

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Dakota	
COUNTY: Charles Mix	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Geddes Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Geddes **Congressional District 1**

STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46** COUNTY: **Charles Mix** CODE: **023**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
multiple private and public ownership

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Charles Mix County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Lake Andes** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **46**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

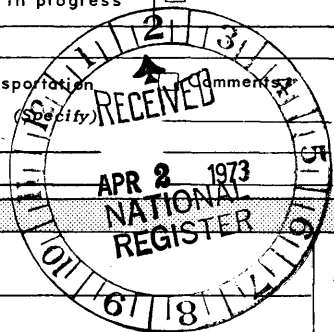
DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
South Dakota Historic Preservation

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

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

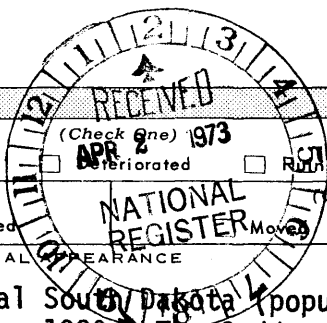
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION



CONDITION

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed
 (Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site
 (Check One)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Geddes is a small town in southcentral South Dakota (population 308). It stopped growing, for the most part, by 1920. The Geddes District includes numerous buildings erected during the era of 1900-1920. With the exception of one (the blacksmith shop), the structures are in fair to very good shape externally and internally. All are in their original locations with the exception of an old trading post located on an open block on the town's main street. Private homes are still being occupied and are in good to excellent condition. Public buildings referred to are still in use--some serving in their original capacities.

The Padley Hotel, sometimes known as the Hotel Castle, is a three-story brick structure. The second and third stories have sun porches added in 1916 when the building served as a community hospital. The building has a flat roof and a whole box-like appearance. Inside are remnants of the actual period: old bureaus, beds, plumbing and light fixtures, and the general design of large hallways all suggesting an era suspended into the 1970's. Changes have occurred from disrepair rather than renovation. The structure remains basically sound.

The blacksmith shop, moved in at Geddes' beginning, has dilapidated quite a bit. The wood frame structure is basically the same as the day it was moved to this location, but it sags now with portions of it caving in. In the west end, a blacksmith still operates with tools and a forge that date to Geddes' nascency. Gaps in the walls admit stiff drafts in wintertime while the blacksmith and his friends huddle around an old stove on the earth floor. Sliding doors patched with old boards remain open on nice days--to admit light now instead of wagons. The real value of the blacksmith shop is the period machinery and tools which it contains.

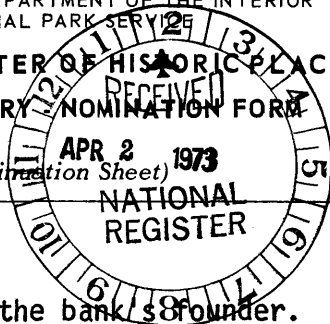
The livery stable remains today much the same as when it was built in 1910 with chalk-colored cement blocks made from a local factory. Wooden doors shield the entrance. The interior still contains old horse stalls in the one-story structure. It is presently used for storage.

Original machinery exists elsewhere in the Geddes District. The newspaper still uses presses and linotypes from the first decade of the 20th century. In fact, some of the equipment was purchased second-hand in 1916. Type-set used dates back to Geddes' very beginnings; the newspaper title as well. This paper is housed in what used to be the butcher shop, marked by three arches on its blue and yellow front. Under these arches are a window, a door, and a window, respectively, making up the building's face. This building is just down the street from another built in the same year, the Bank of Geddes building.

Constructed in 1906, the brick and cement bank building is a hodgepodge of Romanesque and Greek architectural influence. Just as the butcher shop is no longer a butcher shop, the bank building now serves as the Red Oak Bar. Raised letters on the pediment above the door read, "1906 . . . Bank of Geddes," and on the curved corner of the building at the top is the
 continued . . .

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(Continuation Sheet)



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7. DESCRIPTION

word "Pratt," referring to the bank's founder. (The old Pratt house is still serving as a residence in Geddes. Its Victorian structure was once featured in an area newspaper.)

Across the street from the old bank are the cafe and original newspaper building. Both are single-story wood-frame structures moved to Geddes from a town off the railroad right of way about 1900. The cafe is still a cafe with a simple interior of wooden booths, tables, and chairs. The old newspaper building is currently a small haberdashery.

Away from the main street area are two more public buildings from the same era. These are the denominational structures of St. Anna's School and the Catholic Church. Located nearly side-by-side, they relate some of Geddes' past educational and religious experiences. St. Anna's School is a three-story brick building with a full basement. The dimensions are 40' x 90.' Built in 1917, it was operated as a boarding school until 1935, and was the only parochial school in the area. St. Anna's once had an arched cupola which was destroyed in a wind storm. Roofed with slate shingles, the building is still in good shape. It has eight classrooms inside and a small chapel still in the original setting. The chapel contains a statue of Christ, old style light bulbs, kneeling altar, and pews. All are from the pre-1920's period. Today the school is not in use, although it is well maintained.

The Catholic Church, finished in 1903, is a two-story wooden structure. Stained glass windows are medieval in design. Carved woodwork around the eaves and windows add to the interesting design of the church. The church is in its original condition and is still being used.

Private houses remain basically the same as when they were built. For example, the Rice house exhibits the late Victorian adaptations in architecture as do many of the houses in town. The bay windowed tower-like structure is prevalent in Geddes' homes. Others exhibit mansard roofs, the most interesting of this type being the old dormitory (1905) for the original high school. (Many farm families being distant from town sent their children to secondary school for a week at a time, returning home on the weekends.) Virtually all the homes in the district are well maintained and very few are of later-than-period construction.

One building does not fit into the actual period. The Papineau Trading Post, built in 1857, stands on an open lot in the district's southern edge. Although altered, the original post is still intact beneath interior siding added about 1900. The square-cut cottonwood logs still exist as the outer frame for the old store. Placed upon a solid foundation, the weathered trading post is to be restored to the early 1860's when it served as general store, tavern, bawdy house, and county seat of Charles Mix County. This building is probably the oldest structure still standing in the state.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

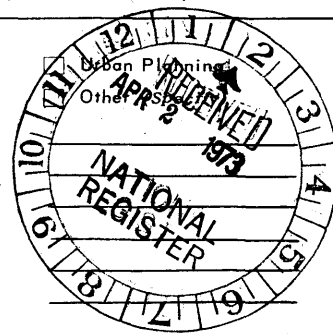
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" 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) **1901-1920**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Geddes is physical manifestation of a late American frontier town at the turn of the century. The town grew as a result of increased settlement within the area sparked by the opening of the Yankton Reservation and the arrival of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific. Its tree-lined streets, large Victorian homes, and false-front stores are reminiscent of a thousand cities who grew up at a railroad terminus, enjoyed a few years of exuberant optimism and growth, and spent the rest of its years in painful decline and obscurity. National and regional trends of classic impact contributed to a unique preservation of this prairie town. The decline of the railroad with the advent of other transportation means, the agricultural depression following World War I, the loss of the political battle for designation as County Seat, and the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Project (which claimed the best area farmlands) all contributed to the stagnation of Geddes' growth. As a result of such difficulties, Geddes atrophied. For years it has been a living museum in decline—not a reproduction, but an actual town of the 1900-1920 era which survived to the 1970's. Little in the town's physical appearance has changed.

C. A. Padley, the land agent for the railroad, sold the lots of land to prospective Geddes citizens. The hotel which opened in 1901 bears his name. The Padley Hotel remained a major landmark for Geddes. In 1916, one floor was made into a hospital. (Among those born there was James Exon, present governor of Nebraska.) Proximate in location and construction date were several other buildings depicting the development of a "railroad town" and speculation temperament. Geddes architecture spanned the design spectrum from simple utilitarian structures to the Victorian design of conspicuous consumption.

Housing built for necessity rather than luxury is exemplified by structures moved to Geddes when it first began. Examples of this include the blacksmith shop, the old newspaper building, and the cafe. These wood-frame false-front structures remain in their original locations today. However, the newspaper office has since moved to the old butcher shop across the street. The blacksmith shop and the newspaper office still house their original machinery.

The butcher shop, built in 1906, displays design similar to that afforded other buildings of the same period. The old bank (now the Red Oak Bar)

continued . . .

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles Mix County News, Geddes, South Dakota, 1889-1925.

Johnson, Shirley E., "Charles Mix County in Retrospect," South Dakota Historical Collections, Vol. 30, 1960, pp. 349-372.

Mitchell Daily Republic, Mitchell, South Dakota, September 18, 1972.
Grover Long (elderly Geddes citizen) tape interview.

South Dakota Historic Preservation Program's interviews with Ronald Dufek and Vern Burnham of the Charles Mix County Historical Society.

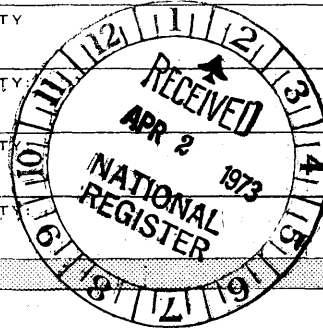
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	43°	15'	42"	98°	42'	14"	°	'	"
NE	43°	15'	42"	98°	41'	11"	°	'	"
SE	43°	14'	49"	98°	41'	11"	°	'	"
SW	43°	14'	49"	98°	42'	14"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 100 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO
LITH
CO

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
J. Michael Peterson, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: **South Dakota Historic Preservation** DATE: **March 26, 1973**

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: **Dr. James E. Gillihan**
Title: **State Liaison Officer**
South Dakota Historic Preservation
Date: **3-27-73**

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

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

5/8/73
ATTEST:
W. J. Mumford
Keeper of The National Register
Date: **4 30 73**

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

also erected in 1906, has not changed in outside appearance. These buildings were constructed just three years after the erection of St. Anna's Catholic Church. St. Anna's School was finished in 1917, marking the end of the major public construction for the era. (A new high school was built in 1925.) The midpoint of the construction era was marked in the 1910 completion of the Livery Stable, still standing as are all these buildings.

Most of Geddes' private homes were constructed in the same era and exhibit the advance of the gilded age to the frontier. Much of their construction reflected speculation in the town's future.

Although moved from its original site to an open area within Geddes, the Papineau Trading Post remains, for the most part, intact. Originally the structure was located 2 miles east of Wheeler in Charles Mix County where it was a store and general supply house serving steamboat hands, cowboys, miners, and western rovers from 1857 on. It was the business place and home of Papineau until he entered the Hospital for Insane at Yankton in 1894.

The building served as the county seat for 12 years (1862-1874) and as a main stop for miners during the gold rush to the Black Hills. This county seat was altered somewhat over the years, undergoing a few additions. However, the original portion of the post remains in fair to good condition, displaying the interlocking notched cottonwood logs that first defined the building.

The building is perhaps the oldest structure yet surviving in South Dakota. It is a link to the distant past of the frontier, the river, and the area of which Geddes is a part. It represents one of the earliest commercial ventures in the area, established during the initial stages of exploration and settlement. Geddes itself represents a similar commercial venture, established during the last days of exploration and final settlement. What is important is that both are preserved--the earliest landmarks of settlement, commercial speculation, and development on a section of the American frontier. This district presents the physical evidences of a developmental process in a time capsule form.



104

31

44.2

27.2

74.1

98-66

6.9

4.5

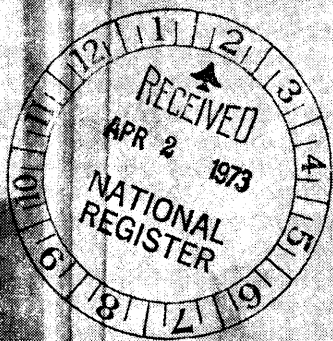
41

75.0
2-981

27.6

Geddes Historic District

- LEGEND
1. Livery Stable
 2. Padley Hotel
 3. Bank of Geddes
 4. Cafe
 5. Old Newspaper Office
 6. Butcher Shop
 7. Blacksmith Shop
 8. Papineau Trading Post
 9. Rice House
 10. Dormitory
 11. St. Anna's Church
 12. St. Anna's School



97-66

11.5

128.1

39

310

58.0

25.7

49.7

4