



We're Here When You're Ready

New Media Specialist Andrew Kerr installed signage welcoming visitors back at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum.

Since welcoming visitors back in June after a three-month COVID-19 closure, the agency continues to adapt to the ongoing pandemic in several ways.

While the main exhibits are open at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, a few things look a bit different. Everyone entering the building must undergo a temperature screening. Signage reminds visitors to maintain their distance from others, touchscreens and kiosks have been turned off, and hands-on activities such as the Treehouse exhibit for young children are temporarily unavailable. For the time being, tours have been suspended.

Good hygiene is at the forefront of our minds these days. You'll notice hand sanitizer available throughout the building and staff wearing masks. And if the prehistoric beasts in the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time look particularly spick and span, chalk that up to the deep clean they received during the shutdown.

Meanwhile, after closing down, most of our historic sites across the state re-opened as planned on Memorial Day weekend, but not without some heavy lifting from staff. (Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site, due to its small, enclosed spaces and underground component, required extra precautions and didn't open until June 15.)

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We're Here When You're Ready *(continued)*



Jeff J. Person, North Dakota Geological Survey paleontologist and collection manager of the State Fossil Collection, uses a leaf blower for those hard-to-reach places.



While historic sites received masks for staff, plexiglass barriers for reception areas, new signage, and hand sanitizer, and have sought to limit crowd size and access to varying degrees, each required its own custom approach. Measurements were taken for the new barriers and different types of signs and quantities of hand sanitizer ordered. Supplies were physically delivered across the state to drop-off locations during a two-day road trek.

"It's not like managing a chain of McDonald's, they are historic sites because they are different," noted Rob Hanna, historic sites manager. "It's pretty rare that one solution applies to all sites."

To help promote social distancing at the sites, a variety of approaches have been utilized. At Chateau de Morès State Historic Site, staff participating in roving interpretations have been strategically placed behind barriers and use the servants' hallways to navigate to different rooms. At the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, a doorbell was installed to help control the number of people entering the center. And at the missile site, party size was limited with visitation by appointment only. Wearable microphones distributed to staff have further allowed visitors with hearing impairments to participate more fully without getting too close. Likewise, highly interactive programs have been "put on the backburner" for the time being," said Chris Dorfschmidt, historic sites manager.

Far Left - Floor markers in the State Museum remind people to socially distance.

Left - Joelle Sherlock, a seasonal interpreter, gives a tour of the Launch Control Center capsule at Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site.

Documenting Life During COVID-19 in North Dakota

What was life like during a world-changing pandemic? How did people work, commute, learn, teach, pray, mourn, and celebrate? Our effort to collect and preserve North Dakotans' stories and experiences during COVID-19 for future generations needs your help.

To share your story and upload digital files, such as journals, photos and artworks, illustrating an aspect of daily life during COVID-19, please visit: statemuseum.nd.gov/share-your-story. You will also find information on how to share paper materials and physical objects.

Images and items donated to the "Share Your Story" initiative show the impact of the virus on daily life.



LARKS SMART START:
DO YOUR PART!

 Not feeling well? Stay in your nest!	 Keep 6 feet between your flock and others.
 Masks are encouraged.	 Wash your hands often.
 Limit contact. Air high fives recommended!	<p style="font-weight: bold;">BISMARCK</p>  <small>NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL WINNER BISMARCK PARKS AND RECREATION DISTRICT Est. 1927</small>

New Society Director Navigates Pandemic Waters



Assuming the helm of an agency is a daunting task at any time. But for new State Historical Society of North Dakota Director Bill Peterson, who began shadowing his predecessor Claudia Berg amid a global pandemic and lockdown, his initial days in the office were marked by a distinctly unnerving backdrop. With no visitors in the State Museum building and most staff at home, the office had morphed into “a modern, post-apocalyptic ghost town,” he recently recalled. Still, Peterson noted, “I am overjoyed to be here and looking forward to all of the amazing places we will go together.”

Peterson, whose first official day on the job was July 1, comes to the agency with extensive museum experience, having previously served at the Arizona Historical Society, first as Northern Division director, and since September 2018, as vice president of collections and education. He has also worked as curator of interpretation for the Montana Heritage Commission. During his time in Montana, the History Channel awarded him the state’s first Save Our History Grant.

A Michigan native, Peterson holds a bachelor’s in U.S. history from Lake Superior State University, a master’s in historic administration and museum studies from the University of Kansas, and a doctorate in American cultural studies from Bowling Green State University.

Peterson replaced Berg, a veteran staffer who retired this year after serving since 2014 as the State Historical Society’s first female director.

New Director Bill Peterson

Historic Courthouse Hosts Jury Trials

Since July, Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site in Jamestown has found a second life as a venue for jury trials in the Southeast Judicial District.

The site’s courtroom, which hadn’t seen active duty for nearly four decades, proved attractive once more in the age of COVID-19 due to its size (it seats 150 people) and ability to accommodate the 6-foot social distancing required for a 12-person jury.

“The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse Historic Site has been a good alternative for the District Court as their new courtrooms

Seats in the historic courthouse are numbered to accommodate social distancing.

are very small and cramped, not good for a pandemic,” said Steven Reidburn, site supervisor. To prepare the historic structure for the demands of modern justice, North Dakota Information Technology Department installed Wi-Fi near the courtroom. A sound system, fans, as well as a free-standing projection screen and window covers were also added. The only downside for the court, Reidburn noted, was the lack of an elevator in the century-plus-old structure.

The trials will continue at least through the end of the current session.



History's Facelift: Sprucing up the State Historic Sites

While much of the world shut down this year, staff, volunteers, and other workers have been busier than ever at our state historic sites, which saw a banner year for capital improvements and other much-needed maintenance and upkeep. From new coats of paint to log replacement to garden planting, here are a few examples of DIY in action.



The Gingras Trading Post near Walhalla received new logs to restore structural integrity.



Interpreter Amanda Baumgartner gives the blacksmith shop at Welk Homestead State Historic Site a new coat of paint.



Staff planted a *Gemüsegarten* (vegetable garden) at Welk Homestead State Historic Site, complete with markers in both German and English.



Site Supervisor Johnathan Campbell paints the exterior of the Former Governors' Mansion.



Conservators carefully remove the Leah F. Parkhurst Memorial Windows at Camp Hancock State Historic Site's Bread of Life Church for restoration. The windows were made in 1882 by prominent stained-glass designer John La Farge.



A victory garden planted by staff at Fort Totten State Historic Site produced some 600 pounds of produce for the Hope Center food bank.



Site Supervisor Stewart Lefevre clears sod off a Works Progress Administration path at Whitestone Hill State Historic Site.



Assistant Site Supervisor Ed Sahlstrom, left, and maintenance staffer Mike Sunday give the porch of the Chateau de Morès a little TLC.

Pembina Site Gets National Votes For Women Trail Marker



A marker honoring Native American activist and suffragist Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin, who was born in Pembina in 1863, has been erected on the grounds of the Pembina State Museum as part of the National Votes for Women Trail. The markers recognize the people, places, and events important to the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment. It is one of five such markers to go up in North Dakota during the amendment's centennial year. For more information about the trail and markers, go to: ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/.

Native American Tribal Flags on Exhibit in Hall of Honor

Flags of five recognized tribal nations of North Dakota were purchased by the State Historical Society's Foundation and have been added to the Native American Hall of Honor at the State Museum. The quintet of banners represents the newest renditions of the flags of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Spirit Lake Tribe, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate.

The Native American Hall of Honor is an annual program and exhibit recognizing Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribe and culture. The program is a partnership of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, and the State Historical Society Foundation. This year's honoring ceremony was canceled due to COVID-19. However, nominations for an individual or group may be made at indianaffairs.nd.gov. Nominations already submitted for 2020 will be considered when the event resumes.

A Hair-raising Halloween at the Chateau



North Dakota Draft Horse Association 2019 State Champion Chris Kubal and his Belgian horses provided spooky wagon rides to visitors.

Visitors to Chateau de Morès State Historic Site in Medora enjoyed a spooky treat this Halloween. The Chateau invited guests on a spine-tingling wagon ride past the site's historic buildings, across the Little Missouri River, and through Chimney Park and the ruins of the abattoir (slaughterhouse). Along the way, ghostly apparitions and scary shenanigans by a gang of outlaws abounded.



Visitors to the Chateau were "held up" by some shady characters.



Museum Survey Needs Your Help



Barbie is a favorite of survey respondents.

Barbies? Bell bottoms? Board games? What items from your childhood and beyond would you most like to see included in a future exhibit?

In an effort to fill gaps in the collection, most notably from the 1960s onward, the State Historical Society of North Dakota is conducting a survey this year to better understand what the people of North Dakota would most like to be collected and preserved for future generations. Find a survey at bit.ly/proactivecollecting or pick up a copy at the front desk of the State Museum.

2020 Additions to National Register Include “Jewel on the Prairie”



Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel

Famed Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer’s **Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel** at the University of Mary in Bismarck was among the new additions to the National Register of Historic Places in 2020. Dubbed his “jewel on the prairie,” Breuer’s modernist chapel, completed in 1963, features varied materials for texture, colored glass, and locally sourced fieldstone. Other additions to the register this year include half a dozen mid-20th century Grand Forks school buildings and Harvey’s first and only substantial electrical power generation facility.



The Harvey Power Plant

The **Harvey Power Plant** provided electrical power to Harvey and much of Wells County for 24 years before its closure in 1954 when the consolidation of electricity production facilities and the construction of larger power plants nearby made it obsolete.



Wilder Elementary School

The six Grand Forks schools selected—**Ben Franklin Elementary School, Lewis and Clark Elementary School, Valley Junior High School, Viking Elementary School, West Elementary School, and Wilder Elementary School**—were designed to meet the needs of an era marked by a postwar baby boom and increased migration to urban areas. The one-story brick structures with flat roofs, constructed between 1949 and 1965, reflected educational principles that emphasized student learning and physical health as well as an efficiency of design and construction.

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government’s list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. For more information on the program, contact Architectural Historian Lorna Meidinger at 701.328.2089 or visit history.nd.gov.

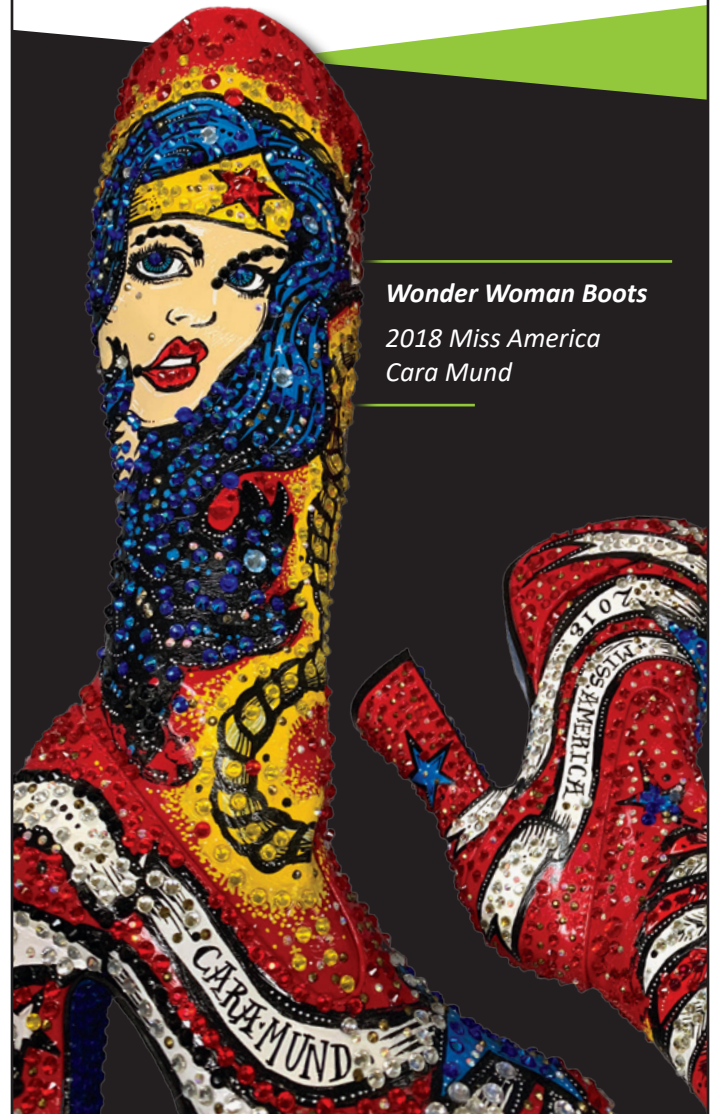
Fashion & Function

North Dakota Style

Explore hundreds of North Dakota fashions through the decades.

Exhibit opens in early 2021.

State Museum, Bismarck
statemuseum.nd.gov/exhibits



Wonder Woman Boots
2018 Miss America
Cara Mund

Archaeologists Gather Sky-High Footage of Steamboat Wreck



Aerial footage near the confluence of the Painted Woods Creek and the Missouri River, where the steamboat sank.

Team members from the Archaeology & Historic Preservation Division took advantage of the Missouri River's low water levels this fall to capture some truly out-of-this-world footage of the wreck of the Abner O'Neal, a 19th-century steamboat, which sank in July 1892 while ferrying wheat between Washburn and Mandan.

Over the course of two days in October, Chief Archaeologist Andy Clark and Research Archaeologist Timothy Reed, a licensed drone pilot, collected hours of detailed footage from cameras mounted on the agency's quadcopter. On the second day of the drone mapping mission, Clark and Reed were joined by State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson, Division Director Fern Swenson, Research Archaeologist Amy Bleier, and Cultural Resources Assistant Erica Scherr who helped record GPS points.

Flight patterns for the drone were set up along an 1,800-foot strip of river. The pictures, taken with both visible light and multispectral cameras, were subsequently processed using photogrammetry software, which corrects for distortions to produce the most accurate possible mosaics, or "stitched together" images, of the wreck and surrounding area.

Capturing high-resolution drone footage is critical to assessing the wreck's current state of preservation and will be used to help update the state's records on the site, said Reed. The Abner O'Neal wreck is one of seven archaeological sites that the division has mapped to date using drones.



High-resolution drone photos allow archaeologists to measure the width of individual beams in the hull.



The Abner O'Neal steamboat in its 19th-century heyday.
SHSND SA B0735-00001

Local History Awardees Selected



State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson, right, presents the Heritage Profile Honor Award to Gordon Iseminger.

The State Historical Society of North Dakota recently named the 2020 Local History Award winners in two categories.

The **North Dakota Person of History Award** recognizes individuals deceased at least 10 years who have had a prominent role in the state's history. This year's recipient, Ruth Meiers, became the first woman from her district to be elected to the state House of Representatives in 1975. She later served as the first female lieutenant governor of North Dakota.

The **Heritage Profile Honor Award** celebrates individuals who have made a significant contribution to preserving, interpreting, researching, publishing, or promoting the history of North Dakota. This year there were two recipients: Gordon Iseminger and Steve Martens.

Iseminger, a history professor at the University of North Dakota who at the time of his retirement was the state's longest-serving employee, has spent decades researching North Dakota's history, with a particular focus on its German-Russian community. He serves on the Grand Forks County Historical Society board and the Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission.

Martens, a North Dakota State University emeritus professor of architecture, has dedicated his career to helping document and preserve North Dakota's architectural and cultural heritage. Among his many achievements are numerous successful nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and co-authoring the book, "Buildings of North Dakota."

For more information about the Local History Award program, contact Ashleigh Miller at 701.328.2667 or visit history.nd.gov.



New Media Specialist DeAnne Billings and Mark Halvorson, curator of collections research, prepare a lithographic poster of Spotted Horn Bull for its photo shoot.



Lori Nohner, assistant collections curator, vacuums a rug that once decorated the Chateau de Morès.

Ready for Their Close-ups

Agency staff used the lull between exhibits in the Governors Gallery of the State Museum to capture high-resolution digital images of (and in some cases even clean) a selection of large-scale artifacts rarely seen outside of the collection stacks. During a week in October, the gallery morphed into a makeshift photography studio as pictographs, rugs, and even a banner used to advertise the 1955 Rambler were rolled out for their close-ups.

Digital Resources Worth Digging Into During Quarantine

COVID-19 may be keeping many people at home this year, but it is no excuse to stop learning. We offer activities and resources online that can help facilitate socially distanced discovery, teaching, and scholarship. Here are a few highlights:

- **North Dakota Studies:** Check out the extensive free curriculum and resources related to the geography, history, and government of North Dakota at the go-to site for educational deep dives into all things Peace Garden State: ndstudies.gov.
- **Ask-An-Expert:** Historic sites across the state are currently beta testing a new online program that allows students to ask experts questions related to historical themes in the North Dakota Studies curriculum and beyond. In advance of the virtual meeting, participating classrooms' questions are sent to staff, who then draw on a range of source material to help illuminate history. More than 100 North Dakota students have already participated in the initiative, which will continue throughout the school year. For more information, contact Chris Dorfschmidt at cdorfschmidt@nd.gov.
- **#AskUsLive:** These half-hour, monthly Q&A Facebook Live sessions offer the chance to ask professionals all your burning museological questions. Already, sessions have been held with archivists, curators, and even an expert on the wallpaper revival. Watch for the dates of upcoming monthly sessions on our Facebook page.
- **Archives:** A range of databases and indexes are available via the society's website. These include access to certain historical daily and weekly newspapers published across North Dakota (Chronicling America, Advantage Archives) as well as indexes to state birth, marriage, divorce, and death records. Other highlights include SHSND Photobook, a new offering which allows researchers to search and view all scanned images in the State Archives collections, and Digital Horizons, which, in addition to images from the State Archives and other organizations around the state, offers access to some scanned county history books as well as the North Dakota Blue Book.



New Media Specialist Supervisor Angela Johnson manages behind-the-scenes work for a Facebook Live session with archivists.



Jeff Blanchard, right, site supervisor at Pembina State Museum, hosted a test run of Ask-An-Expert, a new online educational program, for teacher Brian Grove's eighth grade history class at Strasburg Public School. Grove is also site supervisor for Welk Homestead State Historic Site.

Thank You to Kelly Schmidt



North Dakota State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt

Outgoing State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt finishes 16 years of service with the State Historical Board at the end of this year. We are grateful for her financial insights and extensive contributions to the board.

Mannequin Mania



Getting ready for the runway.

Event Coordinator Dean Ihla puts the finishing touches on a mannequin, one of 125 included in *Fashion & Function: North Dakota Style*, which opens in early 2021.

FOUNDATION NOTES



History's
Foundation
State Historical Society
of North Dakota Foundation

Many Ways to Give to the Foundation

We are grateful for our members and for our North Dakota Heritage Center donors. As we build relationships, we have the opportunity to share with people the many ways they can support the work of the Foundation.

Membership: Provides a subscription to *Plains Talk* newsletter and *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*, plus free admission to state historic sites, a 15 percent discount at all seven Museum Stores, and participation in the Time Travelers program, with discounted access to attractions around the US.

Annual Giving Campaigns: Three to four times a year we offer our members, donors, and friends the opportunity to give an *additional* gift to the Foundation's work. This is the perfect way to show your gratitude for what has been done and invest in projects moving forward.

Memorial Gifts: Hundreds of our members and friends honor their loved ones with memorial gifts. Gifts from \$20,000 to \$20 have been received and offer the donor a special opportunity to provide a memorial gift with a purpose – preserving and growing our historic resources.

Leave Your Legacy and Make History: Planned gifts to the Foundation and its endowment may be eligible for tax incentives, including federal deductions and the North Dakota Charitable Giving 40 percent state income tax credit. Gifts may include cash, stock, or highly appreciated assets and required minimum distributions from an IRA. Additionally, charitable trusts or annuities generate an income for you now and leave a legacy for generations to come. Contact our office to visit about these giving opportunities.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 2021
ND HERITAGE CENTER

Foundation Board Meeting

Foundation Board Room

If you are happy with the ND Heritage Center efforts and see the value of the programs and services of the Foundation and State Historical Society, won't you step up and increase your giving activity today?

Call us for details. 701-222-1966

Foundation Development Staff

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Office located in the Lower Level of the
North Dakota Heritage Center on the Capitol Grounds



Marlo Sveen,
SHSND Foundation
Executive Director



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statemuseum.nd.gov/store

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