

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY: STANLEY
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
LaVERENDRYE SITE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
- S.U.S. 83

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Pierre

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
No. 2

STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46** COUNTY: **Stanley** CODE: **117**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

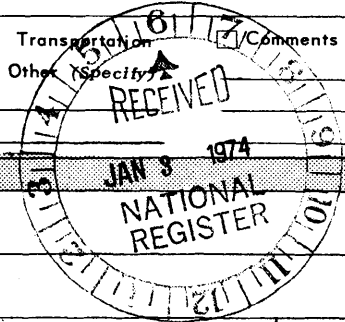
OWNER'S NAME:
State of South Dakota

STREET AND NUMBER:
Capitol Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Pierre

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
46



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds - Stanley County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Stanley County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Pierre

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
46

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Dakota Historic Preservation Program

STREET AND NUMBER:
W.H. Over Dakota Museum - University of South Dakota

CITY OR TOWN:
Vermillion

STATE:
South Dakota

CODE:
46

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Verendrye Plate is a flat square of lead 3/16" thick, 8 1/2 " long and 6 1/2" wide. On the face of the plate is inscribed:

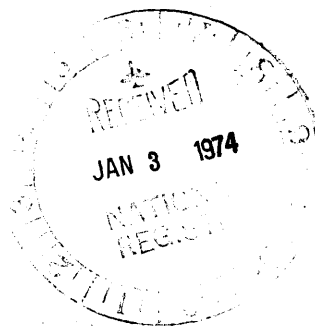
ANNO XXVI REGNI LVDOVICI XV PROREGE
 ILLUSTRISSIMO DOMINO DOMINO MARCHIONE
 DE BRAUHARNOIS M C CC XXXXI.
 PETRUS GAULTIER DE LAVERENDRIE POSUIT

which translated means: "In the 25th year of the reign of Louis XV, Illustrious King and Prelate, Pierre Gaultier De La Verendrye placed this." The back of the plate (translated) reads: "Placed by the Chevalier Verendrye his brother Louis and LaLondette and A. Miotte 30 March 1743."

The Verendrye Monument stands on the site where a lead plate was discovered bearing the names of King Louis XV of France and Pierre LaVerendrye, an early trader and explorer whose sons buried the plate in 1743.

The granite marker stands about four feet high and is inscribed with the following:

HERE ON MARCH 30, 1743, THE VERENDRYES
 BURIED A LEAD TABLET TO CLAIM THIS RE-
 GION FOR FRANCE. THIS TABLET FOUND ON
 FEBRUARY 16, 1913, IS THE FIRST WRIT-
 TEN RECORD OF THE VISIT OF WHITE MEN
 TO SOUTH DAKOTA.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **30 Mar 1743; 16 Feb 1913**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Exploration</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Verendrye Plate is the first permanent record found of the first white men in Dakota Territory. These men led the way for further exploration and eventual development of the northwestern United States. It was placed by the Chevalier de la Verendrye on a hill near the present town of Pierre, South Dakota; the date was March 30, 1743. La Verendrye and his brother, Louis, headed a small party of Frenchmen seeking a route to the Pacific Ocean.

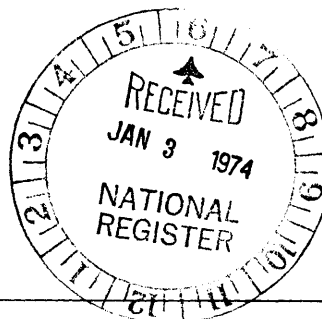
Although significant to the history of early exploration in the Upper and Great Plains, the Verendryes left little in the way of accurate accounts of their wanderings. Prior to the discovery of the lead plate, historians tried without success to identify landmarks and Indian tribes mentioned in the La Verendrye journals. Proof that they were in the Pierre area when the plate was buried clarified many of those references.

The La Verendryes never found the western ocean they searched for, but they did discover the Red River of the North, the Assiniboine and Mouse Rivers and much of the western Dakotas--including the Black Hills. Their narratives encouraged others to explore further west.

The plate with which the explorers laid claim to the upper Missouri for France was given to Pierre La Verendrye (the Chevalier's father) by King Louis XV. Pierre's sons placed it at the summit of a high bluff overlooking the Missouri River where it laid for 170 years. In 1913, it was discovered by some school children on an outing near Pierre. Early settlers testified that a mound of boulders once stood on the site, which corresponded with La Verendrye's statement that he piled rocks in a pyramid above the buried plate.

The present marker was erected in 1933; the plate itself is in the possession of the State Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Schell, Herbert. History of South Dakota, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1968. pps. 26-30.

Reese, Lisle M. (ed.). South Dakota: A Guide to the State, New York: Hastings House, 1952. pps. 30, 134, 357-8.

South Dakota Historical Society. South Dakota Historical Collections, Pierre: State Publishing Company, 1954. Vol. XXVII, pps. 20-1.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

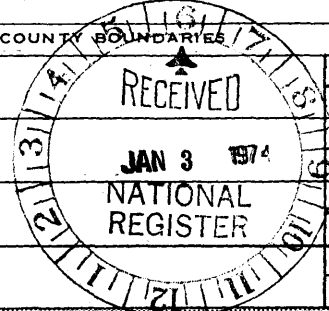
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 21' 19"	100° 22' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO
UTM
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **4.5+ acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paul Putz - Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **South Dakota Historic Preservation Program** DATE: **24 Aug 73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
W.H. Over Dakota Museum - University of South Dakota

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Preservation Officer

Date: 29 Aug 73

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/7/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: P. 5. 74