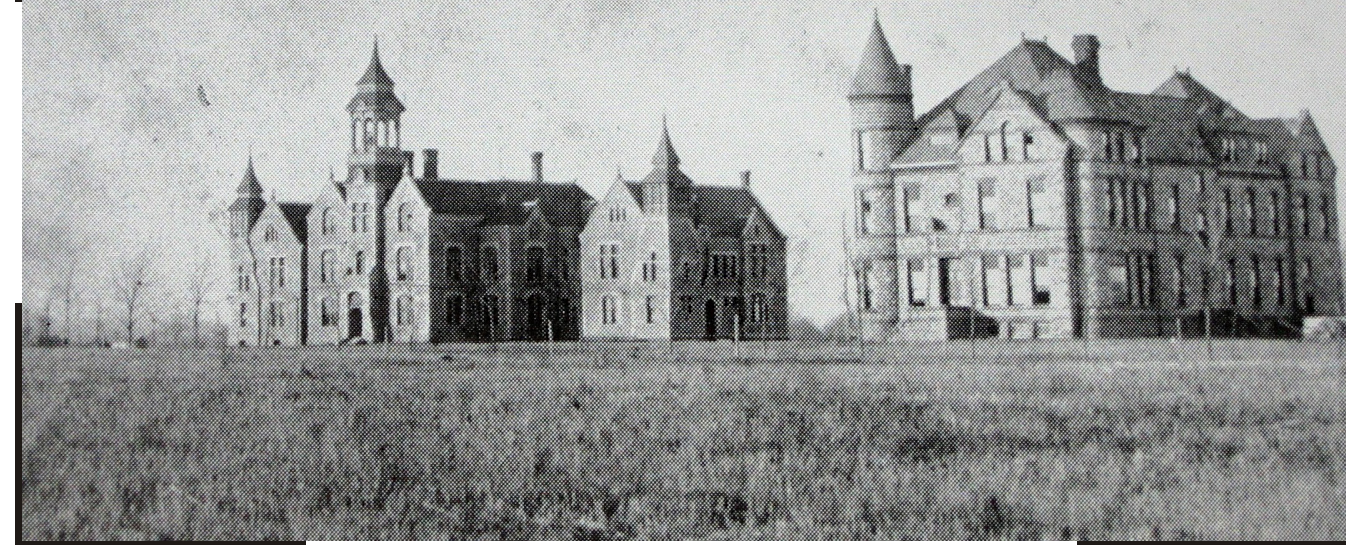
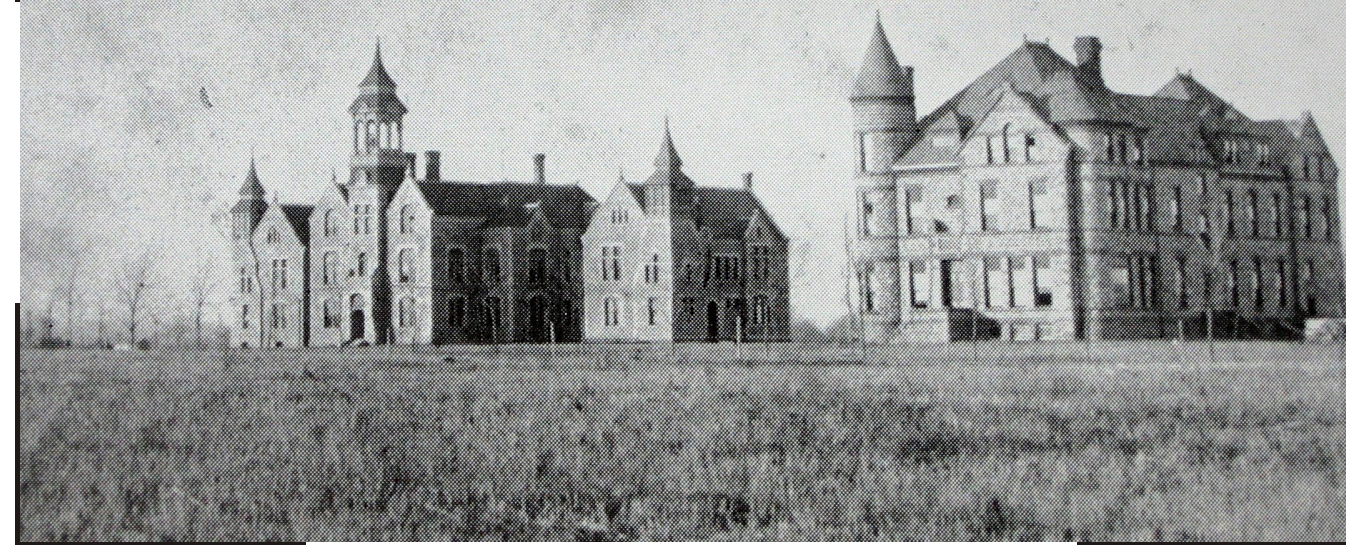




**Tour of
The University of South Dakota's
Historic Buildings**



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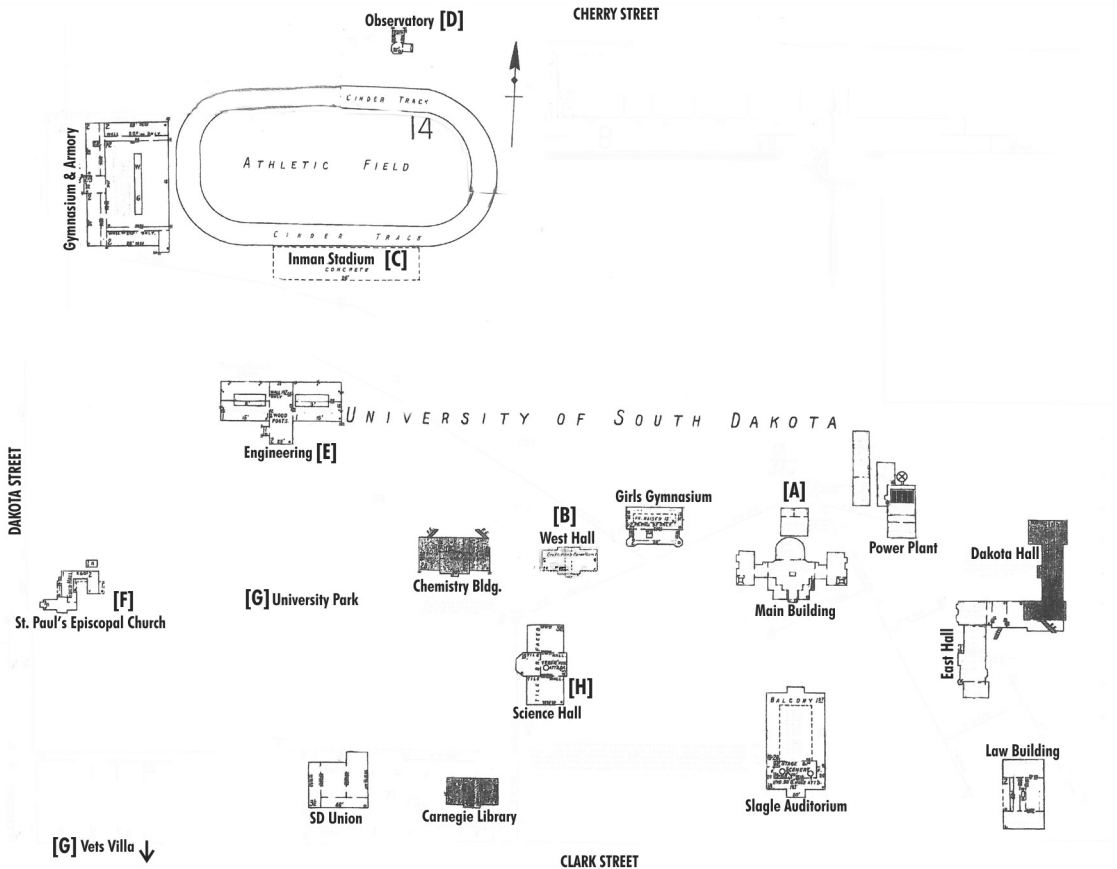


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Copy and Photos compiled by Tom Thaden, Vermillion, South Dakota

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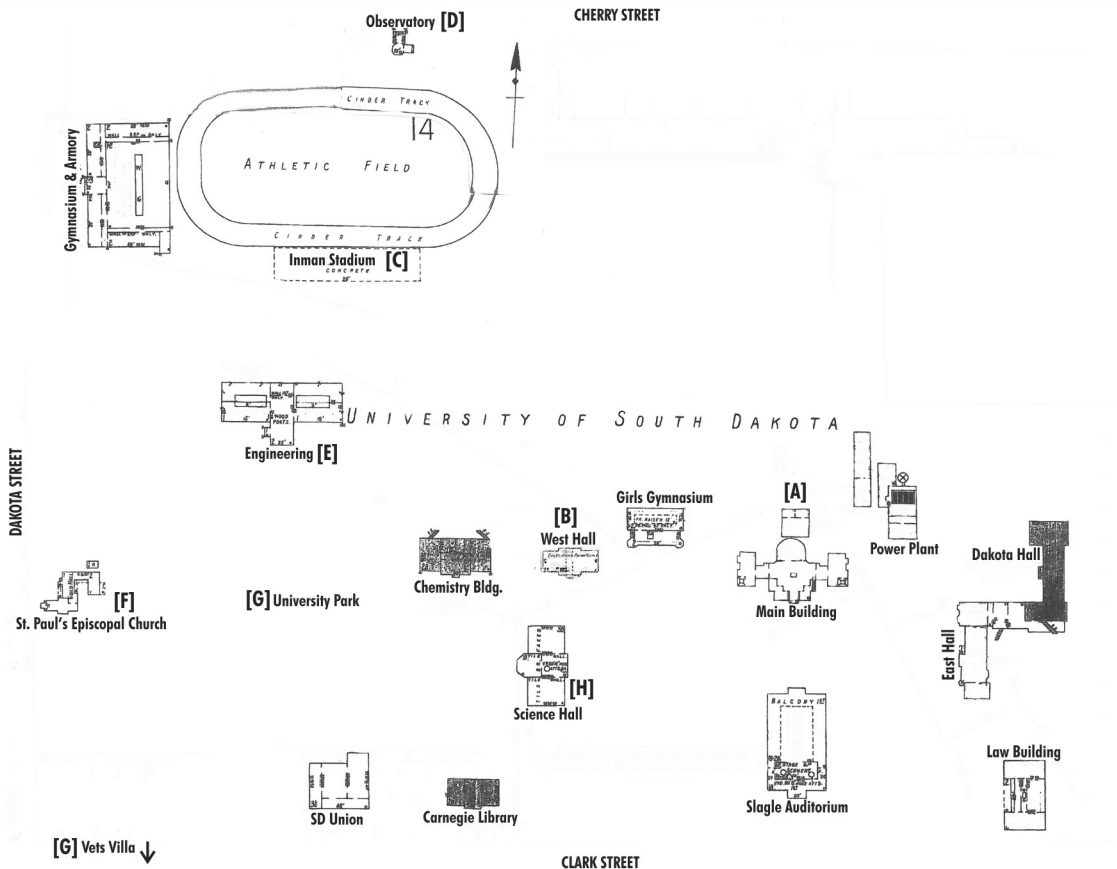


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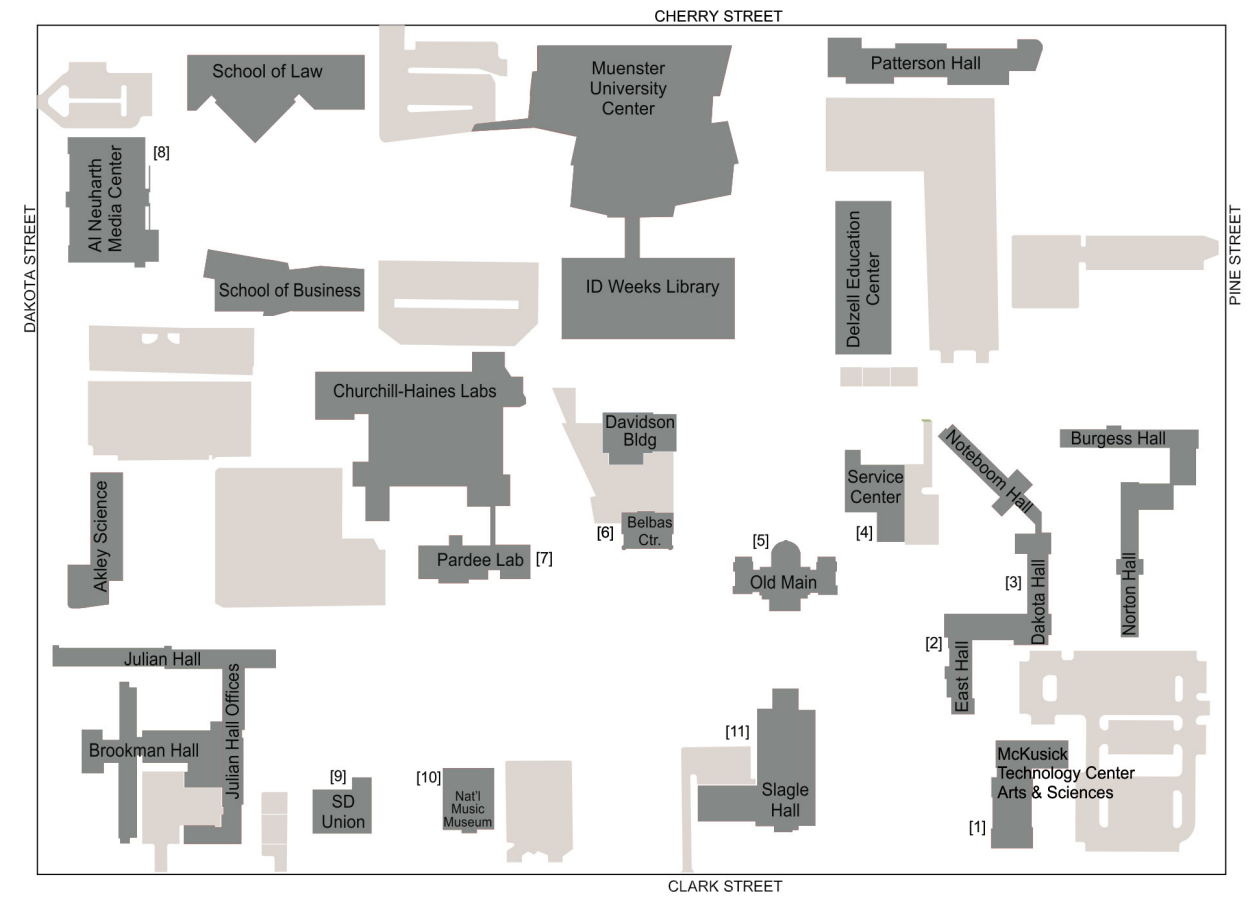
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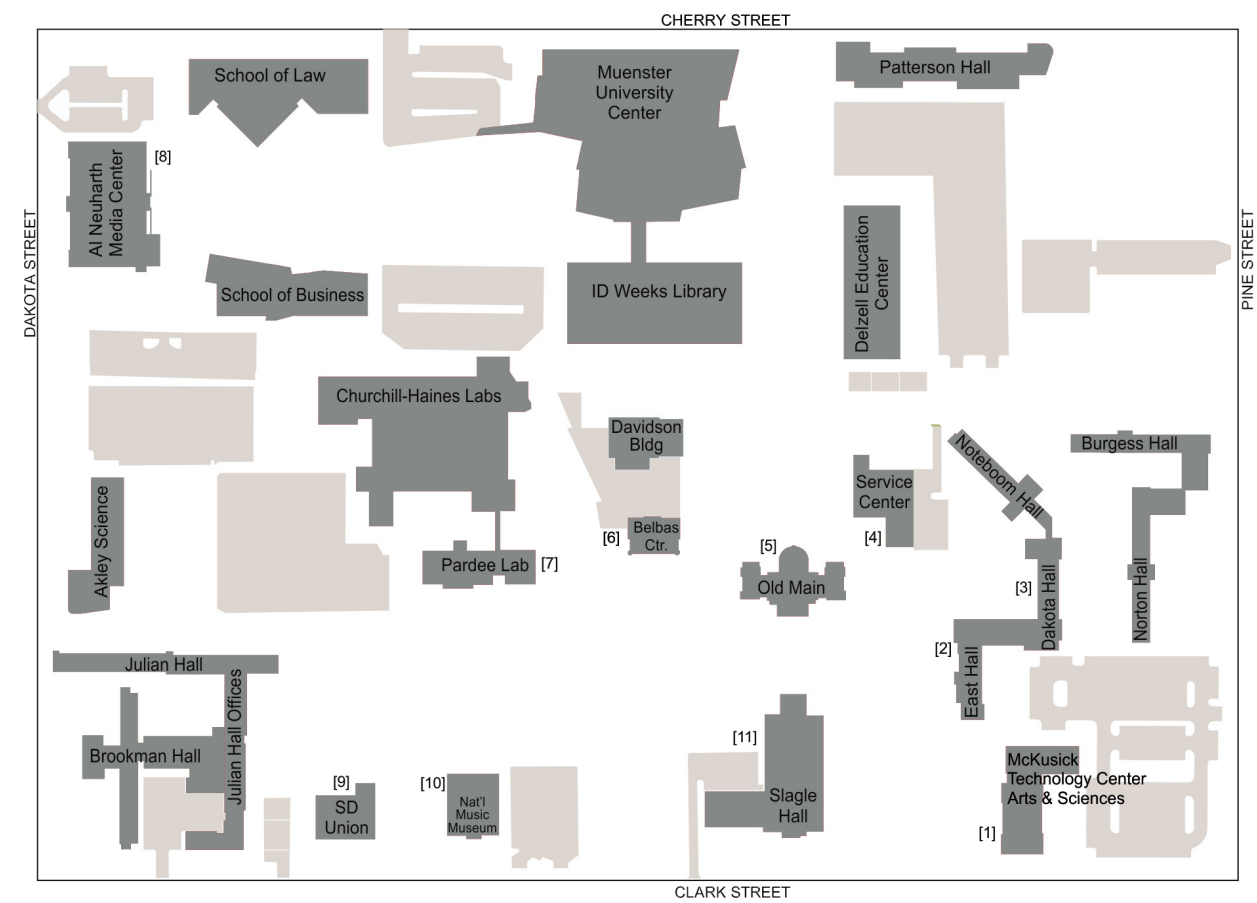


Tour of
The University of South Dakota's
Historic Buildings

Tour of
The University of South Dakota's
Historic Buildings



USD - 2014



USD - 2014

Summary

- The buildings and layout of the campus on the University of South Dakota has changed tremendously since 1883
- Many different sources were used for information, including newspapers, yearbooks, books, and maps
- While there was once just three buildings in a small area, the campus of USD has since expanded to include many more buildings over a much larger area
- The south side of the University of South Dakota campus has many historic buildings still standing and in fairly good condition, but many more have been torn down over the years.
- There were some departments that were located in the same building over a long period of time and others that moved quite often between buildings on campus.

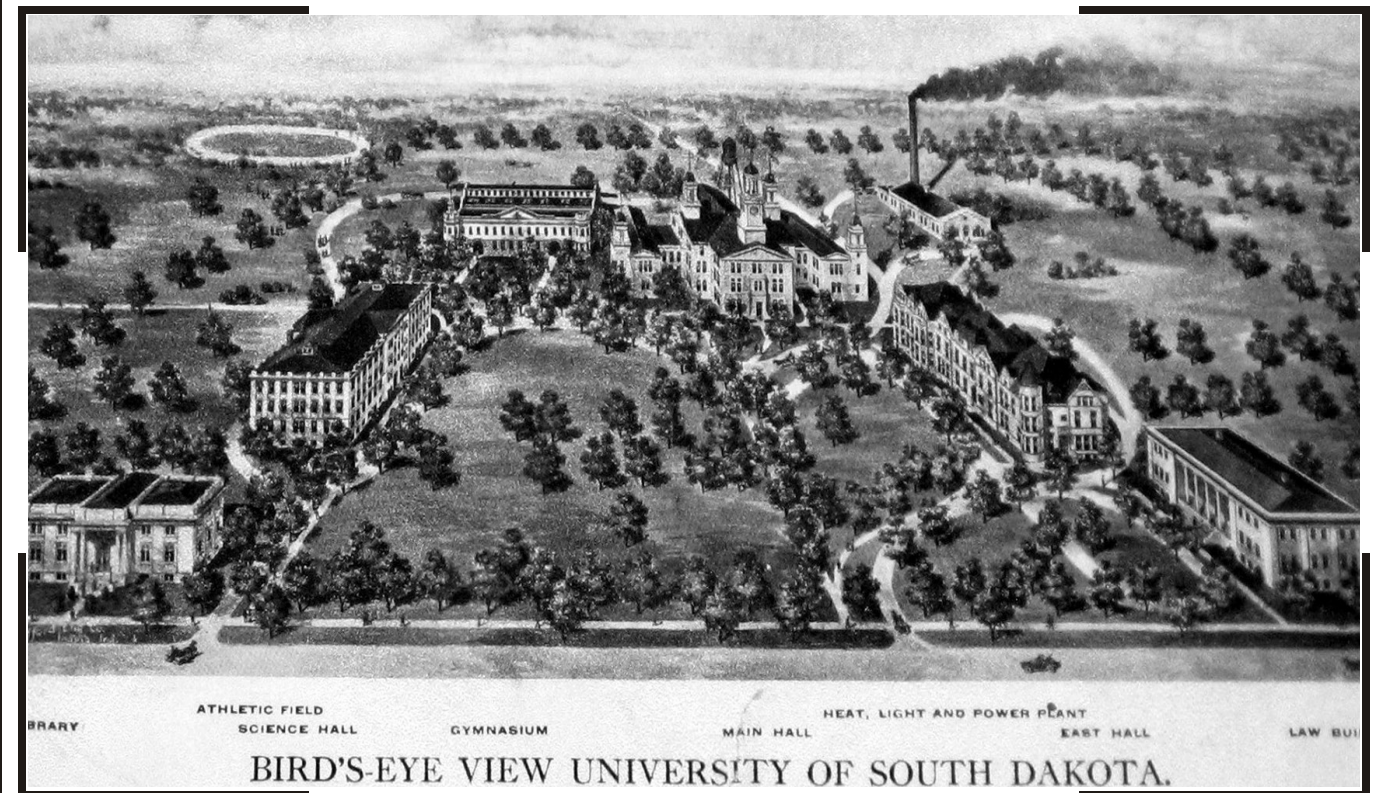


Photo courtesy of W. H. Over Museum

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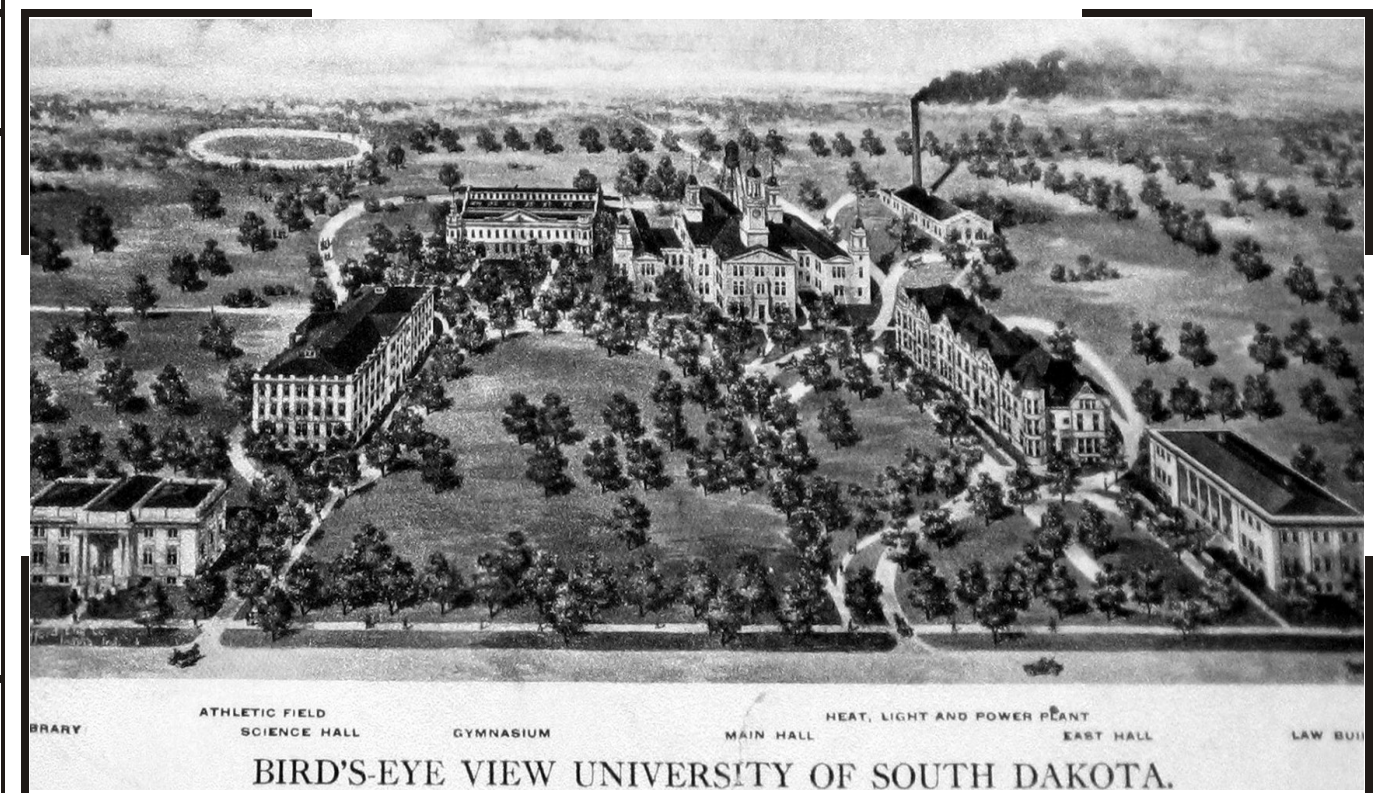


Photo courtesy of W. H. Over Museum

Still Standing

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Chronology of Buildings on the USD Campus

| | |
|---|---|
| 1883 – University Hall / Old Main (burned 1893, rebuilt 1894-96) | 1952 – Lee Medical Building (rebuilt 2006-08) |
| 1885 – West Hall (burned in 1905, not rebuilt) | 1954 – Danforth Chapel, Noteboom Hall |
| 1887 – East Hall | 1957 – Patterson Hall |
| 1902 – Science Hall (condemned 1958, torn down 1961) | 1958 – Cyprus Court |
| 1905 – Old Armory / Belbas Center | 1960 – Redwood Court, Burgess Hall |
| 1908 – Old Law Building | 1962 – Akeley- Lawrence Science Center |
| 1910 – Old Physical Plant / Service Center | 1963 – Delzell School of Education, Brookman, Norton Hall |
| 1911 – Old Carnegie Library / National Music Museum | 1965 – Coyote Student Center (torn down 2006) |
| 1915 – Chemistry Building / Pardee Lab (burned 1957, rebuilt 1958, added on 2009) | 1966 – Beede Hall, Mickelson Hall |
| 1917 – Observatory (torn down 1972) | 1967 – I.D. Weeks Library (added to 1994-95) |
| 1918 – Engineering Shops (torn down 1975) | 1968 – Olson Hall, Richardson Hall |
| 1919 – Dakota Hall | 1971 – Continuing Education Building |
| 1926 – Inman Field (torn down 1979) | 1973 – Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts |
| 1925 – Slagle Auditorium (rebuilt 2009-10) | 1974 – Quirk Carrilon (torn down 2006) |
| 1929 – New Armory / Neuharth Media Center | 1977 – Churchill-Haines Laboratory |
| 1931 – South Dakota Union Building | 1979 – Dakota Dome |
| 1943 – Administrative Addition to Slagle Auditorium | 1981 – New Law School Building |
| 1948 – North Hall (moved in from Sioux Falls, torn down 1975) | 1984 – W.H. Over Museum |
| 1950 – Julian Hall, New Physical Plant / Davidson Building (added to 1970) | 1995 – Wagner Alumni Center/USD Foundation |
| | 2007 – Muenster University Student Center (added on 2012) |
| | 2009 – Beacom School of Business |
| | 2010 – Coyote Village |
| | 2011 – Community Wellness Center |
| | 2012 – Redwood and Cypress Courts torn down |

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Timeline for the Founding of the University of South Dakota

| | |
|----------------|--|
| April 21, 1862 | Bill locating the University of Dakota in Vermillion is signed into a law |
| Jan. 9, 1863 | Bill to “incorporate the University of Dakota” is passed by the legislature |
| April 30, 1881 | Association is formed which was later incorporated as the University of Dakota |
| May 21, 1881 | Formal status as a corporation is obtained from the territorial government for the “University of Dakota” (Board of Trustees formed four days later) |
| May 25, 1881 | “Board of Trustees” for the University of Dakota (Burdick, Jolley, Inman, Kidder) meets for the first time |
| Mar. 13, 1882 | Clay Co. voters approve a \$10,000 bond for a new building and twenty acres East of town (USD Campus) |
| April 14, 1882 | Cornerstone laid for University Hall (Old Main), the first building on the new campus |
| Oct. 16, 1882 | First University class (35 men and women) convened at the Co. Courthouse with Dr. Ephraim M. Epstein as “principal and teacher” |
| Jan. 11, 1883 | University again domiciled in Court House. |
| Feb. 3, 1883 | Bill accepting the University of Dakota with its building and other property is signed by Governor Ordway (Charter Day) |
| June 5, 1883 | “First Annual Commencement” of the Univesity of Dakota is held at the Clay County Courthouse |
| Sept. 18, 1883 | University Hall (Old Main) is formally dedicated and opened for use as the first building on the USD campus |
| Mar. 19, 1885 | A law passed prohibiting sale of liquor within 3 miles of University of Dakota effective July 1. |
| Mar. 5, 1891 | The name “University of South Dakota” becomes official. |

Gone for Good

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| B. West Hall..... | 18, 19 |
| C. Inman Field and Stadium | 20, 21 |
| D. University Observatory | 22, 23 |
| E. Engineering Shops | 26, 27 |
| F. Old Episcopal Church I | 28, 29 |
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Note: This tour includes all buildings on the USD campus prior to 1945



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1. Old Law School / Arts and Sciences

For many years, apprentice training had been the means for obtaining a law degree in South Dakota. That all changed in 1901, when the College of Law was founded at USD. At first, classes were held in other buildings on campus, but soon a separate building was needed. Fifty thousand dollars was appropriated in 1907 and the first classes were held in the new structure on November 5, 1908.



Photo courtesy of Coyote Yearbook



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11. Slagle Auditorium / Administration

In 1923, \$250,000 was appropriated USD for an administrative building "to contain an auditorium." Completed in 1925, the auditorium provided seating for 2,200, had a new Skinner organ, and provided a new home for the Music Dept. Administrative offices were moved from crowded University Hall to the basement of the new building, joining all of them for the first time. Officially renamed Slagle Hall on May 16, 1929, in honor of the recently deceased President, a WPA grant allowed USD to extend the building on Clark Street in 1943 to accommodate the business offices and provide additional classroom space.



Courtesy of CCHS



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2. East Hall

The University built East Hall in 1887 as a new dormitory to not only house “the young ladies” on campus, but also to open up West Hall for the men and provide a Dining Hall for both men and women. In 1907, an area to the north was added for \$25,000 (insurance money collected for West Hall) and in 1911, an enclosed porch was added on the south side of the structure. Made of Sioux quartzite, like University Hall, East Hall has stood up well over the years and continues to serve the University to this day, primarily as offices for different departments.



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H. Science Hall

The first structural addition to campus since the 1880s, Science Hall faced east and was located between the Old Library (National Music Museum) and Danforth Chapel. Built in record time for \$40,000 between 1900 and 1902, the structure was 150' by 65', had three floors and an unfinished basement, and was constructed of light colored brick. The opening of Science Hall greatly eased the overcrowding in University Hall and provided space for the Biology, Geology, Chemistry, and Medical departments. Within two years though, cracks began appearing throughout the building and were a constant problem during its 46 years of service. Finally, in 1958, the building was officially condemned and closed as "unsafe for human occupancy" and was torn down in 1960 - 61.



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3. Dakota Hall

For over thirty years, East Hall had been the only women's dormitory on campus, but with increased enrollment came the need for more space. When Dakota Hall opened on September 10, 1919, it included not only rooms for students, but also the Home Economics Dept., a YWCA room, and in the basement a gymnasium and facilities for washing and ironing clothes. Converted for academic use in 1965, it has served as office space since then.



Photo courtesy of Brook Davis



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Photo courtesy of Brook Davis



10. USD Carnegie Library / National Music Museum

In 1910, philanthropist Andrew Carnegie gave USD a \$40,000 gift to build a new library. Prior to then, the library was housed in the east end of the first floor in University Hall, but there was a desperate need for more space. The massive gift allowed the University to erect a separate building for the specific purpose of housing the 16,000 volumes then in the possession of USD. Opened in October, 1911, the new library was on the west side of campus and faced Clark St. It also was utilized by the art and history departments and was later used by both the W.H. Over Museum and National Music Museum.



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4. USD Physical Plant / Service Center

With the addition of five new buildings on campus between 1902 and 1914, it became necessary to expand the physical plant to supply the needed power and water. In 1909, the state legislature provided \$30,000 towards the construction of a new physical plant on campus. The plant was built to the NE of University Hall and was in full operation the following year. The smokestack and water tower were later torn down, but the building currently serves as the mail room and is used by Facilities Management.



Photo courtesy of CCHS

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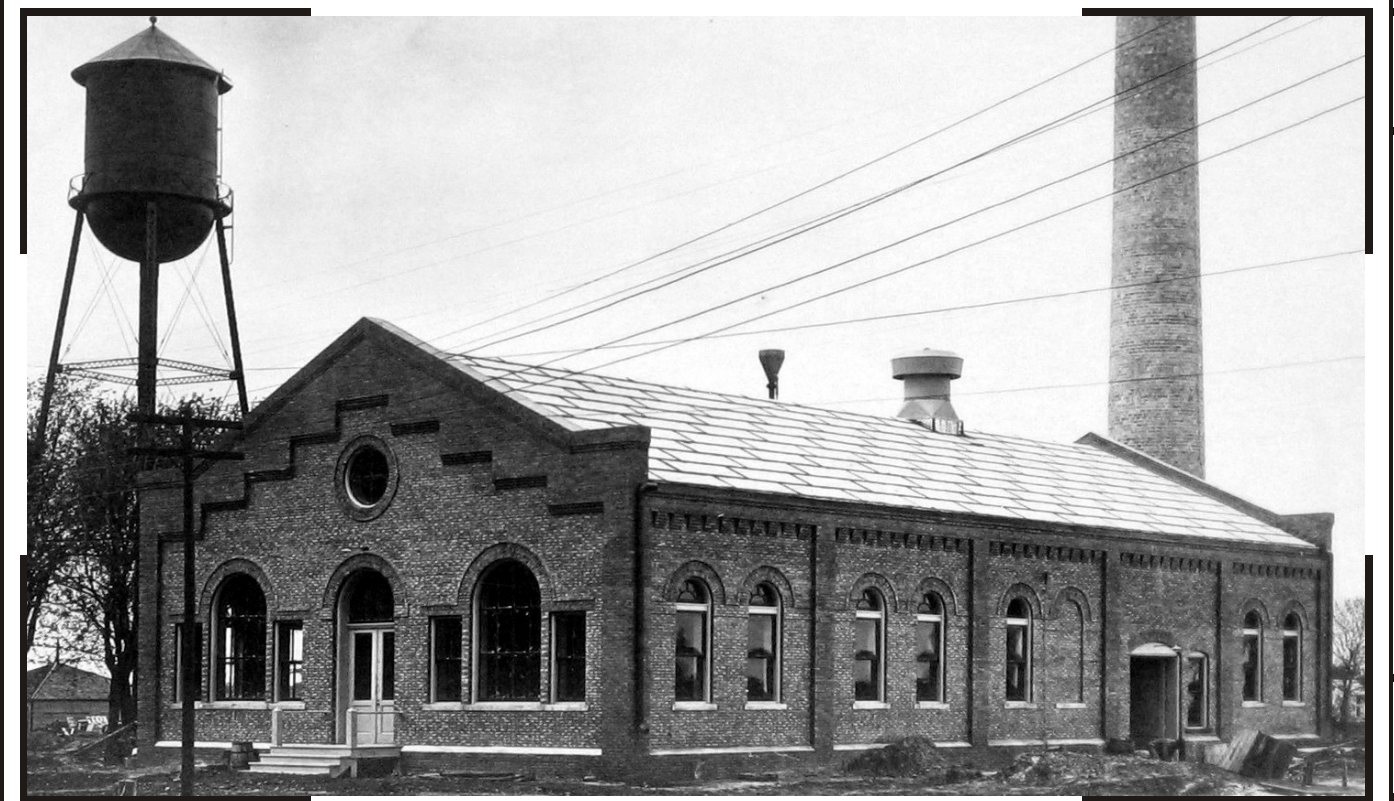
9. South Dakota Union

Prior to 1931, no university student in South Dakota ever had a place to call their own. That all changed when the Union Building opened to great fanfare at USD. Funded primarily through donations and student subscriptions, the Union cost approximately \$300,000, but provided amenities never before afforded the students. Some of the benefits that the students took full advantage of included lounges, deep chairs, fireplaces, and free access to magazines and newspapers. After the Coyote Student Center opened in 1965, it was used to house the offices of different departments and for classrooms.



Courtesy of CCHS

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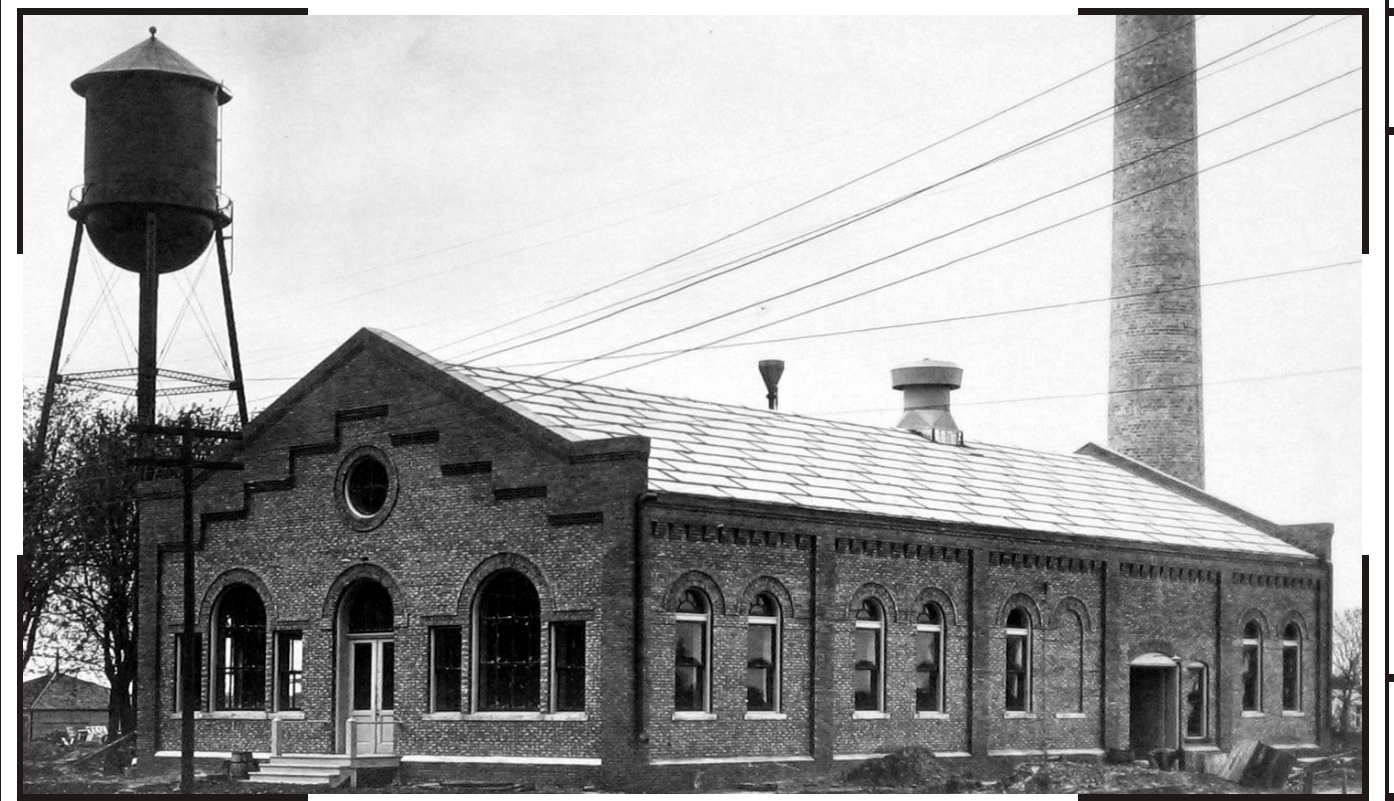
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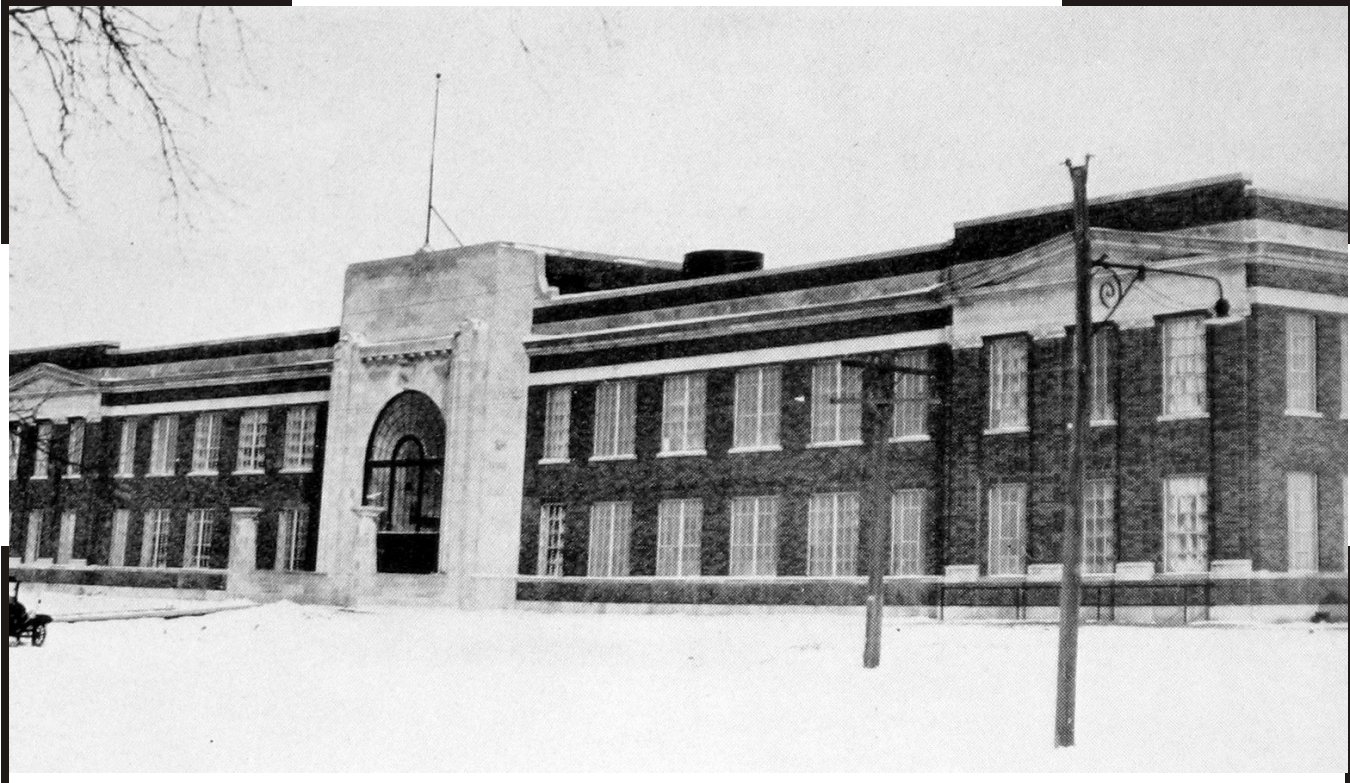
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A. University Hall

The first building on campus was built in 1882-83 and housed all of the classes at the University at that time. The west wing was the first part of this building constructed, but it was eventually expanded to include a center and east wing as well. By 1893, University Hall was complete, with all three wings, a bell tower, a wooden boardwalk leading up to the building, and newly planted trees all around the area. University Hall was built to provide the needed space for all of the classes on campus, but all of the promise for the future came to a crashing halt on October 15, 1893, when a massive fire totally gutted all three wings of University Hall. Within six years, though, Old Main was built on the same site to replace University Hall.



Photo courtesy of W.H. Over Museum

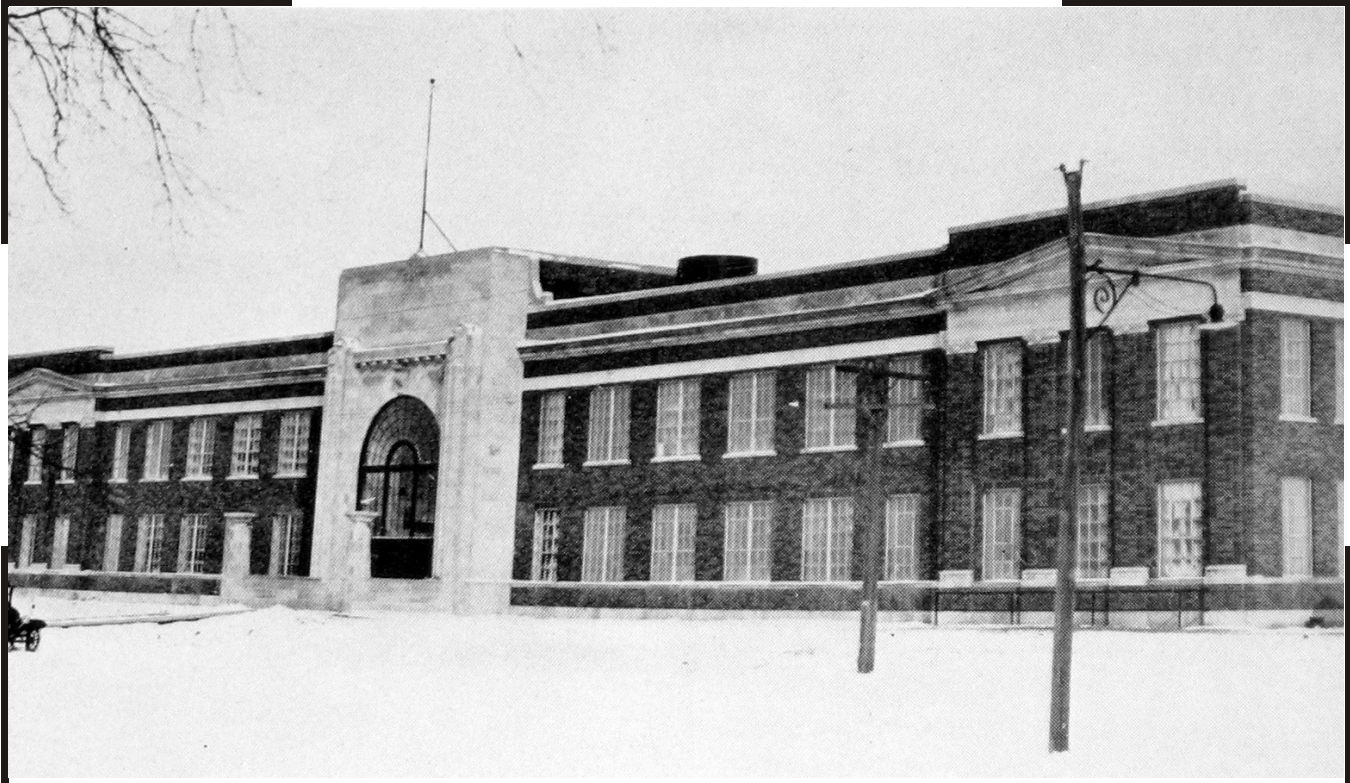


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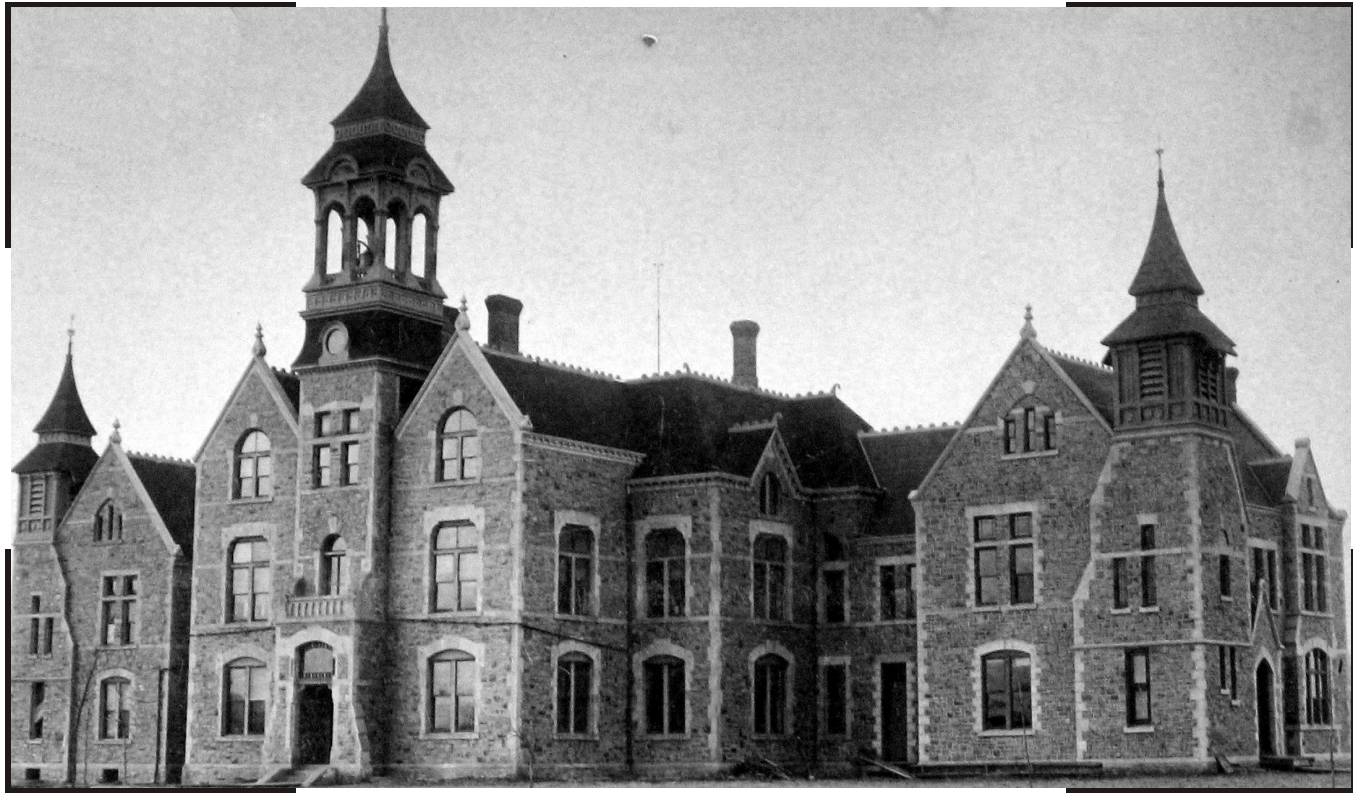


**8. New Armory and Gymnasium
Neuharth Media Center**

With the formation of the North Central Conference in 1921, USD looked at expanding its athletic facilities. In addition to the new concrete seats at Inman Field, the University also built a new armory and gymnasium that opened on February 7, 1929. Constructed at a cost of \$250,000, the New Armory was paid for with the proceeds of a special state cigarette tax designated for education buildings. Later used for housing the Telecommunications Dept., the building was renovated in the 1990s and is now known as the Neuharth Media Center.



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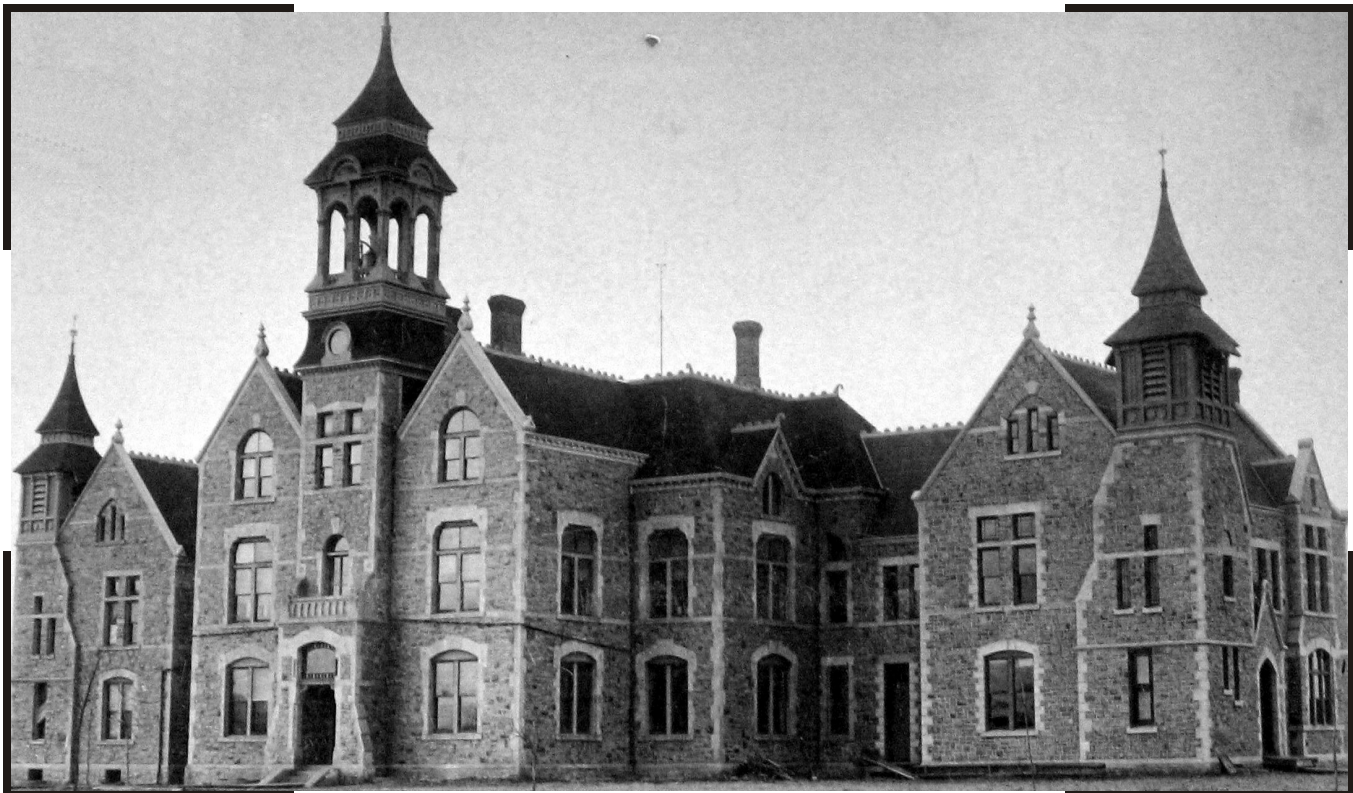


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5. Old Main

As soon as the go ahead was given, the reconstruction of University Hall was started. Rebuilt of Sioux quartzite and made to last, by 1894 the only thing left to complete was putting the final touches on the towers by the east and west wings of the building. With all five towers in place by August, 1899, the makeover of University Hall was complete, and you can see the architecture that has made it instantly recognizable to the people of Vermillion. In 1994-95, the University restored the building, known as Old Main since the early 1910s, removing everything that had cluttered the interior and fixing things up so they could be used again. Today, it houses the Farber Center and the Oscar Howe Art Collection, and remains a building everyone can be proud of.



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Photo courtesy of CCHS



G. Vet's Villa and University Park

With the end of World War II came a surge in enrollment at the University and the need for efficient housing on campus. An application was made to the Federal Housing Authority for surplus house trailers, and by the fall of 1946, 133 would be in place. "Vet's Villa", located at the current site of the Lee Medical and Science Building had 76 trailers and was closed in 1951. "University Park", located between the Union Building and Engineering Shops, had additional 57 trailers and would remain open until 1960.



Photo courtesy of CCHS

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6. Old Armory / Belbas Center

When the Old Armory opened in 1905 between University Hall and West Hall, the partying on campus got much better. Constructed of Sioux quartzite at its base and with brick battlements in all four corners, the Old Armory was known as the "Castle on Campus." In addition to providing needed space for the Military and Athletic departments, the building also had the most spacious hall on campus for 25 years. This made it the center for the many parties, banquets, galas, and dances held by the various organizations on campus. Renovated in 2004, the building is now known as the Belbas Center and houses the Student Services.



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Photo courtesy of CCHS



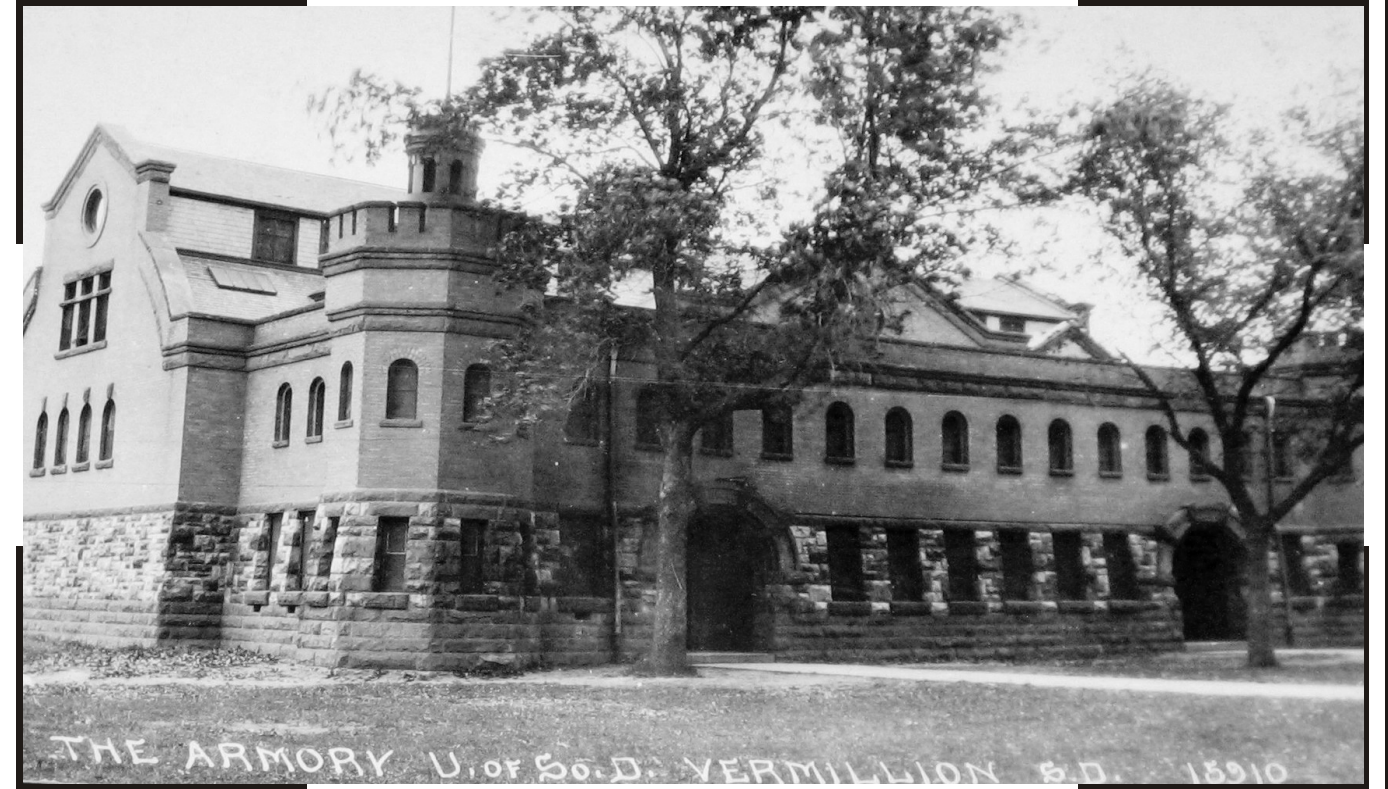
F. Old Episcopal Church

In 1893, the Episcopal Church building was moved from High St. over to Dakota St. opposite Dartmouth. In 1918, it operated as an emergency hospital for influenza victims in Vermillion. In 1947, it was purchased by the University for \$25,000 for use as a men's dormitory. Later on, it was torn down to make room for expansion on campus, meeting the same fate as many other buildings.



Courtesy of W.H. Over Museum

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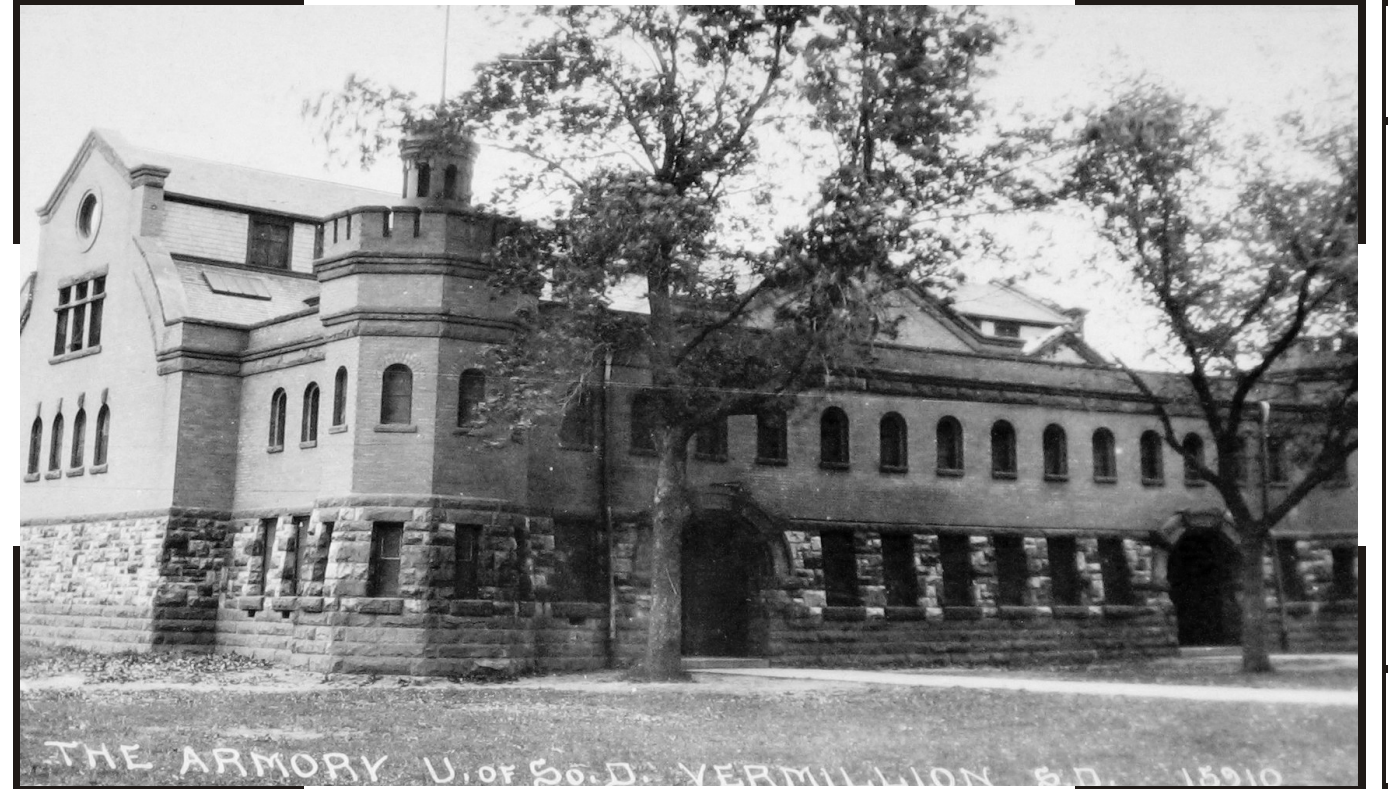
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17

B. West Hall

West Hall was built to the SW of University Hall in 1885 to serve as the women's dormitory. After a new dormitory was completed in 1888, the men took over West Hall as their own. On July 4, 1905, West Hall was completely gutted by a fire that "appeared to have been of incendiary origin" and was later determined to have been set by arsonists Elmer S. Jordan and Richard Brueschweiler. West Hall remained a charred ruin for more than a year and was never rebuilt.

Photo courtesy of W.H. Over Museum



18



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18



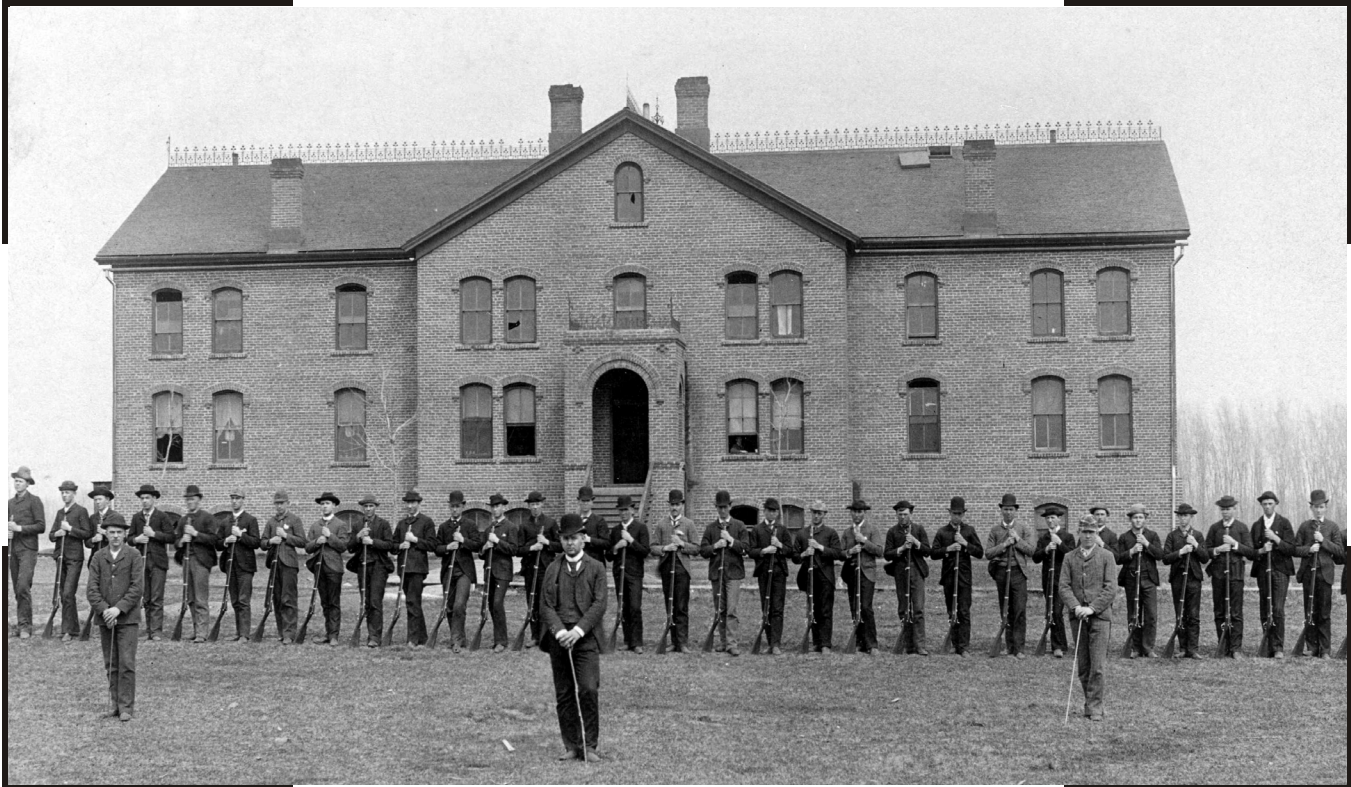
27

E. Engineering Shops

Built in 1918 to the south of the athletic field to serve as the training site for the Student Army Training Corps (SATC), the barracks was taken over after the war by the Mechanical Engineering shops. Later on, it was used by Civil Engineering, Aeronautics, and the Art Department. Many pilots were trained in its classrooms between 1939 and 1943, including Joe Foss, World War II ace and future governor of South Dakota. The building was torn down in 1975 to make room for future expansion on campus.



Photo courtesy of CCHS

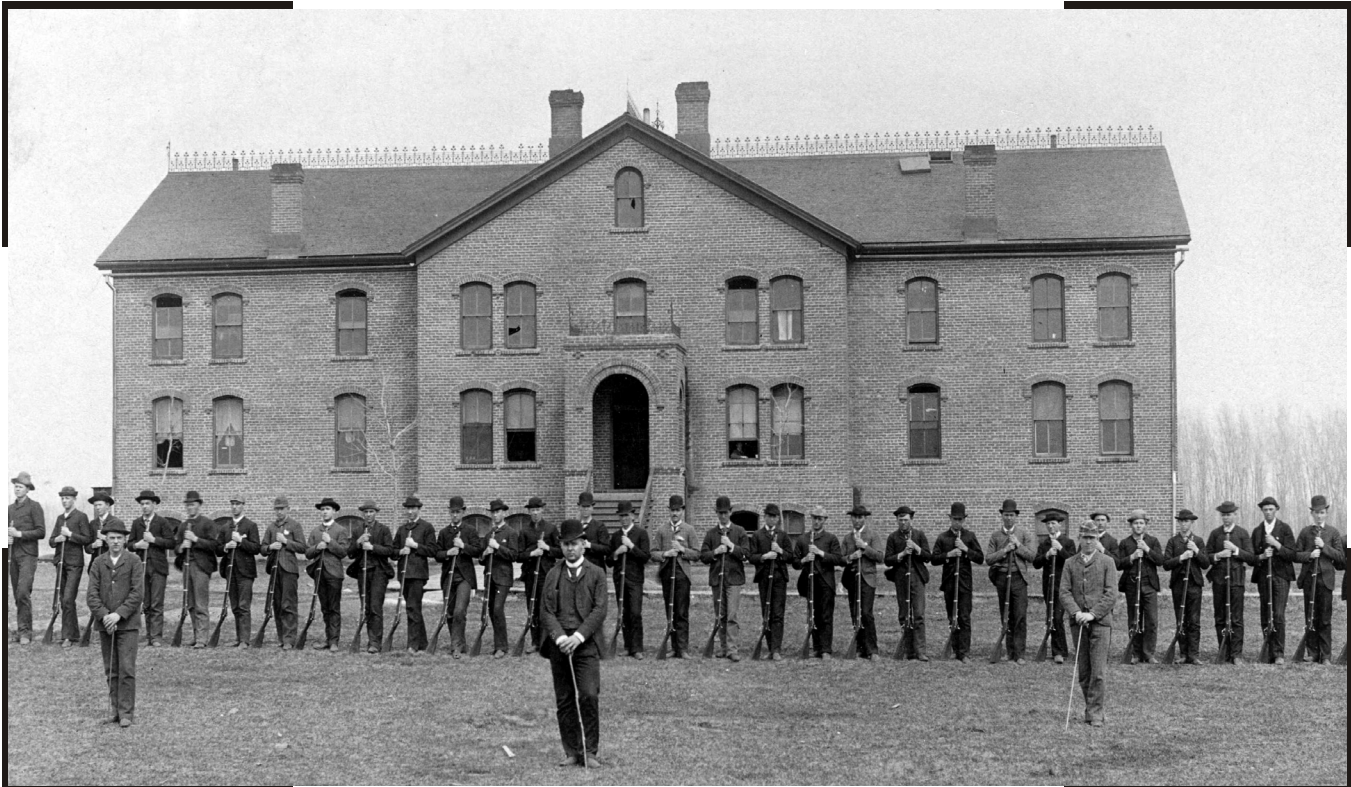


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Photo courtesy of CCHS



C. Inman Field and Stadium

The athletic field for the University had always been located at the north-west end of campus, but it wasn't until 1924-25 that the field started to look like a stadium. Through the donation of \$15,000 by Mrs. Darwin M. Inman in memory of her husband and the students and alumni raising the remain \$25,000, the University was able to build eight massive concrete sections on the south side of the field with seating for approximately 3,300 spectators. With the opening of the Dakota Dome in 1979, Inman Stadium was no longer needed and was taking up valuable space needed for other buildings. The stadium was demolished in 1979, bringing to an end 55 years of traditions, and ushering in a new era on campus.



Photo courtesy of CCHS

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Photo courtesy of CCHS

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7. Chemistry Building / Pardee Labs

By 1913, another new building was planned to ease the overcrowding on campus. Opened on October 12, 1915, and built at a cost of \$100,000, the Chemistry Building housed the Chemistry and Domestic Science Department as well as the State Food and Drug and Health Department (State Chemical Laboratory). In the middle of the night on January 25, 1957, a major fire took hold of the State Chemical Laboratory on the third floor of the Chemistry Building. Though the Chemistry Building was saved, the loss was extensive, with the third floor totally gutted and the rest of the building receiving severe smoke and water damage.



Courtesy of Brook Davis and USD Special Collections

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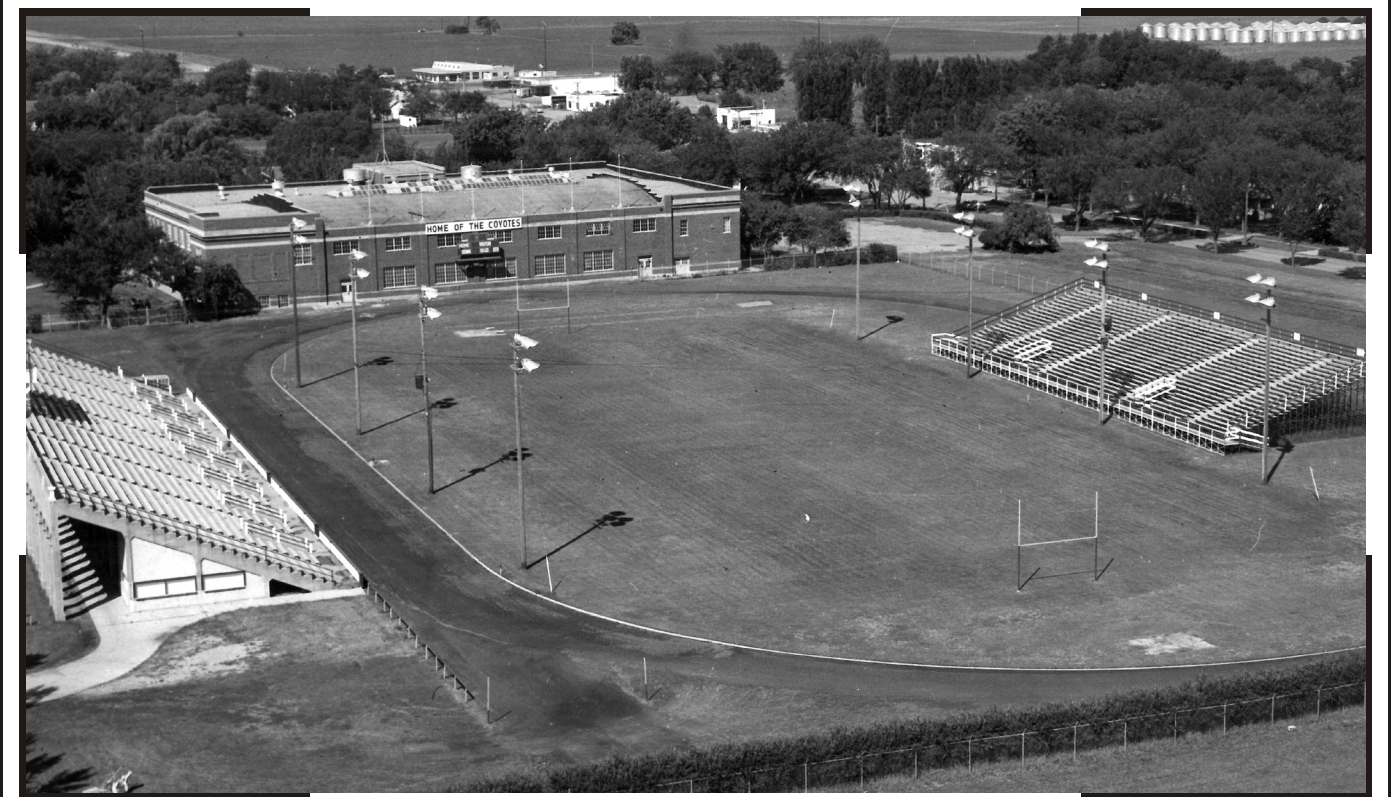
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D. University Observatory

Dr. Thomas McKinney, chairman of the Mathematics Dept., realized his dream in 1917, when the state-of-the-art brick observatory that was built for approximately \$6,500 opened north of the athletic field. In addition to the five-inch refractor telescope built by Thomas Cooke, Ltd., of London, it also had a "weight clock" that made it possible to correlate its movement with the earth's rotation and provide a great view of the heavens. After fifty-five years of faithful service, the observatory was torn down in September, 1972, to make room for future expansion on campus. The telescope was removed and sold while the building was moved to land north of the campus, never to be used for its intended purpose again.



Photo courtesy of Coyote Year Book



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