Completed** reconnaissance survey of Hill Crest Area (2009)
- Developed nomination of Founders Park (2009-2010); tabled by SHPO due to possible ineligibility
- Surveyed West Boulevard (2016)
- Updated West Boulevard nomination (2017)
- Updated Downtown Historic District (2019)

Goal C: Strengthen and Maintain the Protection Aspects on the Historic Preservation Program

- Drafted Downtown Design Guidelines (2013)
- Amended ordinance and discontinued MOU with SHPO to allow for administrative review of most projects (2015)
- City of Rapid City’s Downtown Area Master Plan recommendations regarding preservation standards to apply to the residential/commercial fringe (2016)

Goal D: Provide Education and Outreach to the Community

- Developed railroad walking tour (2010)
- Sponsored window rehab workshops (2017 and 2018)
- Updated walking tour brochure (2017-2018)
- Attended state/regional/national conferences on an ongoing basis
- Conducted various outreach programs and workshops (feedback for Historic Context in 2019, 2020, and 2021; Founders Park interpretation discussion, historic motels workshop, and church archives workshop in 2021)
- Staffed informational booth at Black Hills Home Show (2009-2014)

Goal E: Develop Support for Historic Preservation

- Developed website, www.picturercpast.com (2012)
- Developed annual preservation award (2013)
- Develop Historic Preservation Month mayoral proclamations and calendar of activities (2009, 2010, 2011)

Goal F: Develop and Offer Incentives to Property Owners Interested in Preserving Historic Resources

- Compiled list of professionals and craftspeople to partner on RCHPC projects (2016)

Further Development

During a 2019 strategic planning session, the RCHPC reviewed its work over the previous decade and identified several areas for further development. The Commission intends to build on its education and outreach initiatives; diversify its members; strengthen staff support; update its lists of threatened resources; strengthen its relationships with property owners and the general public, pursue additional sources of community and financial support; identify and develop opportunities for offering incentives and grant support to local projects; and cultivate a list of craftspeople, professionals, and consultants who can support the RCHPC's work. These discussions informed the strategic goals and priorities that follow.



Figure 12: By building a rapport with local business owners, the Commission can advise on ways to retain the historic character of Rapid City's many tourist cabins, roadside motels, and other structures that help document the history of tourism.

Section F. Goals and Priorities for 2021-2031

Mission Statement (Revised 2019)

The Historic Preservation Commission enhances the quality of life in Rapid City by engaging in activities that protect historic structures and sites. It works to cultivate a shared understanding of history and culture through ongoing dialogue that strengthens social bonds, shapes community identity, and helps to bridge the city's past to its future.

Strategic Goals

Be a resource for community members interested in learning about, preserving, and promoting Rapid City history

- **Educate** community members about Rapid City's history and the programs, incentives, and opportunities available for preserving and engaging with it.
- **Partner** with property owners to help them make decisions that protect historic properties while preparing them for modern use.
- **Promote** inclusivity by recognizing the many strands of Rapid City's history and allowing newcomers to feel like they are part of the community.
- **Engage** the challenging aspects of Rapid City's history and encourage dialogue that facilitates reconciliation and understanding.
- **Support** the needs of the tourism industry by giving visitors the opportunity to experience various sites and structures that contribute to a sense of place in our community.
- **Celebrate** stories about successful preservation projects that saved important assets, encouraged community dialogue, or rejuvenated a historic or cultural space.



Figure 13: In 2021, the RCHPC hosted a workshop to discuss ways to enhance the interpretation at Founders Park. One idea that emerged from the discussion was to better tell the story of the “Osh Kosh Camp,” or “Indian Camp,” which existed along the creek from around 1930 to 1954. (Upper: *Rapid City Journal*, April 1953; lower, approximately the same site in 2020.)

Protect Rapid City's historic and cultural resources through stewardship and compliance with local, state, and federal laws

- **Document** significant historical and cultural spaces throughout Rapid City.
- **Develop** an updated list of threatened historic resources.
- **Advocate** for thoughtful, creative, and collaborative decisions that preserve the integrity of Rapid City's historic and cultural resources as the community grows.
- **Collaborate** with community groups and public and private museums, libraries, and cultural institutions to explore Rapid City's history.
- **Envision** how Rapid City will continue to grow and change while integrating a sense of history to strengthen the community's future.
- **Fulfill** the responsibilities delegated in state and federal regulations to care for historic assets in Rapid City.

Strengthen opportunities for protecting historic and cultural resources

- **Align** the objectives of the RCHPC with the City of Rapid City's long-range plans.
- **Review** zoning rules, design guidelines, and existing incentive programs to enhance opportunities for community engagement.
- **Create** programs and achievable benchmarks that community members can use as they undertake updates, rehabilitations, or restorations of historic properties.
- **Articulate** an architectural vernacular across neighborhoods and business districts to incentivize aesthetic cohesion.

Priorities

Develop and Diversify the Commission

- **Diversify** the RCHPC's membership by adding additional racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and professional representation to the Commission. To do so, the Commission seeks to engage the City Council in a discussion about adjusting relevant ordinances to promote racial, ethnic, professional, and geographic diversity on the RCHPC.
- **Approach** the City of Rapid City about strengthening the City's staff commitment to the RCHPC. The RCHPC is a volunteer commission that is staffed by a single member of the Long Range Planning Division, who is authorized to devote 20 percent of each workweek to Commission-related tasks. Increasing the existing staff support to a half-time position would help the Commission coordinate various initiatives and strengthen its reporting back to the City and Council.

- **Empower** the Commission’s City staff member to delegate tasks to Commissioners as needed and to increase internal time tracking so the Commissioners have a better sense of the time they are devoting to the RCHPC.

Strengthen Community Support

- **Attract** more input from the Native American community, college students, contractors, realtors, communications and marketing professionals, and more.
- **Look** to comparable communities for models suggesting ways to raise funds and promote community engagement in history and historic preservation projects.
- **Identify** or create affiliate or “friends” groups to cultivate a sense of local support for history and historic preservation.

Improve Legal and Administrative Reporting

- **Work** with the City Council and present an annual update to the Council each year to enable more robust engagement and follow-through on this requirement. (Under an existing ordinance, this update shall occur each July.)
- **Explore** code modifications that could create city standards making infill development more compatible with existing historic districts, especially as it relates to density requirements, setbacks, and converted historic buildings.
- **Study** the ways in which the evolving business culture, including the influence of the new sharing economy, could affect restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Rethink the Role of the RCHPC and Become a Community Resource

- **Cultivate** a strong sense of community identity through history and historic preservation projects, discussions, and issues.
- **Support** the local economy through heritage tourism and preservation projects.
- **Partner** with municipal planners and property owners to integrate history and historic preservation into long-term plans and residential and commercial projects while promoting strategies for adaptive reuse.



Figure 14: The conversion of James A. Garfield Elementary School into modern, residential apartments is an example of successful adaptive reuse.

- **Collaborate** with cultural and educational institutions and neighborhood groups to promote history throughout the community.
- **Be seen** as an entity that is helpful, supportive, and respectful of community members and property owners.

Help Cultivate Rapid City's Identity

- **Utilize** collaborative projects and initiatives to promote a sense of place and pride in the Rapid City community and its history while supporting efforts to engage with challenging aspects of Rapid City's story in constructive ways.
- **Help develop** a sense of local culture and identity to strengthen the ways in which longtime residents relate to one another and to help more recent transplants to Rapid City understand and engage with their new home.
- **Contribute** to economic development by acting as a resource to businesses, homeowners, city and county offices, and other stakeholders to support heritage tourism and related projects.
- **Find** ways to balance individual connections to a building, a park, or a neighborhood with broader, community-level connections to the city as a whole.
- **Leverage** the lessons of history to help Rapid City grow responsibly and equitably, especially in periods of rapid expansion.



Figure 15: Many Rapid City residents decorate their homes and property with markers of identity. For some families, these include flags or references to the western heritage of the Black Hills region.

Promote and Strengthen Protection for Historic and Cultural Resources

Municipal historic preservation commissions traditionally survey properties within the community and document them according to the standards set forth by the National Park Service regulations that govern the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Continue** survey and documentation work based on the National Park Service regulations that govern the National Register of Historic Places and the guidelines set forth by the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office.
- **Respond** to community inquiries about preservation standards, procedures, and incentives as available.

- **Seek out** opportunities to advocate for creative and collaborative decisions when questions about infill, adaptive reuse, or the maintenance of historic structures come before public bodies.
- **Review** city setbacks, zoning, and grandfather laws pertaining to legally or illegally non-conforming historic and culturally-relevant structures and spaces.
- **Develop** and distribute design guidelines elaborating on the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#) and create achievable benchmarks that community members can work with.
- **Explore** the development of a façade program, including grants programs and support for low-income families.
- **Promote** access to philanthropic support, including the possible use of Program Related Investments.
- **Partner** with ongoing economic development and community-building initiatives throughout Rapid City to infuse conversations with a sense of the value of history and preservation planning.
- **Update** lists of contractors and professionals who can assist property owners interested in historic preservation.

Expand Education Programs and Digital Presence

- **Facilitate** workshops and other community events aimed towards meeting, engaging, and working with community members.
- **Expand** the Commission's website, www.picturercpast.com, to include guides, links, frequently asked questions, and other resources for property owners; share stories of successful historic preservation planning from across the city or region; provide information to help advocate on behalf of ongoing decisions; and link to lectures, exhibits, and community events focused on local history.
- **Communicate** with residents and community leaders by strengthening the Commission's social media presence, telling stories via TED talks or YouTube that connect community members to neighborhood and city history.
- **Cosponsor** oral history projects, public presentations, and other programming with existing cultural institutions and community groups like the Journey Museum & Learning Center, the Dahl Fine Arts Center, or the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project.

Engage in Advocacy

- **Reach out** to neighborhood and community groups to establish a rapport and begin conversations about residents needs and interests.
- **Serve** as an asset to community planners by documenting, studying, and interpreting history and historic assets in Rapid City.

- **Fill** gaps in the community’s historical record and public memory.
- **Advocate** for preservation and adaptive reuse strategies wherever possible.
- **Elevate** community conversations and promote dialogue about sensitive issues through education and communications.
- **Sponsor** awards programs, form collaborative or creative preservation projects, neighborhood clean-up initiatives, or essay or photograph contests.
- **Secure** funding opportunities to help subsidize larger community work.



Figure 16: Between 2021 and 2031, the Commission faces many opportunities to explore, interpret, and preserve spaces and structures significant to the Indigenous history of Rapid City.

Section G. Collaboration

Using this Preservation Plan

This Preservation Plan was designed to be utilized alongside “Our History, Our Future: A Historic Context Document for Rapid City” (2021), which establishes context, themes, and a factual and interpretive basis for understanding the establishment, evolution, and development of the community and built and natural environments in Rapid City.

In the coming decade, the RCHPC can work to complement broader planning initiatives outlined in existing city, county, state, national, and international planning documents and frameworks for historic preservation. Recent documents produced by entities at all levels of government outline goals and objectives that closely align with the RCHPC’s strategic goals and priorities. Because everything has a history, there are many ways in which historic preservation planning intersects with daily life and the ongoing work of community long-range planning. This section outlines key goals and objectives articulated in other recent government planning documents and demonstrates how the RCHPC’s strategic goals and priorities can support broader planning efforts.

Supporting Rapid City Plans

Since 2014, the City of Rapid City has released a series of core planning documents to position the community for growth. These include the Rapid City Comprehensive Plan (2014), the Rapid City Downtown Area Master Plan (2016), and the Rapid City Cultural Plan (2016).

These documents contain a wide array of recommendations and goals. Awareness of history and historic preservation planning offer cross-cutting benefits to support myriad initiatives aimed at managing growth, developing infrastructure, expanding the economy, and improving the quality of life in Rapid City. The RCHPC can ensure that its work contributes to initiatives underway in specific neighborhoods and across the entire community.

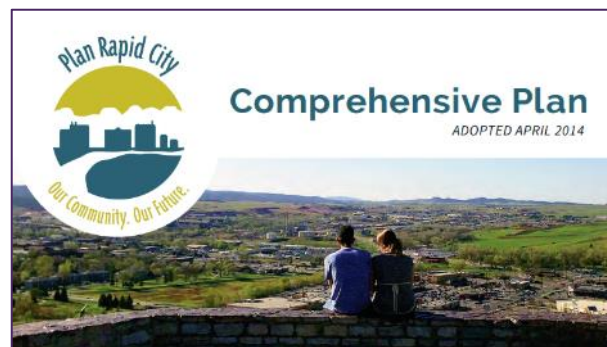


Figure 17: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above to reach Rapid City’s 2014 Comprehensive Plan.

On the first page, the 2014 Comprehensive Plan notes “the need to preserve the community’s rich history.”¹⁰ Indeed, local history and cultural and heritage resources are key elements of the local tourism economy and assets that promote a strong quality of life. The plan outlines goals like “A Balanced Pattern of Growth;” “A Vibrant, Livable Community;” “A Safe, Healthy, Inclusive, and Skilled Community;” “Economic Stability and Growth;” and “Outstanding Recreational and Cultural Opportunities.”¹¹ The Downtown Area Master Plan focuses on accessibility, character, housing, and balanced mixed-use development in the city’s historic core.¹² The Cultural Plan, meanwhile, encourages the City to promote cultural equity; develop both local and incoming cultural tourism; and to support nonprofits and creative economic development.¹³

By promoting interest and engagement with history, the RCHPC can help the City understand the challenges and opportunities that have followed periods of growth. The Commission can use the lessons of the past to advise City leaders, business owners, and residents on how to ensure equitable and inclusive economic, residential, commercial, and infrastructure expansion.

By promoting a sense of shared identity, the RCHPC can help longtime residents better understand the character of the community while creating resources that familiarize new arrivals to their home. The

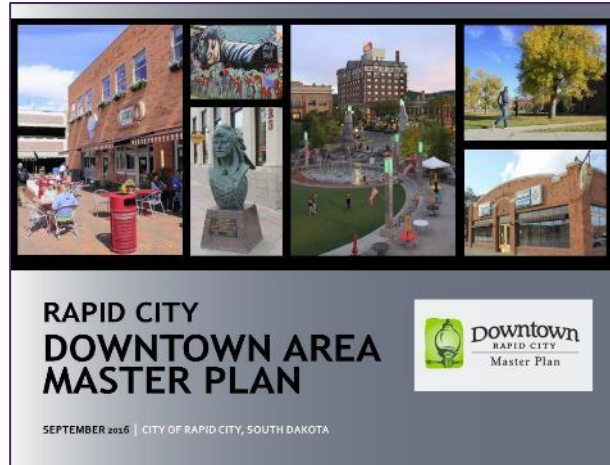


Figure 18: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above to reach Rapid City’s 2016 Downtown Area Master Plan.



Figure 19: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above to reach Rapid City’s 2016 Cultural Plan.

¹⁰ “[City of Rapid City Comprehensive Plan](#)” (2014), 1.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 11–12.

¹² “[Rapid City Downtown Area Master Plan](#)” (2016), 7.

¹³ “[Experience Rapid City](#)” (2016), 17.

Commission can work with residential developers, school planners, and other stakeholders to enhance existing neighborhoods and develop new neighborhoods that meet the needs of burgeoning areas of town while promoting local cohesion.

With its knowledge of building styles, use plans, and more, the RCHPC can sponsor workshops for community members and advise the City’s planning department about infill development, architectural vernaculars, and develop relationships with professionals and craftspeople who can maintain these assets over the long term. The Commission can help owners of existing and emerging businesses see value in preserving and adapting historic structures.

Surveying, documenting, interpreting, and understanding the history of Rapid City from a diverse set of racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural viewpoints, the RCHPC can assist the City in its efforts to become more inclusive and welcoming and to invest in and raise awareness about spaces, structures, programs, and organizations that are important to different groups within the community. And, by recognizing the value of landscape and water to the development and recreational culture of Rapid City, the RCHPC can support efforts to conserve and utilize natural resources for recreation and quality of life.

Supporting the Pennington County Comprehensive Plan

Pennington County encompasses some 1,500 square miles. It includes many communities, national and state parks, tribal land, national forests and grasslands, and other entities that conduct their own long-range planning. The County’s Comprehensive Plan focuses on collaborations with other entities and stakeholders, land and resource use, and related topics.

The primary arenas in which the RCHPC’s strategic goals and priorities can support Pennington County’s plans are city expansion, heritage tourism development, and monitoring of existing spaces on the National Register of Historic Places. As Rapid City grows and new neighborhoods extend into rural areas and infill locations between cities—like between Rapid City and Box Elder—the Commission can partner with County and municipal stakeholders to assess historic assets (including

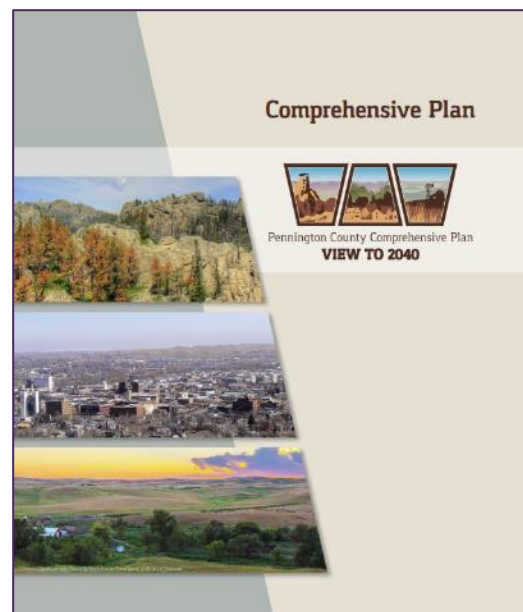


Figure 20: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above to reach Pennington County's Comprehensive Plan.

landscapes, watersheds, structures, and cultural sites). Meanwhile, the RCHPC’s efforts to promote history will support broader, county-level efforts to promote tourism.

The RCHPC can also partner with Pennington County to study, survey, monitor, and protect culturally significant sites in the county within the shared planning district adjacent to Rapid City’s city limits, including the Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns Dance Pavilion, Bridge No. 52-757-383, and the Joseph and Marie Kudrna Homestead and Ranch. The Commission can also assist Pennington County as it develops roads and infrastructure to connect heritage and cultural sites.¹⁴

Supporting the South Dakota Preservation Plan

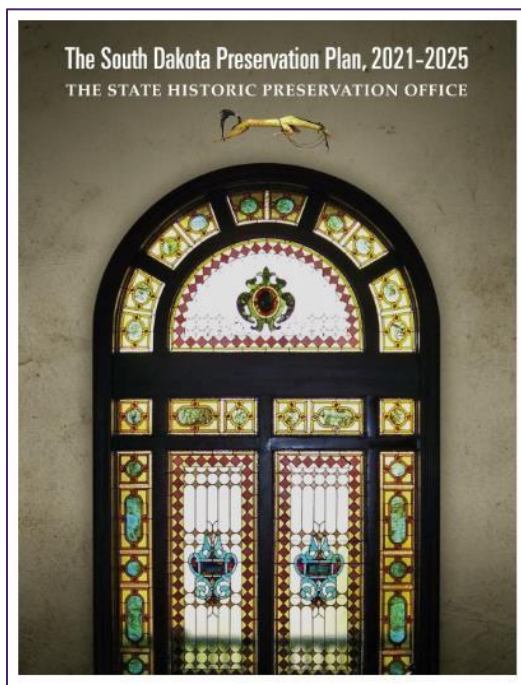


Figure 21: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above to reach South Dakota’s Preservation Plan.

The strategic goals and priorities outlined in the RCHPC’s Preservation Plan closely align with and build upon the four main goals articulated in the South Dakota SHPO’s previous Statewide Preservation Plan (2016–2020). They were “Increase the Promotion of Historic Preservation Programs in SD;” “Expand Access to Educational Opportunities;” “Maintain and Increase the Identification, Registration, and Protection of Historic Properties;” and “Increase Funding for Historic Preservation Programs in SD.”¹⁵

The SHPO’s recently-released Statewide Preservation Plan (2021-2025) focuses on a longer list of more technical goals focused on strengthening the National Register nominations in the state, developing the state’s databases on historic and cultural resources, updating the state’s suite of historic contexts, protecting cultural resources on public lands, strengthening certified local governments and historic preservation commissions across the state, and providing public information about tax incentives and other preservation programs.¹⁶

By coordinating with the SHPO, the RCHPC can stay abreast of developments and evolutions in policies, regulations, and best practices for preservation planning work. The

¹⁴ See National Park Service, “[Historic Preservation Planning Program](#).”

¹⁵ South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, “[Statewide Preservation Plan: 2016–2020](#)” (2015), 39–43.

¹⁶ South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, “[The South Dakota Preservation Plan, 2021–2025](#),” (2020), 15–21.

RCHPC can also look to statewide guidelines, grant-funded initiatives, conferences, and other programs to fundraise, build capacity, and collaborate on initiatives that support both local and statewide preservation goals. It can also participate in the SHPO's programs geared towards funding, training, and strengthening certified local governments and historic preservation commissions.

Supporting National Park Service Plans

The RCHPC's strategic goals and priorities also align with the historic preservation objectives articulated by the National Park Service. These include “strengthening the integration of historic preservation into broader public policy and land-use planning and decision-making arenas at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels;” “increasing opportunities for broad-based and diverse public participation in planning for historic and cultural resources;” “expanding knowledge and skills in historic preservation planning;” and “assisting states, tribes, local governments, and federal agencies in carrying out inclusive preservation planning programs that are responsive to their own needs and concerns.”¹⁷

By taking steps to integrate its own Historic Preservation Plan with broader preservation plans and initiatives, promoting education about history and historic preservation, pursuing projects that explore a diverse array of preservation initiatives, and offering workshops to engage communities and cultivate skills of residents and professionals in the historic preservation field, the RCHPC can support federal goals outlined by the National Park Service.



Figure 22: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above for further information from the National Park Service.

Supporting Trends in International Cultural Resources Management

Throughout the community outreach and engagement and strategic planning process that shaped this Historic Preservation Plan, the RCHPC was informed by the Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL) approach adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2011. The HUL approach builds on conventional historic preservation concepts and practices to harness “the power of cultural heritage to

¹⁷ See National Park Service, “[Historic Preservation Planning Program](#).”

make cities and settlements culturally vibrant, economically prosperous, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.”¹⁸

HUL advocates for understanding urban landscapes as ever-changing. Rather than attempting to freeze a part of a community in time, it understands the people and built and natural environments of a place as ever-changing. It recognizes historic preservation as a tool for developing place and identity as assets to the entire community.

Many of the RCHPC’s strategic goals and priorities fit within this framework. By prescribing a wide array of work that can protect historic spaces and structures, encourage education and outreach to drive interest in local history, and make efforts to persuade and incentivize residents and businessowners to participate in preservation activities, the RCHPC can support UNESCO’s efforts to plan for a rich and vibrant future that integrates historically and culturally relevant resources in cities across the world.

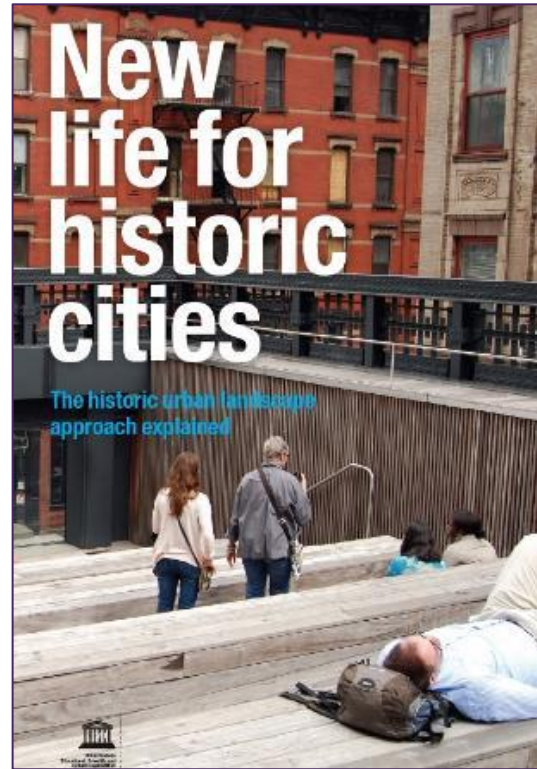


Figure 23: If viewing this plan in PDF form, click the image above for further information about HUL.

¹⁸ See [“UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, Second Consultation to the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape Implementation by Member States”](#) (2019).

Integration and Future Studies

This Preservation Plan sets forth an ambitious and multi-faceted roadmap for the RCHPC's work between 2021 and 2031. Informed by the strategic goals and priorities and collaboration recommendations noted above, the RCHPC could undertake these and other studies in the coming years:

- Survey of postwar schools
- Survey of postwar churches
- Survey of postwar commercial architecture
- Survey of postwar housing
- Survey of historic landscape elements
- Survey of ethnobotanical and cultural resources and sites in Rapid City
- Survey of historic resources significant to diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and identity groups
- Update list of threatened historic spaces
- Develop list of eligible and soon-to-be eligible structures for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places



Figure 24: Rapid Creek at the base of Cowboy Hill at Founders Park. This area reflects elements of the environmental, Indigenous, Euro-American, recreational, and industrial history of Rapid City.

Section H. Conclusion

History informs the present, but the wisdom and beauty of the past are often dismissed as communities rush to embrace the new, new thing. Historic preservation planning takes proactive steps to document, understand, interpret, protect, and reimagine uses for cultural and historic assets. It also takes individual and institutional courage and vision as people fight to preserve precious buildings and sites that will give future generations a sense of identity and purpose.

By cultivating its reputation as a positive and supportive community resource, the RCHPC can assist residents, business owners, existing cultural institutions, stakeholders in heritage tourism, and officials as they plan for growth and meet the objectives set for in city, county, and state plans. The Commission can also become an advocate for and conduit through which history and historic preservation inform public discourse and decision-making processes within and across Rapid City.

Working with representatives from other City departments and commissions; county, state, and tribal governments; and by adhering to the guidelines and policies set forth by the National Park Service, the Commission can take informed steps to preserve and protect vital cultural and historic resources. Investing in community outreach and engagement, the RCHPC can work in ways that meet and build upon its regulatory obligations while comporting with the needs and comfort level of property owners and the general public.

Through a thoughtful, dynamic process to address the strategic goals and priorities outlined in this Preservation Plan, the Commission can strengthen opportunities for protecting historic and cultural resources in ways that meet the short- and long-term goals of Rapid City. Along the way, the RCHPC can become a catalyst for the kind of integrated and intentional planning and growth that will make Rapid City a stronger, healthier community for all.



Figure 25: Historic preservation planning can help Rapid City prepare for growth.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Legal Basis for Historic Preservation

Historic preservation has been a part of civic life in the United States since the early 19th century, existing primarily in small, ad-hoc community initiatives framed around efforts to shape a shared understanding of the meaning of the past. Beginning in the early 20th century, a series of federal, state, and local regulations and standards created a legal and administrative framework for protecting and utilizing historical resources. Primary among them were the Antiquities Act of 1906, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and the Historic Sites Act of 1935. These laws provide for the assessment, recording, and protection of historic resources in the United States.

Under Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act, federal agencies—and by extension, state and local entities that receive federal funding—must consider the effects that federally-funded projects may have on historic properties. Given the substantial federal support they receive for preservation activities, much of the authority delegated to local and state historic preservation offices and commissions—like that of the South Dakota SHPO or the RCHPC—flows from Section 106.

Federal

The United States government, through the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, offers standards and guidelines pertaining to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic properties. These standards, guidelines, and definitions for historic preservation are expansive and detailed. They are designed to comply with federal laws like the National Historic Preservation Act and to promote the goals of historic preservation and cultural resource management. Together, they offer recommendations and best practices that enable the preservation of historic structures and cultural landscapes.

Additionally, in partnership with state SHPOs, the National Park Service manages a Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Following a review and accreditation, communities bearing CLG status are eligible for a suite of state and federal benefits that provide funding, technical assistance, and other forms of support to historic preservation projects. The City of Rapid City received CLG certification in 1986, making it—and the RCHPC—eligible for federal program funds.¹⁹

¹⁹ See National Park Service, “[Certified Local Government Program](#).”

National Register Eligibility Criteria

For historic properties to become eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, they must be at least 50 years old or of exceptional importance, either through their significance to American history; architecture; archaeology; engineering; or the culture of a community, a state, or the nation as a whole. In addition, historical properties are individually eligible for the National Register if they:

- a. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. Are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- c. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d. Have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory

Eligible historical sites must have maintained their historical integrity, meaning that they must convey the “authenticity of [the] property’s historic identity [as] evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property’s historic or prehistoric period.”²⁰ In other words, a historical site cannot have been damaged or altered so much that it no longer resembles the history it once represented. Additionally, it is possible for properties that are not individually eligible for the national register to receive a designation as a “contributing” structure—or one that, although ineligible for national register status on its own, still retains sufficient historical integrity to be included within the context of an established historic district. Properties that have lost their eligibility may be considered “not eligible” or “non-contributing.”²¹

State

South Dakota law conveys preservation authority and oversight of municipal preservation activities to state authorities. Under SDCL 1-19A and SDCL 1-19B, the SHPO conducts a survey of historic resources across the state; maintains the State Register of Historic Places; promotes public interest in historic preservation; and supports, funds, and provides assistance to local historic preservation commissions as well as private entities engaged in preservation projects. State law also creates a State Historical Society Board of Trustees, which advises the SHPO, approves state and national register nominations, makes determinations in cases where a property owner has applied for the removal of a historic

²⁰ Jay Correia, “Identifying Historical Integrity,” California Preservation Foundation, [The Nitty-Gritty’s of Historic Preservation \(ca.gov\)](#), accessed March 19, 2021.

²¹ Brenna Maloney, “[Rapid City Downtown Area Survey](#)” (2017), 10–11.

property from either register, and determines eligibility for preservation-related state tax abatement programs.²²

South Dakota law also requires that the SHPO be allowed to “investigate and comment” on state or municipal projects that threaten a property listed on the state or national registers. Under this authority, the SHPO may review plans and documents like building and demolition permits for projects that could adversely affect registered historic properties, then work to ensure that the project complies with state and federal preservation rules and regulations. The SHPO makes determinations about the impact of individual projects on historic resources.

Additionally, state law empowers county and municipal governments to create historic preservation commissions, then outlines broad parameters for the authority vested in them.²³

Local

The Rapid City Code of Ordinances outlines the creation, membership, powers, and responsibilities of the RCHPC. According to Section 2.62 of the Rapid City Code, the RCHPC consists of five members (along with two alternates), with no requirement for City residency. The mayor appoints and the Common Council approves members of the commission. Appointments are made with due regard for community members with expertise in fields like architecture, history, archaeology, law, urban planning, and more; and for community members who are property owners within the Downtown Historic District or the West Boulevard Historic District, or who have a strong stake in the preservation of historic spaces.

According to [Section 2.62](#), the powers and responsibilities of the RCHPC are as follows:

- a. To conduct surveys of local Historic Properties;
- b. To participate in planning and land use processes undertaken by the City that affect historic properties and historic areas;
- c. To participate in historic preservation review as provided in this Code;
- d. To cooperate and contract with local, state or federal governments with the approval of the Common Council to further the objectives of historic preservation;
- e. To promote and conduct an educational and interpretive program on Historic Properties and issues within the City;
- f. To provide information for the purposes of historic preservation to the Common Council;

²² “[City of Pierre Historic Preservation Plan](#)” (2008), 26–29.

²³ *Ibid.*, 29–31.

- g. To notify the Director of Equalization of the designation of any Historic Property by the City or by the U.S. Department of the Interior;
- h. With consent of the owner, to assist owners of Historic Property and buildings and structures in Historic Districts in preserving their buildings;
- i. When requested, to assist in the review of projects on which review by the State Historic Preservation Office is required under SDCL 1-19A-11.1;
- j. To attend informational and educational programs covering the duties of the Commission and current developments in historic preservation;
- k. To preserve, restore, maintain and operate Historic Properties under the ownership or control of the Commission, including historical easements, and to lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of such Historic Properties; and
- l. To further the objectives of historic preservation as allowed under these ordinances and state law.²⁴

Despite creating and enumerating the authority listed above, the Rapid City Code of Ordinances does not empower the RCHPC with a local historic preservation ordinance or a local designation process. Although the Code describes a process for reviewing historic signage, guidelines adopted by and for the West Boulevard district are descriptive but carry no formal regulatory weight.²⁵

²⁴ [“Chapter 2.62: Historic Preservation Commission.”](#) See also [“Ordinance No. 6032: An Ordinance to Promote Historic Preservation By Repealing Chapter 2.68 of the Rapid City Municipal Code and Adopting Provisions in Chapters 17.04 and 17.54 of the Rapid City Municipal Code,”](#) September 18, 2015.

²⁵ See “Plan Rapid City Zoning Diagnosis” in [“City of Rapid City Comprehensive Plan”](#) (2014), C-14.

Appendix 2: Detailed List of RCHPC Goals and Objectives, 2009-2016

Goal A: Continue Survey and Inventory Efforts

- Update historic context documents
 - *In progress 2019-2021 with Vantage Point Historical Services, Inc.*
- Update old surveys
 - *Downtown Commercial – completed by SHPO in 2018*
 - *West Boulevard – completed with consultant assistance and grant funds in 2015*
- Identify and Prioritize geographic areas to survey
 - *East of Fifth – surveyed in 2017 using grant funds*
- Identify and Prioritize specific resource types to survey
 - *Secured funding to conduct surveys on ongoing basis*
 - *CLG funds + City funds when needed*
- Develop and implement evaluation standards for surveyed resources
 - *These now exist via NPS/SHPO*
- Develop, maintain and update list of threatened resources
 - *This has not been done recently. See article: “What’s Gone, What’s Left, and What’s Threatened,” Rapid City Journal, April 11, 2010.*

Goal B: Protect Resources through National Register, State Register, and Local Register Listings

- Update existing districts as necessary
 - *Downtown and West Boulevard Nominations are updated*
- Identify potentially eligible districts and individual resources
- Encourage and assist property owners in pursuing listings
- Secure funding to nominate districts or multiple-property groups

Goal C: Strengthen and Maintain the Protection Aspects on the Historic Preservation Program

- Develop and implement preservation ordinance(s) for listed resources
- Develop design guidelines
 - *Draft design guidelines prepared by Nore Winter 2013*
- Improve design review processes
 - *Ordinance amendment and discontinuation of MOU with SHPO allows for administrative review of most projects*
- Develop a façade protection ordinance
 - *Applied unsuccessfully for Rapid City Vision Fund in 2016*
- Encourage transfer of historic easements
- Seek code modifications that would enhance preservation efforts
 - *Downtown Plan – recommends standards to apply to the residential/Commercial fringe*

Goal D: Provide Education and Outreach to the Community

- Develop and implement Historic Preservation Month activities
 - *RCHPC has sponsored sporadic programming during Historic Preservation Month (May); has not focused on these efforts recently*
- Establish a heritage education program for use in local schools
- Expand library of historic preservation materials
- Identify local events and activities where HPC can distribute information
- Identify potential preservation partners and provide outreach to them
- Work in partnership with others to develop educational and informational programs
- Sponsor workshops and seminars for owners of historic properties, such as rehabilitation workshops
 - *Window rehab workshops conducted in 2017 and 2018 for Historic Preservation Month*
- Update brochures and interpretive signs as necessary
 - *Downtown Historic District walking tour brochure updated in 2017 and 2018*
- Obtain and provide regular self-education for the HPC members
 - *Staff and RCHPC members have attended state, regional, and national conferences*
- Seek and secure funding to support education and outreach efforts.

Goal E: Develop Support for Historic Preservation

- Develop and implement strategic partnerships and networking to enhance existing preservation efforts
- 2016: Build relationships and partnerships with other groups (AIA SD, ASLA, ASID, local realtors, AGC, home builders, local and West Boulevard Historical Association, RC Chamber of Commerce, BID, Destination Rapid City, Historic Rapid City, RC Parks and Recreation, Journey Museum and Learning Center, and the Rapid City Public Library)
- Provide outreach to City Council, significant persons, organizations, and businesses that may have an interest in how Rapid City's historic resources contribute to the overall quality of life in the community
- Increase visibility of the HPC and preservation-related activities
 - *Website created – www.picturercpast.com*
- Provide recognition for successful preservation efforts
 - *Annual preservation award*
- Develop and implement activities that emphasize the positive aspects of living or working in a historic district

Goal F: Develop and Offer Incentives to Property Owners Interested in Preserving Historic Resources

- Encourage the use of federal tax credits and state tax moratorium programs, Preserve SD low interest loan (*now defunct*) and the Deadwood grant program.
- Investigate ways to develop local funding opportunities through grants and loans, including the use of CDBG for preservation related activities.
- Develop and offer a directory of skilled craftsperson and consultants that can provide technical support and assistance in preparing the National Register Nominations and restoring or rehabilitating historic properties
- List compiled in 2016; not updated annually
- Identify potential sources and secure funding for ongoing HPC sponsored projects.

Appendix 3: Potential RCHPC Projects

In early 2021, the RCHPC sponsored three community workshops focused on exploring opportunities for expanding interpretation at Founders Park, helping community members work with church archives, and discussing a potential project for preserving historic, postwar motels. As part of Phase III, the RCHPC brainstormed a variety of potential projects to be completed in accordance with its strategic goals and priorities over the next decade. These projects grew from the Phase III focused investigations and are described below along with a list of community resources and potential collaborators.

The Ridgeline and the Creek: Landscape and Memory in Rapid City

Interpretive Hiking and Cycling: Skyline Drive Wilderness and Hanson-Larsen Memorial Park

The hiking, mountain biking, and trail running communities are very active in Rapid City. Although some interpretive material exists at the base of Hanson-Larsen Memorial Park and at certain points in the Skyline Wilderness Area, the RCHPC could partner with either entity, or the many clubs and groups that meet there, to develop plans for additional educational and interpretive materials. These could include signage and markers or interpretive walks and planned events.

Treasure Hunt: Robbery and Cowboy Hill

Everyone loves a treasure hunt. In the spring of 1922, three men robbed a railroad switchman in Montana, stealing \$15,000. Chased by police, one thief made his way to Rapid City, where he was arrested and interrogated for 24 hours. He confessed and his wife agreed to show the police where the man had buried his share of the booty. She led the sheriff “all over the hills and country” between Rapid City and Black Hawk, before “winding up on the Cowboy Hill northwest of the city,” where she “turn[ed] over a fairly good sized rock” and removed a tin can containing \$2,650. Four thousand other dollars were never recovered.²⁶ To engage families and outdoor enthusiasts and inspire a connection between history and recreation, the RCHPC could sponsor a history-themed treasure hunt and hiking adventure in Hanson-Larsen Memorial Park. This event could include history talks, nature walks, and a fundraiser to support historic preservation in Rapid City.

²⁶ “O’Malley Confesses \$15,000 Robbery Near Missoula; Three Others Implicated,” *Rapid City Journal*, May 14, 1922.

Reinterpreting Dinosaur Park: A Partnership with South Dakota Mines

According to the historian Ross Wilson, dinosaur parks offer opportunities “to reassess the relationship between humans and the environment” by supporting “a process of transformation [that] takes place as individuals are required to rethink humanity’s place in the vast timescale of the Earth’s history and the fate of our won species in the context of climate change.”²⁷ Partnering with paleontologists and geologists at South Dakota Mines, the RCHPC could sponsor a project that evaluates the history of Dinosaur Park and reassesses the interpretation at the site. South Dakota Mines held a series of interpretive programs at Dinosaur Park in the late 1990s; these could be revived and revitalized.

Ethnobotany and Cultural Landscape Studies in Rapid City

From the wind and the moon to rocks, trees, plants, animals, and insects, the natural world is of deep cultural and spiritual significance to various groups of people who have lived in, used, and visited the Black Hills over many centuries. The RCHPC could partner with Oglala Lakota College, or the American Indian Studies program at Black Hills State University, or Native Nations from around the area to study and document the ethnobotany of Rapid City. Similarly, the RCHPC could work with church groups, conservation societies, and other organizations to document the meanings of the environment to the Rapid City community.

Liaison with Black Hills Astronomical Society

For several years, the Black Hills Astronomical Society (BHAS) has been raising awareness about light pollution in and around Rapid City. The RCHPC could work with the BHAS to host workshops or community discussions aimed at helping the community understand and responsibly mitigate light pollution.

Coordinate with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks/Outdoor Campus West

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) operates a large interpretive center and outdoor recreation park near the South Canyon neighborhood called “Outdoor Campus West.” There, GFP naturalists offer classes for citizens hoping to learn outdoor skills and learn more about nature and wildlife. The RCHPC could partner with GFP to develop programs on local environmental history and conservation efforts, both at Outdoor Campus West and in parks and nature areas across Rapid City.

Community Resources

Minnilusa Historical Association

²⁷ Ross J. Wilson, “Encountering Dinosaurs: Public History and Environmental Heritage,” *The Public Historian* 42, no. 4 (November 2020): 121.

Journey Museum and Learning Center
Dahl Fine Arts Center
Rapid City Public Library
Friends of Rapid City Parks
Black Hills Mountain Bike Association
South Dakota Archaeological Research Center
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks
Black Hills Trails
Norbeck Society
Black Hills Astronomical Society
Oglala Lakota College
American Indian Studies, Black Hills State University
Regional Native American Tribes

Hallowed Ground: Rapid City's Historic Cemeteries

Sponsored Research on Cemeteries in Rapid City

Ellen Bishop is a local genealogist and probably the most knowledgeable person in the area when it comes to cemetery research. She has compiled lists of those buried at several of Rapid City's historic cemeteries. The Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research, Inc., is another community group interested in this work. The RCHPC could engage Ms. Bishop and/or the RCSGRI to assemble a detailed history of local cemeteries. Additionally, the RCPHC could engage a specialist on the history of cemeteries to evaluate the design, iconography, and other elements of the burial sites in Rapid City. This project could include partnerships with Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home, Behrens Wilson Funeral Home, and Kirk Funeral Home and Cremation Services to survey mortuary records.

Support for Rapid City Indian School Children's Memorial

As detailed in the accompanying "Indigenous Presence" and "Rapid City Indian School/Sioux San Lands" essays, a group of community researchers has spent the last several years locating the unmarked graves of Native American children who died at the Rapid City Indian School. As the community continues to search for and protect these graves and support the creation of a Children's Memorial at the site, the RCHPC could provide research support and/or serve as a community liaison for this work.

Driving or Walking Tours of Historic Cemeteries

Some cemeteries install interpretive signage and sponsor guided or self-guided walking or driving tours. Others maintain lush gardens and promote programming that emphasizes

botany and landscape. Some historic cemeteries even host concerts. The RCHPC could engage the community to determine the comfort level with these creative uses, then work with cemeteries and other stakeholders to enrich the programming and community interaction with local cemeteries. Over time, these projects could expand to include historic cemeteries beyond Rapid City.

Develop Cemeteries Website

To capture the historic character of cemeteries, showcase headstones and landscapes as both monuments and historical sources, offer families of the deceased an opportunity to virtually visit their loved ones or research earlier generations, and promote programming or wayfinding, some cemeteries develop interactive websites. The RCHPC could develop a website for Rapid City's historic cemeteries, either as a stand-alone project or a component of picturercpast.com. (See for example: Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York <https://albanyruralcemetery.org/>; Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, Georgia; <https://oaklandcemetery.com/>; Woodland Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio, <https://woodlandcemetery.org/>; Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC, <https://congressionalcemetery.org/>)

Community Resources

Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research, Inc.
Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project
Mountain View / Mount Calvary Cemeteries
St. Martin's Monastery
Pine Lawn Memorial Park and Cremation Gardens
Mount Moriah Cemetery (Deadwood)
Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home
Behrens Wilson Funeral Home
Kirk Funeral Home and Cremation Services
Rausch Monuments

Indigenous Presence: Deep History to 2021

Incorporate Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands

At public events sponsored by the RCHPC, the Commission could include a land acknowledgement and follow best practices for showing respect to Indigenous peoples to take a step towards correcting the erasure of Indigenous peoples' history and culture. See for reference: [Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgement](#).

Interpretive Park/Community Historic Site at Osh Kosh Camp

Since its removal in the 1950s, the site of the Osh Kosh Camp has been converted into a greenway and recreation area known as Founder's Park. In recent years, several public displays have been erected to interpret the history of the city's founding and the 1972 flood. None focuses on the history of the Osh Kosh Camp or other neighborhoods along the creek. To tell this important piece of Rapid City's history, the RCHPC could work with community partners to add signage interpreting the Osh Kosh Camp area or partner with cultural institutions to sponsor a symposium on, or an artistic interpretation of, the subject.

Survey of the Sioux Addition/Lakota Homes

The Sioux Addition was created in 1954 and Lakota homes was created in 1969. The RCHPC could partner with neighborhood groups like the Sioux Addition Civic Association to conduct an architectural and history survey of both neighborhoods. This work could survey historic properties, create a community archive of photographs and documents that tell the neighborhoods' story, or pursue an application that each district be recognized on the state or national registers of historical places.

Community Oral History Projects

Working with Oglala Lakota College, the Rapid City Public Library, BHSU Rapid City, or the Journey Museum and Learning Center, the RCHPC could sponsor or coordinate oral history projects to document residents' memories on any of the following subjects:

Osh Kosh Camp

Creation of the Sioux Addition/Lakota Homes

Histories of activism re: AIM, Winona Club, Black Hills Council of American Indians

Origins of Lakota Nation Invitational

Origins of Black Hills Powwow

Preservation of Round Barn at Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns

Although located outside city limits, the round barn on the property of Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns is an important community resource that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has deep ties to the history of Native tourism, activism, and efforts for cultural education and reconciliation, and is specifically linked to the Oglala Holy Man Nicholas Black Elk and the Lakota community leader and artist Godfrey Broken Rope. The property on which the barn sits was recently sold to a private developer from Rapid City. The RCHPC could become an advocate and liaison with the owner to stabilize and preserve the barn and the artwork within.

Community Resources

BHSU Rapid City
Black Hills Powwow Association
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
City of Rapid City Parks Department
Elks Theater
Friends of Rapid City Parks
Hanson/Larsen Memorial Park
Journey Museum and Learning Center
Lakota Nation Invitational
Mother Butler Center/St. Isaac Jogues Church
NDN Collective
Oglala Lakota College
Prairie Edge
Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project
Rapid City Public Library
Sioux Addition Civic Association
St. John Lutheran Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Rapid City Indian School / Sioux San Lands

Survey/Preservation of the “Sioux San” Campus

The Sioux San Campus dates back to 1898. Although few, if any, of the existing buildings are originals from that era, many may extend back nearly a century, to the facility's time as a boarding school, CCC camp, tuberculosis clinic, and early IHS hospital. A process is presently underway to evaluate and remove many of these structures as updates to the Oyate Health Care are underway. This is a complicated conversation involving the federal government, several tribes, and members of the Rapid City community. The RCHPC can continue to engage the community in the interpretation of this history through its participation in the Section 106 process as a consulting party.

Support for Community Work Developing a Children's Memorial near Sioux San

In October 2020, a group led by Native American community members announced the creation of a Children's Memorial to protect the graves and honor the memory of the children who died at the Rapid City Indian School. This is a multi-year fundraising, construction, and interpretive project. The RCHPC could become a key leader in helping to raise public support and awareness, educate the community, and develop city partnerships to create and maintain the memorial.

Liaison Role in Community Conversation Around the Dissolution of Boarding School Lands

The story of the boarding school and the dissolution of the associated property has sparked a great deal of interest and dialogue in Rapid City over the last several years. Many stakeholders in West Rapid—including churches, businesses, residents, and state and municipal entities—occupy the former boarding school lands. As the city works with the community to address broad questions about this history, the RCHPC could play a vital role as a liaison and voice for strong interpretation and education as the community wrestles with this challenging part of its history.

Community Resources

BHSU Rapid City
Canyon Lake Church of God
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on Canyon Lake Drive
Episcopal Church
Friends of Rapid City Parks
John Whitherspoon College
Journey Museum and Learning Center
Methodist Church, Wesleyan Camp-Cedar Canyon on Red Dale Drive
NDN Collective
Oglala Lakota College
Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project
Rapid City Public Library
Sioux Addition Civic Association
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Diverse Rapid City: Catholic, Jewish, and African American History

Create a Research Project or Curriculum: Catholic History in Rapid City

The Catholic Church has a deep history and expansive footprint in Rapid City, and the Rapid City Catholic School System has a robust, online chronology of church history in West River, South Dakota. The RCHPC could coordinate with diocese officials and staff and teachers from local schools to develop class projects or curriculum to study and explore the history of Catholics and Catholicism in Rapid City and the Black Hills.

Organize Oral History Project re: Synagogue of the Hills

The Synagogue of the Hills has a sizeable library and archive documenting its history and that of the Jewish community in the Black Hills and South Dakota. Meanwhile, several members have been involved with the congregation for decades. The RCHPC could help coordinate or sponsor an oral history project, perhaps in tandem with the Synagogue and/or the Rapid City Public Library, to capture the memories and reflections of the Synagogue's members.

Support Mayoral Proclamation on Juneteenth

In many parts of the United States, African American communities commemorate the anniversary of emancipation each June 19, or "Juneteenth." This is a reference to the arrival of a US army contingent that brought the news of both the end of slavery and the Civil War to Texas in June 1865. President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation three years earlier, in September 1862, and it took effect on January 1, 1863. Yet many Black communities deep in the Confederacy were not freed until war's end. In August of 1885 and 1886, some Rapid City residents celebrated emancipation, but these events were neither long lasting nor well documented. The RCHPC could coordinate with the Mayor's Office and the African American community to commemorate Juneteenth or find another date or holiday of significance to Black residents.

Coordinate with Ellsworth Air Force Base to Honor Diverse Servicemen and Servicewomen

The RCHPC could work with the Mayor's Office, City Council, and officials at Ellsworth Air Force Base to find ways to research and commemorate the contributions of the diverse servicemen and servicewomen who have been stationed at the base over the years and served both the military and the Rapid City community with distinction. Such a commemoration could come in a variety of forms. For example, it could include interpretive signage, the naming of a building or facility on base or in Rapid City, or through the establishment of an award or scholarship in the name of a notable individual (or individuals) from historically marginalized groups.

Develop Podcast on Race and Difference in Rapid City

As Rapid City prepares to grow in the 2020s, the RCHPC could develop a podcast focusing on the diverse stories of community members past and present. Partnering with a local university, television or radio station, or South Dakota Public Broadcasting, this project could highlight stories that promote a sense of place and help strengthen the bonds between the community and new arrivals to the city.

Sponsor Research Projects

As noted above, the stories of many historically marginalized groups in Rapid City are not well known. The RCHPC could work with a local high school or university class, or engage

consultants or scholars, to research and document the histories of members of the following groups of Rapid Citians:

- Latino/a
- Asian American
- Africa/Middle East
 - Muslim/History of home-based mosque services
- LGBTQ
- Religious Groups
 - Muslims

Community Resources

- Synagogue of the Hills
- Ellsworth Air Force Base
- Journey Museum and Learning Center
- Minnilusa Historical Association
- Dahl Fine Arts Center
- Rapid City Public Library
- Faith Temple Church of God in Christ
- Catholic Diocese of Rapid City

A Home of One's Own: Postwar Residential Development in Rapid City, 1945-1972

Housing Airmen and Their Families

The development of Ellsworth Air Force base over many decades has had an enormous influence on Rapid City and the community's demand for housing. While a significant number of airmen and their families have been housed on the base and in the nearby community of Box Elder, a number of housing projects in Rapid City were undertaken specifically to meet the needs of the base. RCHPC could undertake an effort in cooperation with Ellsworth to research and document this story.

Postwar Neighborhoods – Preservation and Updates

Working with local architects and preservationists, RCHPC could develop a workshop for homeowners in the neighborhoods that were built during the postwar boom (1946-1964). The workshop could provide context on these years of construction, highlight prevalent elements in design and materials, and showcase what some homeowners in Rapid City have done to update these homes while preserving a sense of the original architecture.

Community Resources

Rapid City Public Library
Journey Museum and Learning Center
Black Hills Homebuilders Association
Black Hills Association of Realtors
Pennington County

Post-War Commercial Architecture in Rapid City: Neighborhood Business Plazas and the Motel Industry, 1945-1972

Opportunities for Further Research

Because the development of new suburbs and automobile tourism played such a key role in the local economy after World War II, the investigative essay on postwar commercial architecture focused on history of commercial business plazas, tourist cabins, tourist courts, and motels in Rapid City. To continue developing the history of Rapid City's economy, the RCHPC could support further research into the following industries:

- Railroad and highway transport
- Industrial manufacturing
- Banking and financial services

Database of Historic Motels

The RCHPC could sponsor the creation of an online database of historic motels, their years of existence, and their various owners. Researchers could hope to track down families of some of these entrepreneurs to capture oral histories and locate family archives to fill out this important element in Rapid City's history.

Neon Signs – Rosenbaum Signs

The Rosenbaum Sign company played a key role in creating neon signs for many of the city's motels, as well as other establishments. Research on the history of the company and in its archives might yield more information on the look and feel of the industry and the city in the postwar years.

Visit Rapid City

The RCHPC could help the Rapid City community explore a project to save one of the remaining motels and turn it into a museum focused on the history of the visitor/tourism industry in Rapid City.

Community Resources

Elevate Rapid City (Chamber of Commerce collection)
Visit Rapid City
South Dakota Department of Tourism
Journey Museum and Learning Center
Rapid City Public Library

Faith in a New Direction: Suburban Worship in Postwar Rapid City: 1945-1972

Church Archives & Histories

Many of the neighborhood churches developed in the postwar era are experiencing a difficult time of transition that could lead to a loss of historical memory. The memories of older members, who grew up in the postwar era, are fading or may be lost. Church archives may be discarded as a new generation or an entirely new congregation comes in. The RCHPC could work with the ministers and pastors in the community to collect, curate, and preserve these materials so that they will be permanent resource to the community. Younger members of the congregation could be encouraged to conduct oral histories with older members to facilitate intergenerational dialogue.

Architectural Guide to Churches

Neighborhood residents may walk or drive past the smaller postwar churches in their communities every day without knowing anything about the history and architecture of these structures. The RCHPC could help to increase neighborhood awareness and cohesion by working with residents to develop a guide or walking tour that helps residents and visitors learn more about their neighborhoods and understand how postwar church buildings reflected an important era in the city's history.

Postwar Change and Downtown Church Modernization

After World War II, many of Rapid City's oldest congregations, located downtown, renovated or completely rebuilt their churches. This included Trinity Lutheran (1946), First Methodist (1958), and First Presbyterian (1955). RCHPC may want to work with these congregations to preserve and protect the archives of these institutions and supplement existing walking tours of the downtown area with more information on the architects and congregations who planned these buildings.

West Side Churches and the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands

Several post-war churches in Rapid City purchased federal land under a 1948 Act that divided up the property previously used by the Rapid City Indian School. In the last several years, a coalition of Native community groups in Rapid City has been educating churches about this history and working with them to find ways to remember this important history and support the process of community healing. The RCHPC could engage with these groups, acting as a liaison between the city, the churches, and community groups seeking to interpret this story, educate the community, and develop a memorial to children who died at the boarding school.

Community Resources

To develop the history and preservation of places of worship in Rapid City the RCHPC should work closely with the churches, synagogues, and other faith communities in the area.

The Modern School: Postwar School Architecture in Rapid City

Detailed Survey of Postwar Schools in Rapid City

As the Rapid City Area Schools and the Rapid City community prepare for growth in the 2020s, planning is underway to close and replace (and potentially demolish) several schools in Rapid City. To document the postwar schools, the RCHPC could prioritize a project to create detailed surveys and historic contexts of each historic school in the community.

Investigation into Parochial and Suburban Schools

Over the course of its history, Rapid City Area Schools district has grown to encompass educational facilities in and around Rapid City. Meanwhile, several religious institutions—including the Catholic, Lutheran, and Seventh-Day Adventist Churches—have established school systems in and around the Rapid City community. As a complement to the investigation above and as a starting point for understanding the role of these schools in the history of Rapid City and surrounding community, the RCHPC could sponsor an investigation into private religious schools and educational facilities in Black Hawk, Rapid Valley, and other locations outside the city limits of Rapid City.

Workshop on Adaptive Reuse

Across the United States, former school facilities have been converted into storefronts, coworking spaces, apartments, and more. In Rapid City, “The Garfield”—a residential complex in what used to be the James A. Garfield Elementary School—is an excellent example. Working with contractors, architects, and historic preservationists, the RCHPC could

sponsor a series of workshops on strategies for renovation, additions, retrofitting, and the overall adaptive reuse of historic schools.

Develop Rapid City School History Interpretive Website

The RCHPC could work with schools to add photographs, blueprints, and storytelling to its website to begin the process of documenting and interpreting the history of Rapid City's schools. This could serve as a starting point for a community history and memory project and could be conducted in partnership with individual schools or the local school board. This initiative could include components like a study of school mascots, administrative histories, or an oral history project.

Community Resources

Rapid City Area Schools
Rapid City Public Library
Rapid City Public Schools Foundation
Journey Museum and Learning Center
Dahl Fine Arts Center

Appendix 4: Recent Surveys and Additional Resources

*Items without hyperlinks below are available via the Rapid City Community Development Department

Recent Surveys

Updated Downtown Historic District nomination for NRHP (2018)

Brenna Maloney, “[Rapid City Downtown Area Survey](#),” emphasis on East of Fifth Neighborhood (2017)

Updated West Boulevard District (2016)

Linea Sundstrom and Wini Michael, “Archaeological Investigations in the Gap at Founders Park, Rapid City, South Dakota: A Report Prepared for the City of Rapid City, South Dakota,” March 2009.

Michelle L. Dennis, “Comprehensive Preservation Plan for Rapid City, South Dakota” (2009)

Michelle L. Dennis, Hillcrest Reconnaissance Survey” (2009)

Post-World War II Survey, part of statewide survey, (2007)

Brownfield Assessment Survey (2002)

Rapid City Reconnaissance Survey Historic Sites (1995)

West Boulevard Survey (1995)

West Boulevard Expansion (1992)

Lustron Homes Survey (1992)

School of Mines Survey (1992)

Maple Street Bridge Survey (1989)

Jeff Buechler, “City of Rapid City Historic Context Planning Document” (1988)

Geiger Study (1980s)

Hotel Alex Johnson Survey (1989)

Canyon Lake Survey (1982)

North Rapid Survey (1982)

Additional Resources

[“What’s Gone, What’s Left, and What’s Threatened,”](#) *Rapid City Journal*, April 11, 2010. (List of threatened properties in Rapid City.

City of Rapid City Planning Documents

[“Downtown Design Guidelines: Rapid City, SD,”](#) September 2016.

[“Experience Rapid City: The Rapid City Cultural Plan, 2016- 2026,”](#) Steering Committee of the Rapid City Cultural Plan Task Force,” 2016.

[“Plan Rapid City: Comprehensive Plan, Adopted April 2014.”](#)

[“Rapid City Downtown Area Master Plan,”](#) September 2016.

Pennington County, South Dakota Planning Documents

[“Pennington County Comprehensive Plan: View to 2040,”](#) May 5, 2020.

State of South Dakota Planning Documents

Stephen C. Rogers, Michelle C. Saxman, and Lynda B. Schwan, [“South Dakota Historic Resource Survey Manual,”](#) South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 2006.

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, [“Statewide Historic Preservation Plan: 2016-2020,”](#) 2015.

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, [“The South Dakota Historic Preservation Plan, 2021-2025,”](#) 2020.

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, [“South Dakota State Register of Historic Places,”](#) 2020.

National Park Service Planning Documents

[Historic Preservation Planning](#), Department of the Interior. National Park Service.

“[The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation Planning](#),” Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

“[The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation](#),” Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Elisabeth Walton Potter and Beth M. Boland, “[National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places](#),” US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992.

“[National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation](#),” US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997.

UNESCO Planning Documents

“[UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape: Second Update to the 2011 Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape Implementation by Member States, 2019](#),” UNESCO World Heritage Center, 2019.

Appendix 5: Glossary, Commonly-Used Terms, and Abbreviations

Adaptive Reuse: the process of converting a building to a use other than that for which it was designed. Such conversions are accomplished with varying degrees of appropriate alteration to the building.

Archeological Resources: the remains of past human activity and records documenting the scientific analysis of these remains.

Certified Local Government (CLG): a local government (such as a city) that has been certified to carry out the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16. U.S.C. 470 et seq.), in accordance with Section 101(c) of the act.

Cultural Landscapes: Settings we have created in the natural world.

Cultural Resource: physical evidence or place of past human activity; a site, object, landscape, structure; or a site, structure, landscape, object or natural feature of significance to a group of people traditionally associated with it.

Demolition by Neglect: the destruction of a building caused by abandonment or lack of maintenance.

Ethnographic Resources: Sites, structures, landscapes, objects, or natural features of significance to a traditionally associated group of people.

Historic: refers to a resource that is at least 50 years of age, is significant in history, and retains sufficient integrity to convey that significance.

Historic Preservation: refers to a variety of activities (including preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and reconstruction, as well as related activities) that are employed to manage and protect the historic resources within a community.

Historic Structures: material assemblies that extend the limits of human capacity; a building, shelter, or other enclosed space created by humans at least 50 years ago that is of significance to the history of human activity.

Historic Urban Landscape (HUL): a comprehensive approach to cultural and historic resource management in urban areas adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in 2011. HUL “sees and interprets the city as a continuum in time and space...[and] considers cultural diversity and creativity as key assets for human, social

and economic development...[and] support[s] the integration of environmental, social, and cultural concerns into the planning, design, and implementation of urban development.”

National Register of Historic Places: the official list of the United States’ historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archeological resources.

Preservation (and Conservation): the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a building or structure, and the existing form and vegetative cover of a site. It may include initial stabilization work, where necessary, as well as ongoing maintenance of the historic building materials.

Restoration: the act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

Reconstruction: The act or process of reproducing by new construction the exact form and detail of a vanished building, structure, or object, or a part thereof, as it appeared at a specific period in time.

Renovation (or Remodel): the modernization of an old or historic building that may produce inappropriate alterations or elimination of important features and details.

Resource: a term used to describe things within the built environment that contributed to the overall fabric of the community. They include buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts.

Stabilization: the act or process of applying measures designed to re-establish a weather-resistant enclosure and the structural stability of unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at the present.

Significance: a term that generally refers to something that has special meaning or relevance. There are four areas of significance commonly used in evaluating historic resources. They are: 1) significant events and patterns in history; 2) significant people in

history; 3) significant architecture (including design, materials, and workmanship) and engineering; and 4) significant prehistoric and historic archeology.

Section 106: the portion of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, that is concerned with federal undertakings; or projects, activities, or programs that are either funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a federal agency.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO): a state agency that carries out responsibilities related to historic preservation including surveying, evaluating, and nominating significant historic buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects to the National Register of Historic Places.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO): a tribal agency that carries out responsibilities related to historic preservation including surveying, evaluating, and nominating significant historic buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects. THPOs conduct evaluations pertaining to Tribal cultural and historic preservation regulations and collaborate with state and federal agencies to fulfill responsibilities related to state and federal laws pertaining to state/tribal and federal/tribal partnerships.