

Cultural Resource Investigation at St. Ambrose Catholic Cemetery

As part of the \$1.5 million dollar St. Ambrose Catholic Cemetery restoration, the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission hired Kadrmas, Lee, & Jackson of Bismarck, North Dakota. The primary goal of the investigation was to ensure that grave sites, whether marked or unmarked, were identified and avoided during the proposed restoration activities.

Fieldwork began on June 4, 2012 and concluded four days later on June 8th. The focal point of the investigation was a small parcel of land located to the southeast of main cemetery. This land was once part of the cemetery based on historic photographs. No human remains were discovered during the fieldwork. Strong evidence suggests that the burials were exhumed leaving shallow depressions. The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission is erecting a fence around the land to prevent any future ground disturbance.



Image #1 An 1899 photograph showing the location of 2012 archaeological investigation. The red arrow denotes location of headstones.



Image #2 Overview of project area taken on June 6, 2012.