



**Tour of Vermillion**  
**Downtown Historic District**

Vermillion, South Dakota

Vermillion, S.D.



## Still Standing

- 1 Austin-Whittemore House
- 2 Old National Guard Armory
- 3 10 Block of West Main, South Side
- 4 Bank of Vermillion / First National Bank
- 5 U.S. Post Office
- 6 Carnegie Library
- 7 Churches on Main & Dakota Street
- 8 Grange/Waldorf Livery
- 9 Clay County Bank / Vermillion National Bank
- 10 Nissen Building / Citizen's Bank & Trust
- 11 St. Agnes Catholic Church
- 12 Clay County Courthouse

Locations are indicated by the corresponding number inside a white square on the "Still Standing" Map on the inside back flap - page 41.

Locations are indicated by the corresponding letter inside a circle on the "Gone for Good" Map on the outside back cover on page 42.

## Gone for Good

- A Chandler House
- B Liveries on Market Street
- C Lee & Prentis / Meisenholder's
- D Central / Old High School
- E City Hall / Opera House / March Theatre
- F Churches on Main & Church Street  
F-1 - Methodist; F-2 - Lutheran; F-3 - Baptist;  
F-4 - First Episcopal and Swedish Congregational;  
F-5 - Congregational; and F-6 - Methodist
- G Municipal Building / City Hall
- H Waldorf Hotel
- I St. Joseph's Academy
- J West Side Elementary School

# 1 Austin-Whittemore House

15 Austin Street (1882)

In 1882, Horace Austin built a new house on the bluff that was designed by Andrew Pickett. Some of the primary features of this Italianate Villa-style brick structure were the prominent cupola, the low-pitched roof, a foundation made of Sioux quartzite. After being donated to the Clay County Historical Society in the 1960s by Helen Whittemore, the house was renovated and restored by the group. It now serves as a museum and is the home of the Clay County Historical Society.



*Photos courtesy of CCHS and Tom Thaden*



*Photo courtesy Pressing Matters Printing*

## Ⓐ Chandler House

### 111 Market Street

A longtime establishment below the bluff, the Chandler House survived the flood of 1881 and afterwards was moved up the bluff to continue as the premier hotel in Vermillion. The first building most passengers saw when they walked up the bluff from the depot, the Chandler House was the premier hotel in Vermillion until the Waldorf was built in 1902. As time moved on, the Chandler House was turned into a boarding house and at the end a place for the homeless during the Great Depression. It was eventually torn down and replaced on location by the old National Guard Armory in 1941.



*Photo courtesy of CCHS*

## 2 Old National Guard Armory 111 Market Street (1941)

Prior to 1941, there were no adequate facilities available for the two National Guard units stationed in Vermillion. They had been storing their equipment and using space under Inman Stadium on the USD campus. In 1941, the WPA built a new armory on land donated by the city. It was located on a lot on Market Street that had formerly been occupied by the Chandler House since 1881.



*Photo courtesy of Tom Thaden*



*Photo courtesy of Tom Thaden.*