

ARCHEOLOGICAL SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS AND EVALUATION AT
THE SITE OF
THE GREEN FRONT THEATRE, DEADWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA
BLACK HILLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL REGION

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ABSTRACT

Following the discovery of a portion of a foundation wall during the monitoring of a sewer trench easement at a construction site in Deadwood, South Dakota, archeological salvage excavations and data recovery were instigated. Additional foundation walls, occupation surfaces, cultural trash deposits and pit features were recorded. Historic documentation and artifact analysis indicate that the features and cultural material deposits relate to the 1885 to 1920 period. Historical documents show that the project is associated with the Green Front Theatre, one of the better known dance halls and brothels of Deadwood's Badlands District, located on lower Main Street. This report provides an outline of the salvage excavations, a description of the trench profiles and site plan, and an analysis of the artifacts directly associated with the profiles. Additional artifacts and samples from trash deposits were recovered during the salvage excavations. Curation and analysis of the latter materials is recommended before a more detailed interpretation of this data is undertaken.

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INTRODUCTION

The Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was contacted by Dana Vaillancourt (Cultural Resources Manager, City of Deadwood, South Dakota) concerning an emergency archeological salvage excavation at the site of the Green Front Theatre along Main Street, Deadwood. Monitoring of a sewer line easement excavation had revealed a foundation wall corresponding to the general location of the "Green Front Theatre" (see Appendix 2). The site is being developed to house the proposed "Mineral Palace Hotel."

Following numerous discussions between the parties involved, a contract was signed on October 7, 1992, and personnel from the Archeology Laboratory traveled to Deadwood on October 8. The field crew, consisting of archeologists Peter Winham and Edward J. Lueck, met with Dana Vaillancourt at the site on the morning of October 9, and began cleaning the exposed profiles along the sewer trench easement. This trench was designated Trench I (Figure 1).

After exposing additional foundation walls and deposits of cultural material, the decision was made to excavate a parallel trench to the north; this trench was labeled Trench II. A third trench, Trench III, was cut from the north to the south across trenches I and II. Subsequently, a second north-south trench, Trench IV, was excavated to the east of Trench III, extending from the east end of Trench II. In the north end of Trench IV, a major trash pit was located. Discussions were held with Dana Vaillancourt with regard to the significance of this feature, and it was determined that portions of the feature would remain undisturbed after construction of the Mineral Palace Hotel. Salvage excavations were expanded to include the recovery of samples from the trash fill for subsequent fine water-screening, and salvaging of artifacts from additional areas of the feature that would be disturbed. The latter activity involved the monitoring of an east-west trench at the north end of Trench IV which was labeled Trench V.

This report details the results of the profiling of Trenches I through V, and provides descriptions of in situ artifacts recovered during the profiling. A plan of the site and trench excavations is provided for comparison with historic plans showing the buildings associated with the Green Front Theatre. The historic plans were provided by Dana Vaillancourt.

A brief discussion of the results of the salvage excavations is provided, together with recommendations that include additional historic research, processing of the soil samples recovered from the trash pit area in Trench IV and processing of the artifacts salvaged during the excavation of Trench V, as well as those items not recovered in situ.

HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION

Research on the historic artifacts was conducted by Edward J. Lueck. The artifact analysis is provided as a separate section of this report. The majority of the historical background information for the project was supplied by Dana Vaillancourt, primarily in the form of a series of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. Copies of these maps are reproduced in Figures 2-8, and are dated 1891, 1897, 1903, 1909, 1915, 1923, and 1923/1947. An earlier 1885 Sanborn map showed no buildings on this site.

Vaillancourt also obtained a photograph of the site taken in ca. 1905 (Plate 1). A photograph taken around 1907 (Plate 2) appears in a book entitled *Deadwood Gulch the Last Chinatown* (Sulentic 1975). A third photograph (Plate 3), obtained from the Black Hills Mining Museum and also reproduced in Sulentic (1975:67), dates from ca. 1905.

The Green Front Theatre was one of the better known dance halls/brothels of Deadwood's notorious Badlands District, located along lower Main Street. This establishment was also known as the Green Front Variety Theatre & Dance Hall. The 1891 historic maps show structures at this site that are identified as a "female boarding house". A dance hall was added in 1897 and later a 50-foot-long stage was constructed behind the 75-foot-long main structure along Whitewood Creek (now covered by U.S. Highway 85-14A). By 1915, the maps show the building as vacant and it has disappeared entirely by 1923.

"The Gem Theatre and the Green Front were two of the most famous brothels in the west....The "Green Front" extended from 591 to 601 Main Street. The main floor was divided into a saloon, gambling hall, theatre, and dance floor. On the second floor above the dance hall there were about 20 rooms with the names of the girls printed above each door. The building arrangement was typical for brothels in those days. The two story wood structure was razed in 1920" (Sulentic 1975:69).

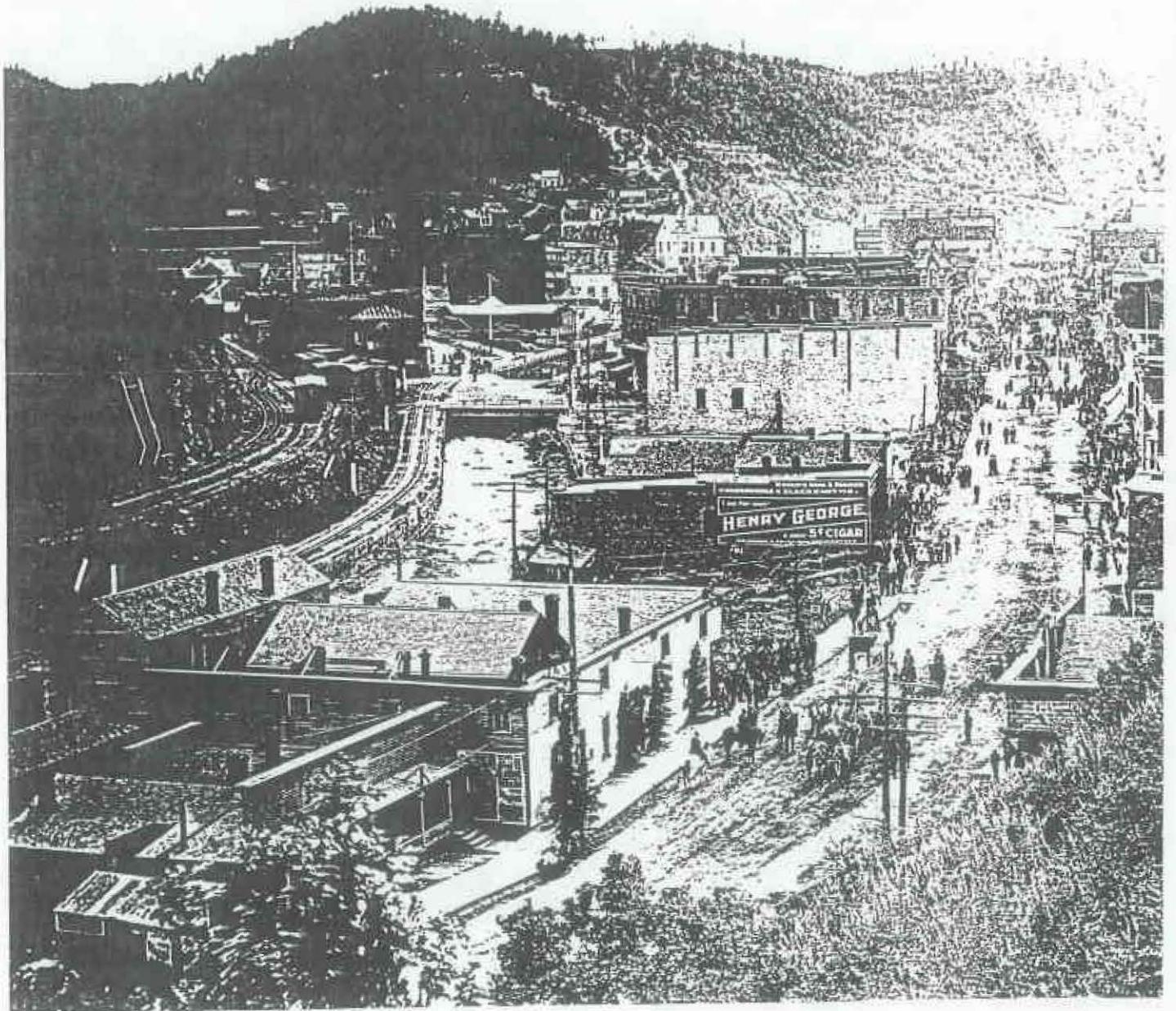
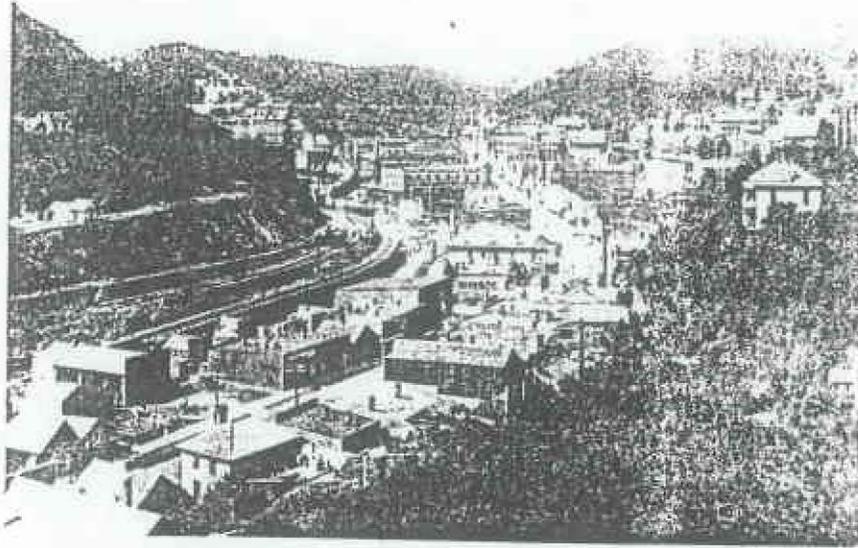
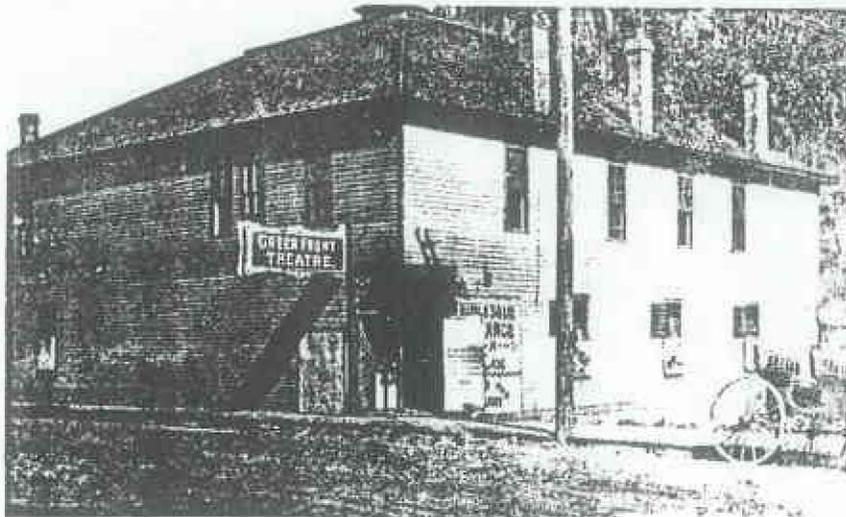


Plate 1. Historic Deadwood, Green Front Theatre area, ca. 1905.



Deadwood about 1907. A section of Chinatown is in the foreground. The Green Front Theater, quadrangled roof is near the center. Transfer tracks of the Chicago Northwestern and Chicago Burlington & Quincy railroads are on the left.

Plate 2. Historic Deadwood, Green Front Theatre area, ca. 1907.



Green Front -- The most widely known brothel in the West. Photo taken about 1905. Courtesy Fred Borsch, Galena, S.D.

Plate 3. Historic Deadwood, Green Front Theatre, ca. 1905.

SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS

Salvage excavations at the Green Front Theatre site began on October 9, 1992, and concluded on October 12, 1992. The field crew was comprised of archeologists Peter Winham and Edward J. Lueck; Dana Vaillancourt, Cultural Resources Manager, City of Deadwood, coordinated activities, assisted with the project and reviewed progress. Based on the nature of the project, the primary goals of the fieldwork were to record the features exposed in the existing trench (Trench I-Plate 4) and to explore additional areas of the site in order to evaluate the significance/research potential of the area (Plate 5). Although backhoe excavation obviously is not an ideal method to use on an archeological site, in these circumstances it was the only way to quickly assess the site potential. Hand excavation of even one of the trenches would have consumed many weeks.

The entire site was most recently utilized as a parking lot (see Plate 6) and the uppermost stratigraphic layers consisted of deposits related to that use. A duplex once occupied much of the south-central portion of the site (see Figure 8) and its basement had destroyed earlier cultural layers. No monitoring of construction activities (which continued throughout the archeological excavations) was undertaken in the southern sections of the site (Plate 6) for several reasons. First, this area [Lot 33] had no documented structures. Second, historic photographs show this area as being vacant. Cultural materials recovered from this location could not necessarily be attributed to the Green Front since any local/adjacent building could have used this area for refuse disposal. The construction workers did recover a number of champagne bottles from this area (approximate location shown on Figure 1) and deposits of plaster were encountered along the western edge of the southern site area in the vicinity of the backhoe shown in Plate 6. While trash deposits have the ability to yield certain data, those clearly associated with the Green Front were of greatest concern for this project.

All of the trenches exposed across the site (Trenches I-V) contained extensive fill deposits of angular rock/tailings. However, much of the area was underlain by a water-deposited layer that possibly relates to the flood of 1883. Other flood deposits were recorded which abutted or were cut through by the foundations, suggesting multiple flood episodes during this period.

The primary records from the salvage excavation consist of profiles of portions of Trenches I, II, IV and V; photographs; and a plan of the site and backhoe trenches. Elevations were also taken on a number of specific features, finds and layers exposed in other areas of the site. Weather conditions during the excavation period varied from sleet, snow and hail to sunny and warm, a typical fall mix of conditions!

PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS

Key to Profile Illustrations (Figures 9-14):

Layers and features are numbered or lettered sequentially on each profile. These numbers or letters are unique to that profile (i.e., Layer 1 on one profile is not the equivalent of Layer 1 on another profile).

Artifacts collected in situ from the profiles are given a plot number (P1, P2, etc.). These plot numbers relate directly to the artifact catalog number. If more than one artifact was recovered from the same location it has the same plot number. Such artifacts are differentiated in the catalog sheets by letters (e.g., 23-A, 23-B, etc.).

The elevation of the "profile level line" is shown to the side as centimeters below (-) the main datum.

SOUTH¹ WALL-TRENCH I (Figure 1-Profile A-B) [PLATES 7-13; FIGURE 9]

Layers/Features numbered on South Wall-Trench I profile:

- 1 Pure sand (pipe trench fill).
- 2 Large flat stone, (?) foundation (may be removed from original setting).
- 3 Silty sand to sand, 10YR 3/4, dark yellowish-brown.
- 4a Thin clay, dark reddish-brown (2.5YR 3/4).
- 4b Darker, (?) organic layer.
- 5 Sandy/gravelly/silty subsoil. Sand is a dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/3).
- 6 Areas of clay among the rocks.
- 7 Reddish-colored sandy layer.
- 8 Dark brown to dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/3-3/4) silty sand to sand.
- 9 Dark brown (10YR 3/3) clayey silt.
- 10 Wide foundation or support comprised of very large rocks.
- 11 Mottled, banded sand with small pebbles, 2.5YR 3/6 to 10YR 3/2, dark red to very dark grayish-brown.
- 12 Presumed east foundation wall of the Green Front Theatre.

This profile shows the south wall (north-facing profile) of Trench I. At the west end of the profile is a modern utility pipe trench. Layer 1 is pure sand and is part of the pipe trench feature. The number "2" on the profile is a large stone that probably was part of the foundation wall on the west side of the Green Front Theatre. Layer 3 is composed of a dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) silty sand to sand. Layer 4a is a thin, dark reddish-brown (2.5YR 3/4) clay layer overlying a darker, (?) organic layer (4b). Layer 5 is the sandy/gravelly/silty subsoil. The sand is a dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/3). Most of the remainder of the western portion of this profile is comprised of rock fill features; some of the features contain loose fill, while others are more compact. Layer 6 refers to areas of clay located among the rocks. Layer 7 is reddish-colored and sandy.

In the center of the profile, and below the parking lot fill and layers of plaster and nails, are two thick layers, numbers 8 and 9, overlying a wide foundation or support comprised of very large rocks (number 10 on profile). Layer 8 is dark brown to dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/3-3/4) silty sand to sand, while Layer 9 is a dark brown (10YR 3/3) clayey silt. Fragments of glass and mortar are present at the base of this layer. These layers grade into each other, but Layer 9 is much more distinctly banded than Layer 8. However, the latter also shows banding. The banding suggests that these layers are water-deposited and are not fill. The wide rock foundation has a very dark grayish-brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand matrix.

Layer 11 is a mottled, banded sand with small pebbles and is dark red to very dark grayish-brown (2.5YR 3/6 to 10YR 3/2). The number 12 refers to the presumed east foundation wall of the Green Front Theatre. The stones display deposits of mortar in several places. The wall collapsed or was demolished. To the east is more rubble, some perhaps from the wall, and another recent pipe trench.

¹ Directions are given in general terms. For actual orientations, see plan (Figure 1).

Layers 8 and 9 overlie the concentration of rocks (10) and appear to abut foundation wall (12). There is no indication of any foundation trench cutting through layers 8 and 9. The glass and mortar at the base of Layer 9 indicate an old surface. This situation suggests that foundation (12) was placed directly on an old ground surface and at one time the space between it and foundation (10) was repeatedly flooded, resulting in deposits (8 and 9) being laid down.

**NORTH WALL-TRENCH I (Figure 1-Profile C-D)
[PLATES 14-20; FIGURE 10]**

Layers/Features numbered on North Wall-Trench I profile:

- 1 Very fine, compact, silty sand 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 2 Silty sand with small pebbles, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 3 Thin layer of silty clay, 10YR 2/1-3/1, black to very dark gray.
- 4 Silty sand, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 5 Silty sand 5YR 3/2, dark reddish-brown.
- 6 Small to medium gravels/pebbles with some larger rounded pebbles (?natural gravels).
- 7 Slightly clayey silty sand, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 8 Silty sand, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 9 Sand, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 10 Sand with pea gravels, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 11 Slightly silty fine sand, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 12 Very thin silty clay layer, 10YR 3/1, very dark gray.
- 13 Silty clay with a few pebbles, 10YR 3/2, very dark grayish-brown.
- 14 Fine, compact, almost pure sand, 5YR 3/4, dark reddish-brown.
- 15 Sandy silty clay with bone fragments, 10YR 3/2, very dark grayish-brown.
- 16 Multi-colored sands and small gravels.
- 17 Very fine "powdery" rock?
- 18 Foundation wall.
- 19 Flat stone, (?) foundation (may be displaced).
- 20 Foundation wall.

This profile depicts the north wall (south-facing) of Trench I. This trench was bisected by Trench III. The west end of the trench shows the continuation of the recent pipe trench and another large flat stone (19). The apparent equivalent of Layer 3 in the South Wall Profile is Layer 14. This is a compact, almost pure, sand that is dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/4). This layer (14) is interrupted by rock fill features similar to those seen in the South Wall Profile, but the layer continues to the east, ending at the "void" (wooden sill). A foundation wall (18) overlies Layer 15 which contains a number of artifacts. Bone fragments were observed under the foundation, indicating it had been placed on an old surface.

Beneath this surface are Layers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16 and 17. These layers also pre-date foundation wall (20). This wall (20) may be associated with the ground surface (top of Layer 1). To the west is a layer (unnumbered) of small gravels/rocks that is abruptly cut on the west end. This discontinuity may relate to the construction of wall (18).

Layers 7 through 13 all dip strongly to the east but contain no noticeable cultural material, unlike the layers in the south wall of Trench II at the east end. Foundation 18 appears to post-date foundation 20. The void/wooden sill may date earlier than foundation 18, but possibly is associated with the same structure. The deposits to the east of foundation 20 abut and post-date that foundation.

**SOUTH WALL-TRENCH II (Figure 1-Profile E-F)
[PLATES 21-23; FIGURE 11]**

Layers/Features lettered on South Wall-Trench II profile:

- A Parking lot fill of small crushed rock in clay matrix, 7.5YR 8/4, pink.
- B Fill-small crushed rock, gravel, bricks, clayey, 10YR 4/3, brown-dark brown.
- C1 Very dark brown matrix (10YR 2/2) with crushed rock, gravel and cultural material.
- C2 Black (10YR 2/1) matrix similar to C1, with more crushed bedrock.
- D Brown/dark brown (7.5YR 4/4) sandy soil with several metal fragments and bone fragments.
- E1 Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/2) soil mottled with rust/ocher-like pieces.
- E2 Dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) very sandy silt.
- E3 Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/4) band 0.5 cm thick.
- F Brown/dark brown (7.5YR 4/4) sandy silt with much cultural material (bottles, whiteware).
- G Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/3) gravelly, clayey silt.
- H Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/2) sandy, clayey silt with charcoal.
- I Very gravelly (small to large-sized gravels/rocks) with a grayish-brown (10YR 5/2) sandy soil-subsoil.
- J Crushed bedrock with very little dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4) soil.
- K Thin band of reddish-brown fine, compact silty sand (? similar/same as North Wall-Trench I-Layer 1).
- L Brown/dark brown (7.5YR 4/4) fine sandy silt, silty sand.
- M Large stones/foundation remnants?

The stones (M) appear to represent a foundation lying on an old surface (H/K). East of this foundation are several layers (C-H) containing cultural material (bottles, glass, cans, etc.). At the extreme east end, layers G and H dip down. West of the foundation (M) is primarily fill, with the wooden sill remaining undisturbed.

**NORTH WALL-TRENCH II (Figure 1-Profile G-H)
[PLATES 24-25; FIGURE 12]**

Layers/Features lettered on North Wall-Trench II profile:

- A Yellowish-brown (10YR 5/4) clay.
- B Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) gritty silty loam.
- C Brown to dark brown (10YR 4/3) sand.
- D Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sand.
- E Dark yellowish-brown (10YR 4/4) compact sand.
- F Silts and clays with gravels, dominant color is dark brown (7.5YR 3/2).
- G Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/3) clay.
- H Dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay.
- I Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) compact sand.
- J Gravel substrate.
- K Large rocks/rubble of foundation wall?

Deposits B-H are similar to deposits C-H in South Wall-Trench II. These deposits contain cultural material/trash, slope towards the east and abut the presumed foundation walls.

**EAST WALL - TRENCH IV (Figure 1-Profile I-J)
[PLATES 26-30; FIGURE 13]**

Layers/Features lettered on East Wall-Trench IV profile:

- A Very gritty silt to silt loam. Very dark grayish-brown to very dark brown (10YR 3/2 - 2/2).
- B Very gritty trash fill - charcoal, metal, eggshell, etc. Silty matrix, brown-dark brown (dominant color) (10YR 4/3).
- C Slightly clayey silt with charcoal and gritty (?) shale fragments. Dark brown to dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/3-3/4).
- D Mixed trash deposit with charcoal, wood, lime, etc. in silty matrix. Dark brown (10YR 3/3).
- E Very mixed trash deposit with silty matrix - charcoal, lime fragments, eggshell, etc. Brown (10YR 5/3).
- F Very black silt/charcoal rich. Black (10YR 2/1).
- G Silty sand-mixed deposit with small-moderate sized gravels, charcoal and lime fragments. Brown (dominant color) (10YR 5/3).
- H Very gritty, clayey silt. Very dark gray (10YR 3/1).
- I Fine sand. Olive brown (2.5Y 4/4).
- J Gritty silt with angular gravels. Dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4).
- K Mixed silty clay with charcoal flecks. Very gritty with other trash materials. Dark brown (10YR 3/3).
- L Dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) very sandy silt (E2 in South Wall-Trench II).
- M Brown/dark brown (7.5YR 4/4) sandy silt with much cultural material (bottles, whiteware) (F in South Wall-Trench II).
- N Sand to silty sand. Yellowish-brown (10YR 5/4).
- O Pebbles in clayey silt. Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/3) (G in South Wall-Trench II).
- P Compact sand.
- Q Gritty silty sand. Dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/2).
- R Rocks with silty sand matrix. Dark brown (10YR 3/3).

This profile shows two major features. At the north end of the profile is a large trash pit complex (layers A through G and K). At the south end of the profile is a less complex and dense trash area (layers L through M). Upright wooden posts are associated with both areas.

The southern edge of the north pit is clearly delimited by a wooden post(s). Near the north end of the profile, an additional upright wooden post (with nails) suggests another boundary, but the layers of trash continue to the north of this post. Two large flat stones at this location may indicate some additional internal structure once existed in this area.

The southern pit contains horizontal wooden posts at the base of Layer M. The compact sand layer (P) is cut through by Layer (O) on the south and by rock fill on the north.

The trash appears to have been layered rather than dumped. A number of the trash layers are very distinct, particularly in the northern trash pit. The trash layers are also compact and there are no "sterile" layers between them. This suggests the trash pits were deliberately filled over a relatively short period of time rather than being left open for the gradual accumulation of trash.

Layer F is the lowest layer of the trash pit between the upright wooden posts; it is essentially composed of charcoal. A charcoal layer continues to the north and appears in the Trench V profile, but not as the earliest layer. It may be, however, that the layers predating the charcoal layer represent a different event or events than those postdating this deposit.

**NORTH WALL - TRENCH V (Figure 1-Profile K-L)
[PLATES 31-32; FIGURE 14]**

Layers/Features lettered on North Wall-Trench V profile:

- A Trash fill, very gritty with charcoal, metal, eggshell, etc. Silty matrix with dominant color of brown-dark brown (10YR 4/3).
- B Silty clay.
- C Very black, charcoal-rich silt (10YR 2/1).
- D Sandy, gravelly, clayey silt, dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/4-4/4).
- E Darker gritty silt.
- F Silty sand with small gravels, dark brown to dark yellowish-brown (10YR 3/3-3/4).
- G Compact sand with bedded upper layers and swirled lower layers.
- H Darker silty clay.

Layers A-E appear to be the main "trash deposits" overlying an apparent natural sand deposit (G). Layers F and H also appear to be part of this pit. Plot #33 (P33) is a shoe embedded in a sandy layer (G?), but the exact relationship of this item to layers G and H is unclear. The east edge of these trash layers was truncated by a major cut and fill episode, possibly for the adjacent highway.

SITE PLAN

The plan shows the layout of the backhoe trenches excavated while examining the impacts associated with construction of the Mineral Palace Hotel. Trench I had been excavated to replace a sewer line. The foundation at the east end of the north wall was originally observed by Dana Vaillancourt who recognized that the site still possessed some integrity.

The foundation walls in the South Wall of Trench I are assumed to relate to the "Dance Hall." The distance between the east and west walls matches the width of this building, and spatially they are located near the north end of the building.

The other walls should relate to either the "Lodgings" or the "Rooms" shown on the historic maps (Figures 2-8). The trash pit area extends up to and probably beyond the property boundary of Lot 47. Structures were shown in this area in 1897 (Figure 3), but nothing is indicated since then. Foundations 44 feet apart were noted by Dana Vaillancourt during monitoring of a utility line excavated **after** the archeological studies. These walls may, in part, relate to the "Rooms" or may relate to the earlier structures in the northeast corner of Lot 47.

All site elevations were taken in relation to the builder's "elevation" mark, an 'x' on the curb (ELEVATION on plan-Figure 1). This mark is shown on the building plans as having an elevation of 98⁵². All elevations given in this report, such as those shown on the profiles, are above or below this "main datum" point.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES [PLATES 33-36]

Plate 33 shows a metal plate (artifact #32) embedded in sand (flood) deposits in the west wall of Trench IV. These lower sand deposits are considered to relate to the flood of 1883, suggesting occupation in this area began at, or shortly after, this date. The absence of structures on the 1885 Sanborn map is currently the strongest evidence suggesting that this area of Deadwood was not built up until after 1885.

The plan (Figure 1) shows a series of "plots" (1-9) which are described below.

Plots 1-4 correspond to elevational readings taken on top of a red sand layer that appears across the site and may represent a surface. The depths below the main datum are: 1=167 cm, 2=172 cm, 3=188 cm, and 4=187 cm. This layer appeared to be the same as Layer 14 in the North Wall of Trench I.

Plots 5-7 relate to features in the upper fill of Trench III (Plate 36). Plot 5 is at the base of a wooden post 141 cm below main datum. The post extends 32 cm above this point and it is 65 cm to the surface of the parking lot. Plot 6 is a shoe located in a 10 cm thick layer of burned fill at 113 cm below main datum and 40 cm below the surface of the parking lot. Plot 7 is at the top of the burned layer at the north end of Trench III at 117 cm below main datum. The burned layer is 20 cm thick at this point.

Plot 8 is located on the wooden post recorded in the northwest corner of Trench II (Plates 34-35). The post was exposed at 173 cm below the main datum. It is approximately 19 cm in diameter and extends to a depth of 77 cm (250 cm below main datum).

Plot 9 relates to the wooden sill and void left by the sill. The base of the wood in the south wall of Trench II is at 176 cm below main datum. The base of the "void" in the north wall of Trench I is at 174 cm below main datum.

ARTIFACT ANALYSES

Following completion of the salvage excavations, all the collected materials were transported to the Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College. The materials that were to be analyzed for this report (i.e., those recovered in situ from exposed profiles) were separated, cleaned labeled and reboxed. A few of the smaller bottles on which a sediment analysis may be performed at a later date were not cleaned. The remaining artifacts were sorted by provenience and reboxed only.

The artifacts were labeled with the Deadwood site number (39LA3000); with a unique number for this project (92-1); and with the artifact number (1, 2, 3, etc.).

Appendix 3 provides catalog sheets with detailed artifact descriptions for those specimens recovered in situ from the profiles exposed in Trenches I-V. A few additional artifacts (primarily bottles) recovered from Trenches II, IV and V, in general, are also described.

When possible, the following information is provided in the artifact descriptions:

- 1) a functional type;
- 2) dimensions and capacity;
- 3) neck finish and basal or horizontal cross-section type;
- 4) description of decoration (embossing);
- 5) seam pattern;
- 6) manufacturer;
- 7) comparable items, and other information (advertisements, contents, etc.).

Terminology and date blocks supplied by Adams et al. (1975), Fike (1987), Herskovitz (1978), and Newman (1970) were the preferred references, although some date blocks provided by Rock (1981) are used for tentative modifications. Hopefully the author is correct in believing that the cup bottom mold and post bottom mold types (Adams et al. 1975) are basically included in Newman's (1970) two-piece mold category.

The plotted artifacts suggest several tentative conclusions about the stratigraphy at this site.

1) The presence of item No. 32 in the sand lends support to the idea that the sand is water-deposited, probably by the 1883 flood. This suggestion assumes that the compact sand in and around No. 32 is the deep light-colored sand feathering in from several of the foundations and which is cut into or through by features plotted in the east end of Trench 2 and the north end of Trench 4.

2) Item No. 16, found fairly deep in the east end of Trench 2, appears to be associated with the Willets Manufacturing Company (1879-1912), a company which basically produced only in the period associated with the Green Front Theatre and those years just preceding its plat map documentation (1891-ca. 1915). The big fire (which apparently did not destroy this immediate area) dates to the year 1879. The sand deposit mentioned just above is probably the result of the 1883 flood, and may indicate that a foundation and building were already present at the location of the largest building.

3) If Rock (1981:12) is correct is saying that bottles with continuous threads date from 1919 and later, Nos. 8, 19, and perhaps No. 3 , a Putnam lightning fastener canning jar with seams to the top, support the presence of post-Green Front Theatre fill in at least the top 1.18 m or so.

The artifacts illustrated in Plates 37 - 51 are grouped as follows:

- Plate 37 Proprietary medicine, drug and chemical bottles.
A-chemical bottle (#1), B-digestive ailment bottle (#34), C-digestive ailment bottle (#31).
- Plate 38 Prescription bottles and bottle fragments.
Top left (#2), center (#6), top right (#11), bottom left (#18), bottom right (#28).
- Plate 39 Prescription bottles and bottle fragments.
Top left (from Trench IV (#45-47)), top right (from Trench V (#41-44)), bottom left (from east end of Trench II (#48)).
- Plate 40 Canning jar and jar fragment.
Bottle (#3), fragment (#30A).
- Plate 41 Culinary bottles.
A-ketchup bottle (#19), B-ketchup bottle (#8), C-salad dressing bottle fragment (#37).
- Plate 42 Beer and sarsaparilla bottles.
Back row-beer bottles-left (#5), center (#4), right (#15); front row, sarsaparilla bottle (#26).
- Plate 43 Miscellaneous bottles, vessels and cut glass.
Back row, left to right - Handled beer mugs (#12) (#36), shoe polish bottle (#7), cold cream jar (#20). Front row, left to right - Ale tumbler fragment (#24), perfume/drug bottles (#9) (#27), cut glass crystal prisms (#40) (#10).
- Plate 44 Miscellaneous metal objects.
A-hair pin (#21), B-dinner plate fragment (#32), C-lead bar (#22), D-50-caliber cartridge (#14).
- Plate 45 Metal transportation items.
A-metal bar (#30B), B-horseshoe (#25A), C-steel plate (#25B).
- Plate 46 Furniture.
Decorative marble or limestone slab fragments (#17).
- Plate 47 Shoes and clothing.
Shoe fragments (#33 and #39A-C).
- Plate 48 Ceramics.
Earthenware-A(#16), B(#38), C(#29).
- Plate 49 Ceramics.
Stoneware-A(#35), B(#35), C(#31).
- Plate 50 Ceramics.
White earthenware/semi-porcelain-A(#23A), porcelain-B(#23B).
- Plate 51 Ceramics.
Trademark on base of white earthenware/semi-porcelain-A(#23A).

DISCUSSION

A number of foundation walls were exposed in the north and south walls of Trench I and the north and south walls of Trench II. In addition, an extensive trash pit deposit was recorded in the north end of Trench IV and in Trench V.

The layers described below contain cultural materials which appear to be in contexts that have been undisturbed since the 1890-1915 period. Some of the layers are associated with "occupation surfaces," and many are associated with trash disposal areas or layers.

Trench I-South Wall profile. Glass and mortar at the base of Layer 9 suggest this was a surface associated with the foundation. This surface appears to have been rapidly buried by flood deposits (Layers 8 and 9).

Trench I-North Wall profile. Bone fragments below foundation wall (18) indicate this was an old surface at one time. Deposits to the east of foundation (20) abut and post-date the foundation but are likely closely-related to the occupation at the turn of the century in this area of Deadwood. However, no noticeable cultural materials were present.

Trench II-South Wall profile. Foundation (M) also appears to lie on an old surface (H) which contains charcoal. All layers to the east of foundation (M) and above Layer I appear to be undisturbed since the early 1900s and many contain cultural materials. The wooden sill (void) to the west is in situ and marble fragments (Item #17) were found nearby, presumably also on an old surface.

Trench II-North Wall profile. Layers B-H are similar to layers C-H in South Wall-Trench II and appear to have been undisturbed since the early 1900s.

Trench IV-East Wall profile. This profile shows two major features. On the south end is a continuation of the deposits seen in the east ends of the North and South Wall profiles of Trench II. On the north end is a complex that can only be described as a trash pit, although it contains distinct layers and episodes of filling. Included as components of this pit are upright wooden posts that clearly formed some type of compartmentalization of the area. On the very north edge of the East Wall profile is a large flat stone resting in part on a second stone which may have had some structural significance.

Trench V-North Wall profile. Layers A-F and H appear to be part of the trash pit. The pit has been truncated to the east, and in fact cuts just a few inches east of the profile exposed in Trench IV-South Wall.

The remains of this trash pit complex that should be preserved following construction of the Mineral Palace Hotel are those that extend to the north and to the west of Trenches IV and V. Artifact analysis suggests that the material within the above layers and the trash pit complex dates to the time of the occupation and abandonment of the Green Front Theatre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Thanks to the monitoring efforts of archeologist Dana Vaillancourt, structural remains from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in Deadwood's "Green Front Theatre" area have been recognized and documented. That these remains are not easily attributable to a specific building or time period is part of the nature of "urban archeology." However, the recovery of artifacts and detailed studies of the profiles across the site do indicate that primary, culture-bearing deposits exist at this location. Most of these primary deposits appear to relate to deliberate trash disposal or more gradual trash accumulation abutting existing structures and within recently-abandoned structures.

This simple documentation of significant information and undisturbed cultural layers beneath existing structures and within seemingly disturbed deposits highlights the research potential that exists in Deadwood. Ideally, cultural resource evaluations should be undertaken on all projects which involve subsurface disturbance within the City of Deadwood at the earliest possible time. Except in unusual circumstances, archeological excavations need not "delay" construction projects, many of which are planned months or years in advance.

Another observation from this project is the need to evaluate the use of mechanical equipment, even when projects are not strictly salvage activities. It is likely that conditions similar to the dense deposits of rock fill encountered during this project are present across Deadwood. It may be argued that in many cases the initial evaluation of a project will require use of a backhoe to effectively expose an area sufficient for an evaluation to be made.

Finally, specific to this project, are a series of recommendations regarding additional research that should be undertaken. The information reported here is just a small part of that "salvaged" during the four-day project. Perhaps ten or twenty times the number of artifacts catalogued in Appendix 3 were collected, and three large samples of pit fill were retained. One of these samples has been water screened through fine mesh. Small bone fragments, egg shell and small copper items were recovered, but the materials have not been systematically sorted at this time. The other two samples remain to be processed. The artifacts and soil samples will be curated with the City of Deadwood.

It is expected that if the additional artifacts and samples are processed a very reliable (i.e., interpretable) sample of the trash pit will have been obtained. Research and reporting of this information would add considerably to an understanding of life in Deadwood, and particularly life in this part of the City in the early twentieth century. Vaillancourt has posed the question of whether there is archeological evidence to support historical accounts of increased suicide among the "girls" of the Green Front Theatre. An analysis of the residues present in some of the bottles recovered might allow such questions to be addressed.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1.

Letter Outlining Scope-of-Work.

DEADWOOD

"The Historic City of the Black Hills"

Deadwood, South-Dakota 57732

OFFICE OF
PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
844 Main Street, P.O. Box 506
Telephone (605) 578-2082
Fax (605) 578-2084

DEADWOOD CITY HALL
108 Sherman Street
Telephone (605) 578-2600
Fax (605) 578-2615

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To	R. Peter Winham	From	Dana Villanovitz
Co.	Augustana College	Co.	Deadwood Soc. Dev. Corp
Dept.	Archeology Lab	Phone #	578-2082
Fax #	336-5299	Fax #	578-2084

Thomas R. Tostrup, General Manager
3 of a Kind
605 Main Street, P.O. Box 524
Deadwood, SD 57732

RE: Required Archeological Survey/Excavation at the proposed
"Mineral Palace" site.

Dear Mr. Tostrup:

As you are aware from our conversations and a site visit on October 6, 1992, archeological monitoring of the sewer-line easement excavation revealed the archeological remains of a stone foundation wall. The general location of this wall corresponds to the historic location of the "Green Front Theatre". Since the Deadwood Historic Preservation Office and the State Historical Preservation Center's determination of NO ADVERSE EFFECT for this project requires archeological investigation, I have prepared a work scope for the initial stage of archeological work to be conducted at the site. This work will be staged so that all parties involved (contractor, owner/s or representative, Deadwood Preservation Office, and State Office) can be in accordance prior to proceeding. It is hoped that this work can be conducted efficiently within the proposed time constraints.

The City of Deadwood's area of greatest concern at the "Mineral Palace" site is the remains of the "Green Front Theatre," one of the "Badlands" most famous dance halls and brothels. This site was historically mapped as being located between Lots 37-45, Block 14. Although this location has been subject to various levels of disturbances during the historic period (i.e.: duplex, utility trenches, and bulkhead), intact structural remains have been noted below (approximately) two feet of later fill. The extent of the remains of this structure and/or associated cultural deposits is yet uncertain.

The first stage of archeological investigations at this site should be to delineate any intact structural remains (foundation alignment/s) in the subject Lots (37-45) and to assess the site's potential to locate intact cultural deposits based upon the extent of existing subsurface disturbances. This work can initially be accomplished by a team of two or three archaeologists monitoring mechanical trenches at the site using the exposed foundation wall and historic maps to locate potential foundation walls. The existing sewer trench can also be scrapped and utilized as a

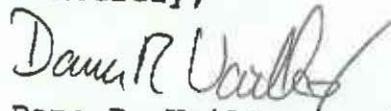
Page 2

stratigraphic profile across the project parcel. Samples of diagnostic cultural materials can be extracted from exposed profiles. Based upon the information uncovered during the first stage, recommendations to proceed or stop can be made by this office in consultation with the State Preservation Center.

Potential archeological contractors should be aware that our office can provide primary data in the form of historic maps and photographs (for use in our office) and that we will work closely with them and the state office to expediate this process.

Thank you for your consideration and please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dana R. Vaillancourt
Cultural Resources Manager

DV:kh

cc: Mark Wolfe, DEDC
Alyson Brooks, SHPC
R. Peter Winham, Augustana College

Appendix 2.

Miscellaneous Correspondence.

FILE

DEADWOOD

"The Historic City of the Black Hills"

Deadwood, South Dakota 57732

OFFICE OF
PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
844 Main Street, P.O. Box 506
Telephone (605) 578-2082
Fax (605) 578-2084

DEADWOOD CITY HALL
106 Sherman Street
Telephone (605) 578-2600
Fax (605) 578-2615

September 2, 1992

Thomas R. Tostrup, General Manager
3 of A Kind
605 Main Street, P.O. Box 524
Deadwood, SD 57732

RE: "Mineral Palace" project on Tract A (Formerly Lots 41,
43, 45, and 47 Block 14) and Lots 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 Block
14, City of Deadwood, Lawrence County, South Dakota.

Dear Mr. Tostrup:

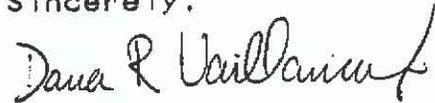
Upon review of your proposed development project, it has been determined that the area has the potential for locating archeological remains associated with the "Green Front Theatre," one of the "Badlands" most famous dance halls and brothels. Although there has been substantial modifications to some portions of the proposed project parcel during the historic period, the extent of subsurface disturbances is unknown. Therefore, it is recommended that subsurface archeological testing be conducted in proposed areas of development prior to construction. Since the most archeologically sensitive section of the proposed parcel currently consists of a graded and gravel parking lot, hand-testing in these locations would be deemed impractical. Mechanical trenching may be conducted to get below the graded portion of the parking lot, hand-excavation would then be required on any exposed cultural features. The proposed archeological testing strategy should be designed with the historic development (via historic maps) of the area in mind to maximize the efficiency of the survey. Archeological contractors will be required to submit their testing strategy design to the City's Cultural Resources Manager for approval prior to commencement of the project.

Many myths abound in Deadwood about the activities conducted in the "Badlands," yet little primary data is known about this distinctive area and its associated material culture. Places like the "Green Front" figured somewhat prominently in Deadwood's social and economic history and although the building no longer stands, archeological resources may still be intact. The City's request for archeological survey in this area is motivated by the need for identifying, gathering information, and preserving those finite cultural resources which make Deadwood unique as a National Landmark Community. Thank you for your assistance in this goal. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Page 2

Please give me a call at your earliest convenience to discuss this process so as to allow for the expedience of your project.

Sincerely,



Dana R. Vaillancourt
Cultural Resources Manager

DV:kh

cc: Mark Wolfe, DEDC
Bernie Williams, DEDC
Alyson Brooks, SDHPC

DEADWOOD

OFFICE OF
PLANNING AND PRESERVATION
644 Main Street, P.O. Box 506
Telephone (605) 578-2082
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"The Historic City of the Black Hills"
Deadwood, South Dakota 57732

DEADWOOD CITY HALL
106 Sherman Street
Telephone (605) 578-2600
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September 24, 1992

Thomas R. Tostrup, General Manager
3 of a Kind
605 Main Street, P.O. Box 524
Deadwood, SD 57732

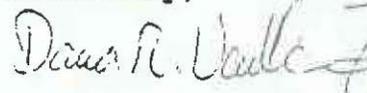
RE: Excavation at the proposed "Mineral Palace" site.

Dear Mr. Tostrup:

As you are aware from prior conversations and correspondence, the "Mineral Palace" site has the potential for locating archeological remains associated with the "Green Front Theatre". In helping to expediate this project, I agreed to monitor excavations along the two easements which run perpendicular to Main Street. These excavations would reveal two subsurface profiles across the project parcel and indicate whether or not further archeological work would be required at the site prior to construction. It is critical therefore, that you schedule the excavations along these easements with me in advance so that I can monitor these trenches.

Thank you for your help in this manner and please call me if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,



Dana R. Vaillancourt
Cultural Resources Manager

DV:kh

cc: Mark Wolfe, DEDC
Keith Umentum, DEDC
Alyson Brooks, SDHPC



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State Historical Preservation Center



October 1, 1992

Mr. Mark Wolfe
Deadwood Economic Development Corporation
Box 506
Deadwood, SD 57732

SDCL 1-19A-11.1 DETERMINATION

Project: 921001052S - 591 Main, Mineral Palace (CITY)
Location: Lawrence County

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

Regarding the above referenced project, the Historical Preservation Center makes the following determination in accordance with SDCL 1-19-11.1.

Based on the information made available to this office during numerous site visits and in assorted correspondence regarding the proposed Mineral Palace development at 591 Main this office makes the following determinations.

1. Removal of the existing c.1935 stucco duplex to the approved site on Dunlap Avenue will have **NO ADVERSE EFFECT** on the building or the National Register Historic District.
2. Demolition of the c. 1948 structure will have **NO ADVERSE EFFECT** on the National Register Historic District.
3. The archeological conditions outlined by Vaillancourt in his letters of September 2, 1992 and September 24, 1992, must be carried out.
4. The preliminary plans and front elevation dated 8/27/92 are appropriate for the selected location in Deadwood and a new building based on these plans would have **NO ADVERSE EFFECT** on the National Register Historic District.
5. As more detailed plans are developed for the project those plans should be submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission for their review.

This approval covers only those work items discussed in this letter and any additional work will have to be approved at a later date.

P.O. Box 417
Phone (605) 677-5314

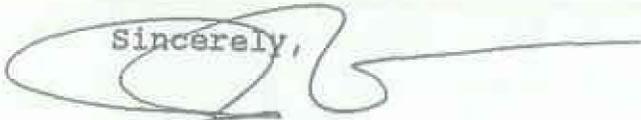
3 East Main Street

Vermillion, SD 57069
FAX: (605) 677-5364

The Deadwood Preservation Commission has undertaken all reasonable planning with regard to this project.

Questions or comments should be addressed to the Historical Preservation Center.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Putz
Director

cc. J. R. Fishburne, Director, Office of History, Pierre

Appendix 3.

Artifact Catalog Sheets.