



A Homegrown Green Revolution

by Ann Crews Melton,
assistant editor,
Communications
& Education Division

The typical recipe for a traveling museum exhibition is to pack objects into crates, load them onto trucks, and then have those trucks travel the highways to museums across the country. "Green Revolution," however, is an innovative museum exhibit with virtually no carbon footprint. For this new exhibit, which opened Nov. 21 at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, museum staff received design files and instructions digitally

from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. They then proceeded to construct a unique "eco-zibit" from reused and recycled materials, scavenged everywhere from museum storage closets to dusty grandparents' basements.

"All of the fabrication and design was up to us," said Genia Hesser, curator of exhibits. "Exhibit preparators Bryan Turnbow

This version of “Green Revolution” is based on an exhibition originally created by the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, and its Black Creativity Council, and is made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

To learn more about “Green Revolution” and plan your own visit, go to history.nd.gov.



and Andrew Kerr found inspiration everywhere. The exhibit furniture has been repurposed from our own inventory. We salvaged a refrigerator out of a dumpster and incorporated other found pieces. Even the exercise bike was found in someone’s grandmother’s basement.”

The exhibit features more than two dozen artifacts from the State Historical Society’s collection that are not normally on view. “Carbon Footprint” showcases alternative modes of transportation, such as vintage bicycles, skateboards and shoes, while “Waste Not” includes pieces that illustrate how historically materials have always been reused, such as dresses made from flour sacks and moccasins soled with parfleche bags.

Museum staff added extra local spin to the section “Home Green Home,” which highlights the sustainable design of the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion and includes a special photo gallery on adaptive reuse. In partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office, the photo gallery features twelve historic buildings that have been adapted to serve multiple functions, from an opera house converted to a bowling alley and later a brewery, to a church converted to a bookstore and a coffee house.

Kids can get in on the action with a compost bin they can practice spinning, an interactive board game appropriate for all ages and a handout on how to make your own paper.

The Museum Store has stocked a number of eco-friendly products to support the “Green Revolution,” including toys made from recycled plastic bottles.

Perhaps the highlight of the exhibit, Hesser said, is the exercise bike — the very same one found in a grandmother’s basement. Exhibit staff wired the stationary bike as an electric generator, so that when ridden it powers a small fan and a light bulb. Museumgoers are invited to ride the bike to light a metaphorical, and literal, path to a greener future.

“It’s fitting that this exhibit takes place in our new green building,” Hesser said. “Our North Dakota Heritage Center and our broader state heritage will continue to incorporate multiple green components.”

Kids can get in on the action, and museumgoers are invited to ride an exercise bike to power a small fan and light bulb.

Eco-friendly gifts at the Museum Store





Window Murals Rise Above

by Genia Hesser, curator of exhibits,
Museum Division

Four impressive murals are now visible from State Street along the north side of the North Dakota Heritage Center.

One of the final phases of the Heritage Center expansion exhibits was completed this summer. Each of the four galleries now boasts an impressive mural on its exterior window. The window murals serve two purposes: to protect the items on display and to promote the exhibits.

Controlling the type and intensity of light in the galleries is an important part of their long-term care. The new window coverings allow curators to control how much light is in the gallery.

The murals are also a way to communicate what's inside the museum. From left to

right in the photo: The Governors Gallery is designed to host temporary and traveling exhibits. A drawing of Earth represents all the possible exhibits the future may hold. A *Triceratops* marks the Adaptation Gallery, which covers North Dakota's earliest life up through the ice age. The first native peoples of North Dakota and their descendants are the focus of the Innovation Gallery, indicated by a tipi. The 19th century brought rapid change and new settlers to North Dakota, thousands of which came by train, as seen on the window of the Inspiration Gallery.



Scott Bina and Tim Larson of Bismarck's Mann Signs install panels on the exterior of the Governors Gallery window.

Expansion Wins Design Award



The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum was presented with the General Design Honor Award from the North Dakota American Institute of Architects. The award recognized the recent expansion and new gallery exhibits at the State Museum, which opened to the public in Nov. 2014.

New Board President

Margaret L. "Peggy" Puetz



Congratulations to Margaret L. "Peggy" Puetz, who was recently elected president of the State Historical Board. Puetz has been a dedicated board member since 2011, and we wish her well in her new role. We would also like to thank past president, Calvin Grinnell, for his excellent service. Grinnell has devoted countless hours to the board since joining in 2009.



In the Limelight Crafting a Curriculum of Success

by Ann Crews Melton

Learn more at ndstudies.gov.

For North Dakota Studies coordinator Neil Howe, the journey is just part of the job. You can find Neil on any given Wednesday at his desk in the Communications & Education Division, mustachioed and bow-tied, following his three-hour one-way commute from Fargo.

"I wouldn't emphasize too much about the commute," Howe said with characteristic humbleness. "This is what I love to do."

Neil Howe and the North Dakota Studies program arrived at the State Historical Society in 2011 as a package deal, moving from their previous home at the North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE) in Fargo. Howe served as principal and later director of the NDCDE for two decades, when his retirement serendipitously coincided with legislative funding to develop a statewide curriculum in 2005.

"When this came along, I was getting to do what I always wanted to do most of my career," said Howe, who served as a social studies teacher at Leonard High School before moving into school administration. "As a teacher I struggled to find North Dakota studies resources because no one was doing what we're doing (now), so I have that understanding of what teachers went through looking for materials."

Howe has devoted the last decade to creating a comprehensive North Dakota Studies curriculum, required for fourth and eighth grades and offered as a high

school elective. No cohesive curriculum previously existed, largely because the state did not have enough students to turn a profit for national textbook publishers.

"It was initially difficult, because we had to make our own," Howe said.

As a pioneering North Dakota native, however, Howe proved he was equipped for the task. After developing print textbooks for all three levels, most recently with the help of retired history professor Barbara Handy-Marchello, Howe and his team decided the time was right to transition from print to digital.

"When we got the first funding in 2005, everything was print," Howe said. "As we moved forward and contemplated what we should do, we opted to say, 'We're just going to think ahead here.'"

One result of this forward-thinking approach is *North Dakota: People Living on the Land*, a multimedia online curriculum targeted to eighth graders. This is the first online history curriculum of its kind in the country, serving as a model for other states. Since launching one year ago the curriculum has garnered widespread acclaim, winning a 2015 Leadership in History Merit Award from the American Association for State and Local History and first place in technology/online presence from the Mountain-Plains Museums Association.

"The great benefit of being part of this agency is that this new resource is developed entirely from primary source

documents from our archives," Howe said. "Teachers are increasingly making their kids go out and find sources, so they're learning how to research as well."

North Dakota: People Living on the Land is the first online history curriculum of its kind in the country, serving as a model for other states.

His next project will be creating a web version of the existing fourth grade curriculum, in addition to spearheading the biennial editions of *Governing North Dakota*, editing the North Dakota Studies newsletter, and serving as state coordinator of the Gilder Lehrman Institute's National History Teacher of the Year Award — all on a part-time basis during his "retirement."

Eventually Howe hopes to devote all his time to gardening and his antique car collection, in addition to genealogical research, through which he's discovered ancestors among the Massachusetts Puritans. For now, though, he seems content to keep commuting across the state to continue the work that remains his passion.

"Do I love the work? Oh yeah," he said. "I wouldn't do it otherwise — there'd be no way."



Northern Lights on the Silver Screen

by Erik Holland, curator of education, Communications & Education Division

About 160 people gathered in the Russell Reid Auditorium on the afternoon of Sept. 20 to watch the film *Northern Lights*. This Sensational Sunday program was organized in partnership with the Dakota Resource Council, Cinema 100 and the North Dakota AFL-CIO.

Northern Lights is considered a classic American independent film. It won the Caméra d'Or ("Golden Camera") at the 1979 Cannes International Film Festival as well as many other international awards. Against the backdrop of a bitter North Dakota winter and the equally brutal economic forces of 1915, the story pits small North Dakota farmers against bankers, railroad men, big grain dealers and an entrenched political machine. The struggle of these family farmers to save their way of life establishes the tension of the film. By banding together in a grassroots movement, the Nonpartisan League (NPL) successfully worked against the odds to support farm families in their struggle to survive.

Following the film screening, a panel discussed the impact of the NPL's successful early 20th century organizing. The panel comprised Kimberly Porter, history professor at the University of

North Dakota; Tayo Basquiat, assistant professor of philosophy and director of the Bringing Humanities to Life project at Bismarck State College; moderator Don Morrison, director of the Dakota Resource Council; and Sarah Vogel, former two-term agriculture commissioner for the state of North Dakota. Vogel grew up in an NPL family and is a third-generation supporter of the League.

Sensational Sundays are free public programs sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND). A buffet for the mind, they can be lectures, concerts, movies or tours that provide engaging, educational historic and cultural information for a diverse audience.

The next Sensational Sunday program will be Jan. 10 at 2 p.m., featuring Bennett Kubischta of the North Dakota Department of Transportation. He will discuss the construction of I-94 and the remarkable engineering required to bridge the Missouri River. This event, like all Sensational Sundays, is free and open to the public.

For more information about upcoming SHSND programs contact Erik Holland at 701.328.2792 or eholland@nd.gov.

BEST OF THE

BEST!

The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum was voted 2015 "Best Place to Bring a Visitor" by readers of *The Bismarck Tribune*.

A selection of readers' comments:

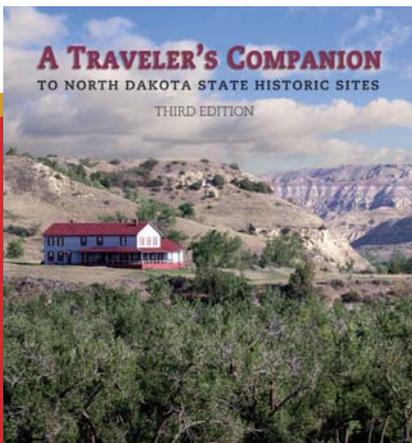
"awesome and it's free,"

"makes history interesting,"

"delicious food in the James River Café,"

and our favorite,

"DINOSAURS!!!"



A Traveler's Companion Competes Nationally

A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites (2014, third edition) was voted one of three notable state documents at the North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) annual conference in September. *A Traveler's Companion* garnered the most votes at NDLA, earning a plaque for the Notable Document Award. The publication will be sent on to compete with other state documents at the American Library Association annual conference in June 2016. Find your copy of this award-winning book at the Museum Store.

DO TELL.

Please share your museum experience with us.

I Like the
Dinosaurs it is
fun to
See how to
drive the tractor



History in Action

The North Dakota National Guard Collection

by Lindsay Schott, archives specialist, State Archives

View the finding aid to the series at 1.usa.gov/1NcnjC3

In 1883, Company A, First Regiment of Dakota National Guard was organized, and so began the history of what became the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG). Recently, the State Archives received NDNG records dating from 1883 to 2011. The collection includes paper records, photographs and moving images. Over the past year, archivists have worked to process the collection so researchers can gain access to these historic records.

Within the paper records, there are financials, correspondence, enlistment and discharge papers, personnel plans, operational reports, mobilization files, special orders, journals, records of the 164th Association, rosters, registers, scrapbooks and newspaper clippings. The records include information on NDNG actions during the Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection, Mexican Border Incident, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Berlin Crisis, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Operation Joint Guardian, and Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Records offer a look at the operations of the NDNG throughout the state, nation and world.

Many of the photographs in the NDNG collection were taken during training at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton near Devils Lake. Other photograph subjects include military parades, award ceremonies, deployments, officers and work the NDNG has done in the communities of North Dakota.

Although the moving image portion of the collection is still being processed, some very interesting and historical film from the collection has been digitized. On one reel of 16 mm film is the inaugural ball of Governor John Moses in 1939. Along with Governor Moses, there are three former governors present in the film: William Langer, George Shafer and Walter Maddock. Other 16 mm NDNG films that have been digitized include other historic events from the 1930s, such as Governor William Langer's inauguration, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to North Dakota and NDNG training at Camp Grafton.



Top detail:

Governor William Guy rides on the back of a jeep along with Assistant Adjutant General (Army) Colonel Ralph L. Gaugler during Governor's Day at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton, circa 1963. SHSND 32348-P-03266

Middle detail:

Rows of tents set up at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton, circa 1963. SHSND 32348-P-03251

Bottom detail:

Members of the color guard stand at attention outside a row of tents at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton, circa 1963. SHSND 32348-P-03244



HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

On Sept. 14, Vietnam veterans, Bismarck High School students, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., and North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director Scott Davis participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for “Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans,” a temporary exhibit in the State Museum’s North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor. The display commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, in which 198 North Dakotans lost their lives.



A Bismarck High School student addresses veterans at the opening of the “Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans” temporary exhibit.



Fourteen student-generated artifacts representing 12 North Dakota service members killed in the war were on display. After a month at the North Dakota Heritage Center, the artifacts were shipped to Washington, D.C., where students placed them at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall prior to Veterans Day in November.



Thinking Green in '15



Jay Fuhrer of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, left, and a conference participant demonstrate soil erosion at the “Think Green in '15” Governor’s History Conference.

Six speakers shared unique ways for attendees of this year’s Governor’s History Conference to “think green.” Participants received instruction on organic gardening, toured “green” spaces of the ND Heritage Center, learned about Fargo’s success with a bike share program and more at the conference on Oct. 17.

Speakers included Claudia Berg, director, and Erik Holland, curator of education, from SHSND; Fargo City Commissioner Mike Williams; Jay Fuhrer of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Theresa Podoll, 2014 MOSES Organic Farmer of the Year; and Steve Tomac, senior legislative representative with Basin Electric.



Steve Tomac

Regional leaders shared innovative approaches toward a sustainable future.

“We appreciate regional leaders sharing their innovative approaches to help move North Dakota toward a more sustainable future,” said Kim Jondahl, Communications & Education director. “This event served as the perfect prelude for the ‘Green Revolution’ exhibit at the State Museum.”

“Think Green in '15: Innovative City & Prairie Sustainability” was sponsored by the State Historical Society and its Foundation. We are grateful for partial sponsorship by *The Bismarck Tribune* and United Printing.

Local History Awardees Honored



SHSND Outreach Program Coordinator Danielle Stuckle, left, and SHSND Director Claudia Berg, right, congratulate Excellence in History Award winner Henry Mische of Hebron.

Two awards were presented for Excellence in Local History at the 27th annual Governor’s History Conference, “Think Green in '15,” on Oct. 17.

Henry Mische was nominated for his work with the Hebron Museum, St. John Church, Chautauqua events and other projects in the Hebron community. Trish Short Lewis was nominated for her work researching and promoting the history of St. Vincent, Minnesota, which is part of the larger community of Pembina. She has helped document Fort Pembina and Pembina cemeteries.

Local History Awards are presented annually; nominations are due the second Friday in July. For more information about the Local History Award program, visit history.nd.gov.

FOUNDATION NOTES



History's
Foundation
State Historical Society
of North Dakota Foundation

Celebrating the Rebirth of the Great Western Spirit

The Historical Foundation is so very grateful for gifts in support of the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion. To thank our donors and create some "history" around their expansion gifts, we have established our Recognition and Thank You Celebration — held every two years — honoring five donors. **May 6, 2016, is the date for the next event, so please "save the date" and join us.**

At the 2016 event the Foundation will honor the North Dakota Petroleum Council. This organization contributed more than \$600,000 in gifts toward the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion. We will also honor Bob Mau and family, the North Dakota Legislature, Governor Allen Olson, and key supporting groups — the service clubs of North Dakota — featuring the North Dakota Lions.

The theme, "**Celebrating the Rebirth of the Great Western Spirit,**" highlights the work North Dakota Petroleum Council members have invested in the development of the Bakken oil fields in western North Dakota.

The Thank You Dinner will be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck with a program following.

Marlo Sveen, Foundation development director, and Gina Buchholtz, Foundation development officer, will work with donors and guests to fill the room. Sponsored tables for eight guests will be available for \$1,500 each. Individual tickets may also be purchased for \$100 each, Foundation members \$75 each. There are special gifts and perks for the sponsored tables. Contact the SHSND Foundation at 701-222-1966 for table sponsorship and ticket information.

Foundation Development Staff



Virginia A. Nelsen,
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Office Located in the Lower Level of the
North Dakota Heritage Center on the Capitol Grounds

**May 6, 2016, is the
date for the next
event, so please
"save the date"
and join us.**

Save the Date
Friday, May 6, 2016

HONORED DONORS AND FRIENDS
The North Dakota Petroleum Council
The Bob Mau Family
Governor Allen Olson
The North Dakota Legislature
Service Clubs of North Dakota

**Donor Recognition Event Celebrating the
Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center**

History's
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**Perry Pearce, North Dakota Petroleum Council,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Manager, Rocky Mountain Region State
Government Affairs, ConocoPhillips**

**Ron Ness, President,
North Dakota Petroleum Council**

Conference Marks Half a Century

The 50th annual Northern Great Plains History Conference was held in Bismarck Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. The event, which rotates through multiple locations on the northern plains, was hosted this year by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) and Bismarck State College (BSC). The Society and BSC previously hosted the conference in 1977, 1984, 1997 and 2004.

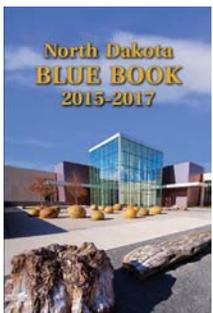
“We had an excellent turnout,” said Mark Halvorson, conference program chair and SHSND curator of collections research. “North Dakota college officials should be commended for the number of undergraduate students who were able to participate, in addition to established academics.”

More than 100 scholars presented new research on topics as varied as American Indian day school housekeepers, suffrage cartoons and the garden seed capital of the world (Shenandoah, Iowa, if you were curious). The Larry Rowen Remele Award, named for the longtime *North Dakota History* editor, was presented to Gordon L. Iseminger, Ph.D., of the University of North Dakota history department.

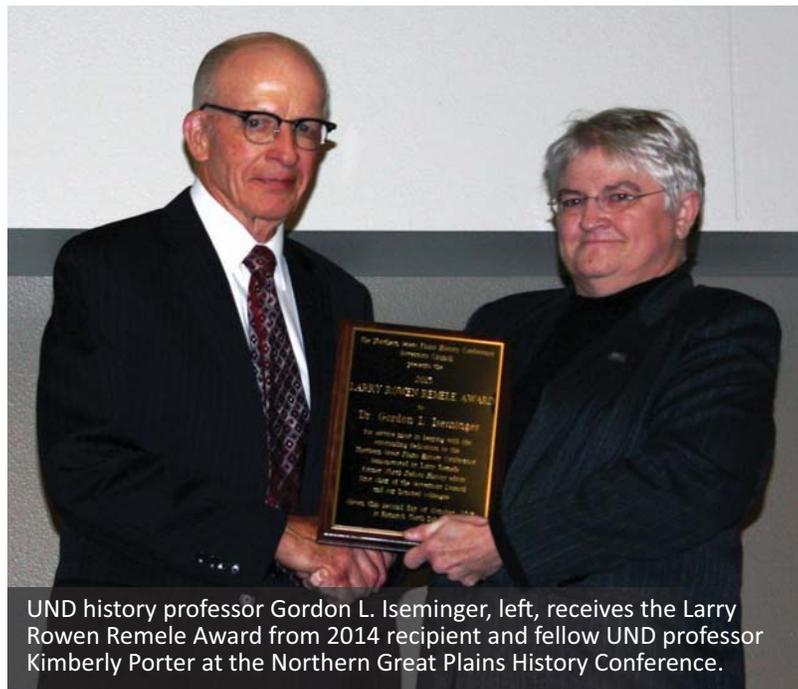
Participants enjoyed evening receptions at the North Dakota Heritage Center and at the Former Governors’ Mansion, as well as a post-conference tour with SHSND Curator of Education Erik Holland. The 2016 conference will be held Sept. 14 to 17 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Blue Book Features State Historical Society

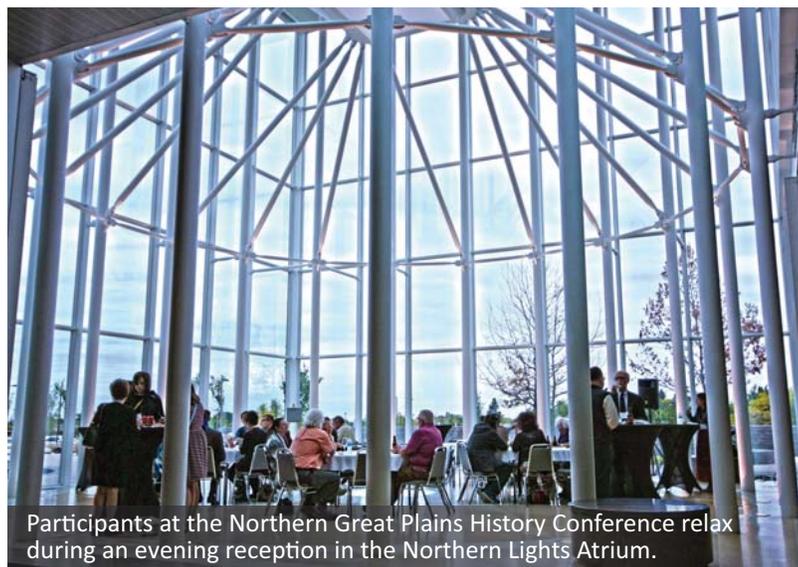
The *North Dakota Blue Book 2015–2017* highlights “Artifacts, Documents and Landmarks—Recording North Dakota’s Past: The First 125 Years.” The feature chapter profiles the story of the State Historical Society of North Dakota with a focus on the newly expanded North Dakota Heritage Center, written by Jim Davis, head of reference services, State Archives. The book includes behind-the-scenes photos of the Heritage Center expansion and gallery construction.



Another notable addition to this book is a new energy chapter, highlighting the growth and diversity of the state’s energy industry. The new *North Dakota Blue Book*, which includes a DVD of electronically accessible material, is available for \$20 in the Museum Store or online at history.nd.gov/bluebook.



UND history professor Gordon L. Iseminger, left, receives the Larry Rowen Remele Award from 2014 recipient and fellow UND professor Kimberly Porter at the Northern Great Plains History Conference.



Participants at the Northern Great Plains History Conference relax during an evening reception in the Northern Lights Atrium.



Make time to visit the Treehouse in 2016! More details at history.nd.gov.



Have yourself a *historic* holiday
View our holiday e-card at history.nd.gov/holiday.

Former Governors' Mansion, Bismarck

Little Kids, Big World

Little Kids, Big World is an interactive learning program designed for toddlers and preschoolers and an accompanying adult. These fun, hands-on, half-hour programs will introduce your child to North Dakota's fascinating history, from dinosaurs through today. Meet at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum's main entrance at 10:30 a.m. on the following Mondays to teach your child that history is for everyone!

Jan. 18: Dinosaur Discovery

Jan. 25: Place the Waste

Feb. 8: Little Archaeologist

Feb. 15: Fantastic Fossils

Feb. 22: Homesteader House

Feb. 29: Fur Trade Fun

To learn more about other upcoming events, visit history.nd.gov/events.

Two Churches Added to National Register

by Lorna Meidinger, architectural historian, Archaeology & Historic Preservation Division

Two properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places earlier this year. Entry into the National Register, which is coming up on its 50th anniversary in 2016, gives a property prestige, provides protection through federally assisted projects and provides eligibility for certain preservation financial incentives.

Independence Congregational Church was built in 1910–12 and relocated in 1953, along with its cemetery, when the Garrison Dam project inundated the original town of Independence. It now sits in a rural setting near the town of Mandaree on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Devils Lake was designed by Joseph A. Shannon in the late Gothic style and built in 1930. Shannon, who began practicing in 1906, was one of the first architects licensed to practice in North Dakota after the licensing law passed in 1917. Shannon was prominent in the Devils Lake area and served as president of the North Dakota State Board of Architecture. St. Olaf Lutheran Church is a distinctly different design than his main body of work.

Independence Church by Lorna Meidinger, top
St. Olaf by James D. Goulding, right





North Dakota Heritage Center
612 E. Blvd. Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505.0830

Shop Museum Store



Congratulations to Richard Fisk, who was promoted to manager of the Museum Store locations in September. Stop in to check out the stores' new eco-friendly and holiday merchandise.

Holiday shopping has never been so easy.

Museum Store Locations

- North Dakota Heritage Center
- Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center
- Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center
- Pembina State Museum

Plains Talk is published quarterly by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, ND Heritage Center, 612 East Blvd. Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505/701.328.2666/history.nd.gov. Claudia J. Berg, Director; Ann Crews Melton, *Plains Talk* Editor; *Plains Talk* is a benefit to members of the SHSND Foundation.

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