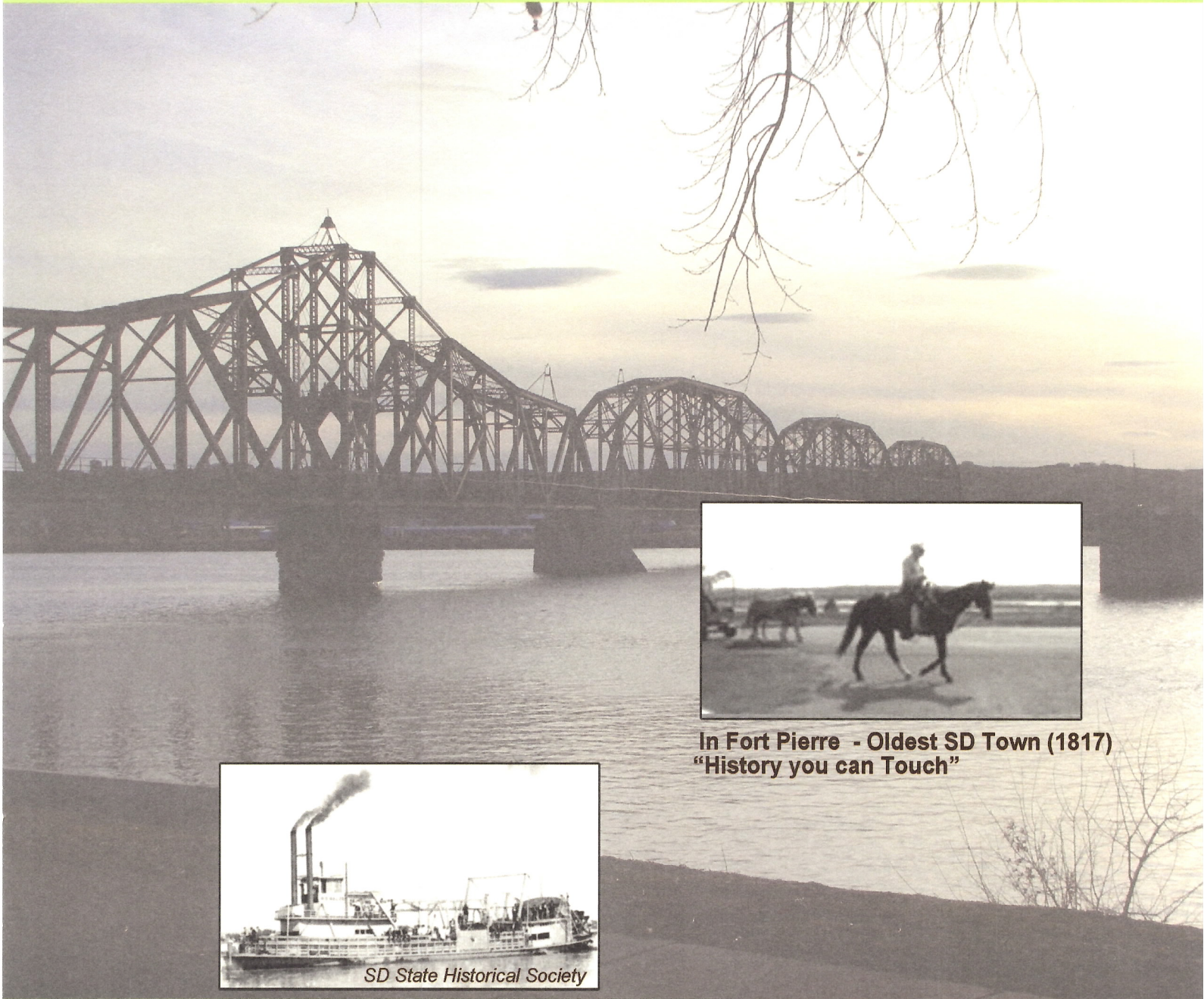
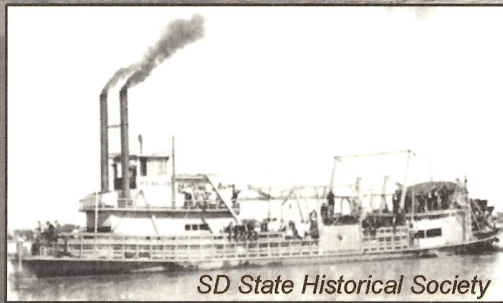


# Driving Tour

Welcome to Fort Pierre and Pierre  
South Dakota - Explore...



**In Fort Pierre - Oldest SD Town (1817)**  
"History you can Touch"



**In Pierre - The State Capital (1904)**  
"Adventures on the River"



[www.historicpierre.com](http://www.historicpierre.com)

## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

### 1. **Stanley County Rodeo Arena and Fairgrounds**

Directions: Entering the area from Hwy 83 south of Fort Pierre, turn right on Cedar Ave and continue to Casey Tibbs St where you will see the EXPO Center and the Stanley County Rodeo Arena and Fairgrounds.

There are 4H groups and rodeo circuit's events regularly. Traditional annual rodeo and fireworks on Fourth of July. Horseraces in April are usually the kick-off event for the year.

### 2. **Fischer Lily Park**

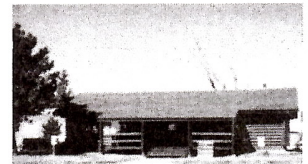
Directions: Turn left on Casey Tibbs St, right on Ash Ln driving into Fischer Lily Park to the east end where there are about 12 camping spots and information panels.

The Missouri River flows southeast and the Bad River flows into it from the west. At this location on September 25, 1804, several hundred members of the Teton Sioux tribe watched as three of their chiefs met the Lewis & Clark explorers. The meeting nearly ended in disaster when one of the Sioux chiefs took offense to the quantity of gifts offered. Warriors strung their bows and soldiers shouldered their rifles. Had this confrontation not been diffused, the Lewis & Clark expedition could have ended right here. Fortunately, another of the chiefs intervened and in fact, over the next two days, hosted the men of the expedition as guests at his village, a few miles upstream.

### 3. **Log Cabin Visitor Center**

Directions: Follow Casey Tibbs St back, turn right on Cedar Ave and right on Hwy 83. The Log Cabin Visitor Center is located at the corner of Main St and Hwy 83 at the stoplight.

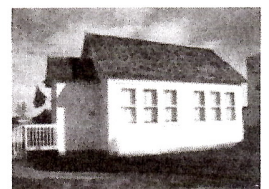
The Log Cabin is owned and maintained by the Verendrye Museum and has served as a Visitor Center for the City of Fort Pierre since 2000. Visitors will find a selection of brochures and information for Fort Pierre and the surrounding area as well as several displays and showcases depicting items from the pioneer history of the area. The historic Sansarc School and Old Jailhouse are next to the Visitor Center and can be toured during the hours the Visitor Center is open. The office of Fort Pierre Development Corporation is located in the Log Cabin.  
[www.ftpierre.com](http://www.ftpierre.com)



### 4. **Sansarc School**

Directions: Behind the Visitor Center are the Sansarc School Museum and the Old Jailhouse.

Built in 1910 and used actively as a school for grades first through eighth and a polling place until 1969. Purchased and moved to Gene Stoeser ranch in 1973. Gene then brought schoolhouse to Fort Pierre to be used as a museum in 1975. In 2014, Deb Stoeser Schiefelbein guided cleaning, furnishing, improving appearance and functionality of building, and it was open as an interpretive museum in June 2014.



### 5. **Old Jailhouse**

Built in 1905 on the corner of First St and Main Ave that is still standing. Hearsay tells it was once used to contain a lion during a circus that escaped, was captured, and kept safely there for a short time.



## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

### 6. **The Stockgrowers Bank**

Directions: Continue down Main St towards the Missouri River and on the left is the Historic Stockgrowers (commodities including grain and livestock) Bank.



The Stockgrowers Bank is the single example of Romanesque Revival architecture in Fort Pierre. The building represents an interesting and well-executed adaptation of the style to the needs of the small frontier community. It is the most important commercial building erected in Fort Pierre during the 20th century. The bank symbolizes the commercial development of Fort Pierre during the early 20th century as the business center for much of western South Dakota's cattle raising activity. In 1903, Millett, along with Gaylord E. Sumner and James (Scotty) Philip, constructed the building and began the Stockgrowers Bank and a chain of associated banks in Midland, Philip, Kadoka, Cottonwood, and Milesville. In addition to the bank itself, other tenants included the Lynch Barber Shop; Phillip, Young & McPherson Land Office; the first telephone exchange in Fort Pierre; Binder & Borst Hardware Store; Hargesheimer Drug Store; the Webb-Lambert Attorney's Office; and the offices of Doctors Lavery, Walsh, and Morrissey.

### 7. **Verendrye Museum**

Directions: Turn the corner to the left and you will be on Deadwood St. Continue north to see the Verendrye Museum on the left.

The Historical Society of Old Stanley County chartered the Verendrye Museum and housed its collection in the old American Legion in downtown Fort Pierre. Thousands of authentic early-day items make the Verendrye Museum one of the finest western memorabilia collections on the High Plains. Most of the permanent exhibits were donated by local, pioneer families interested in preserving an accurate record of life in central South Dakota. [www.ftpierre.com](http://www.ftpierre.com)



### 8. **Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center and Mattie Goff-Newcombe Conference Center**

Directions: Continue down Deadwood St to Second Ave and turn left. Cross Hwy 83 and go straight until you reach Verendrye Dr. on the right and turn right. Follow the road up the hill to the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center on the right.

A historical museum devoted to the sport of rodeo with memorabilia from superstars.



### 9. **Verendrye Monument – National Historic Landmark**

Directions: Cross the Verendrye Dr. directly south to the Verendrye Monument

The Verendrye Monument for the Verendrye Plate, one of the most significant artifacts in United States history, was discovered in 1913 by Fort Pierre schoolchildren. The plate was buried by Pierre La Verendrye's sons in 1743, claiming this land for the King of France, as they searched for a route to the Pacific Ocean, the famed "Northwest Passage". The Verendrye Museum is named in honor of this artifact and family of explorers. You can see the actual Verendrye Plate at the SD Cultural Heritage Center.

## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

### 10. Cedar Hill Cemetery

Directions: From the Verendrye Monument turn left and go up the hill about 1 mile, turn left on Cedar Hill Rd, follow gravel road to cemetery gate (end of road) about 2 miles. Visitors have an opportunity to enjoy the Missouri River and a bustling community from a bird's-eye view.

On May 27, 1894, this area was surveyed and laid into a cemetery plat by F. W. Pettigrew. Cedar Hill is the final resting place of some local colorful personalities including outlaws, fur traders, military veterans of Civil War, WWI and WWII, prospectors, Native American residents, suffragettes, murder victims, and a great many children who succumbed to multiple epidemics, and historic leaders. Originally, the cemetery was divided into Protestant and Catholic sides, and there are different sections including an area called Boot Hill where there are graves of the unknown. The original name was Union Cemetery probably because of the influence of the Civil War. After an addition of city land was made, the name was changed in 1933 to Cedar Hill, in reference to the abundance of cedar trees naturally growing.



### 11. Fort Pierre Railroad Depot

Directions: Going back to the intersection of Second Ave and Hwy 83, turn left and you will see the Fort Pierre Train Depot ¼ mile on the left.

The Chicago and North Western Railroad built a depot in Fort Pierre in 1906 as part of the railroad's expansion to Rapid City and beyond. In 1958, the depot was closed because of poor economic conditions and sold as surplus in 1963. In early 1964, rancher Shirley Miller moved the building to his ranch near Mud Butte and used it for storage. In 2010, the depot was "discovered" and the Verendrye Museum initiated discussion of returning the building to Fort Pierre. Mr. Miller donated the building to Fort Pierre with the condition that it be used for historic purposes and someone would have to "come and get it". The "Bring It Home" group formed in 2010 and after fundraising for two years and in March 2013, the depot was finally in Fort Pierre. The Fort Pierre Railroad Depot has come back to Fort Pierre and rehabilitation is finished. It is now open as a museum containing the original telegraph and other railroad and local memorabilia.

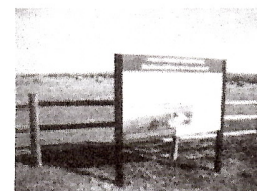
### 12. 1876-1906 Old Deadwood Trail

Directions: Turn left out of the Depot parking lot, north on Hwy 83 until you get to the stop light at intersection of Hwy 83/14 and turn right on Yellowstone St and then left on Hustan Ave. Continue to the end of Hustan Ave to the Missouri River where the wooden sign is located.

The Old Deadwood Trail began at this point, where freight from steamships coming up the Missouri River were unloaded onto oxen drawn wagons for the 200 miles to Deadwood. Round trip took 30 days over this famous old trail.

### 13. Fort Pierre Chouteau – National Historic Landmark

Directions: Continue north on Hwy 83, and follow signs to Hwy 1806, turning right onto Hwy 1806. Continue west 2 miles to the second gravel road to the right, and turn right on to Fort Chouteau Rd. The site of the Fort is on the left, parking available on right side of road across from entrance gate.



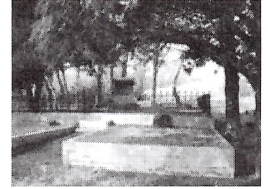
In the mid-1800's Fort Pierre Chouteau was the largest trading post on the upper Missouri River, a thriving community of traders, trappers, and Native Americans. The site is a National Historic Landmark. A monument and descriptive signs indicate the location of the site although the buildings and bastions are no longer standing.

## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

### 14. **Scotty Philip Cemetery**

Directions: Drive north on highway 1806 for about 2 miles. A small sign will direct you to the west on a gravel road.

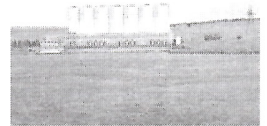
The cemetery is named after James Philip, a native of Scotland, who came to the area in 1870. "Scotty" is credited with saving the buffalo from extinction. He and Casey Tibbs are buried there.



### 15. **Oahe Dam**

Directions: Continue north on 1806, veer left at the fork, following highway 1806 to 204, which will take you across the top of the Oahe Dam.

Oahe (OH-AH-HEE) is a Dakota Sioux word meaning "something to stand upon, a foundation". The Oahe Dam was dedicated in 1962 by Pres. John F. Kennedy, and is the second largest rolled-earth dam in the world. It is 245 feet high, 9,300 feet long and the width at the base is 3,500 feet. Lake Oahe, created by the dam, stretches 231 miles north to Bismarck, ND. The lake covers 347,000 acres of land and has 2,250 miles of shoreline (more than the coast of California). Go to the Visitor Center at the east end of the Dam for find out about tours of the powerhouse.



### 16. **Oahe Chapel**

Directions: Go to the east end of the Dam, on your left, you will see the Oahe Chapel & Visitors Center.

Reverend Stephen R. Riggs built the chapel in 1877, as a mission to the local Native Americans. It served as both church and schoolhouse. The original location was at Peoria Bottom; however, the chapel was moved to its present location when the Bottom was flooded. Services were held in the Lakota language and were not changed to English until 1931. The Visitor's Center offers an area for picnics with a beautiful view of the lake as well as postcards, local information, etc.



### 17. **Lindbergh Landing Marker**

Directions: Continue south on Highway 1804 for two miles. The site is on the left (east) side of the highway.

Charles Lindbergh landed his famous Spirit of St. Louis airplane on this location on September 1, 1927. See the historical marker for more details.

### 18. **Turtle Effigy**

Directions: From the east end of the Dam go south on highway 1804 just over 3 miles. The historical marker is on the right side of the road. You can drive about 300 feet up the private driveway. Then walk south about 1,000 feet. Keep the gates closed.

This monument consists of a series of rocks laid upon the land. Folklore has it that a young Arikara Brave was scouting for his tribe when he came upon a war party. He ran to warn his people but was discovered and was wounded in flight. A rock was laid to mark the trail where his blood fell and a series of rocks, in the form of a turtle, which was the insignia of his tribe, marked the spot where he fell.

## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

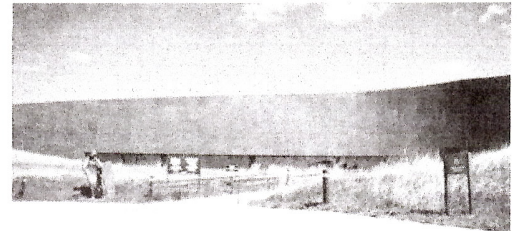
### 19. Hilgers Gulch

Directions: Continue south on SD Highway 1804 until you get to US Highway 83/14, turn right and come down the hill into Pierre. You are now on North Euclid Ave. Continue south for about a mile, to 4th St. Turn left on 4th St, travel two blocks and on your right, you can see Hilgers Gulch.

Hilgers Gulch is a large grass area with a creek flowing through it with a walking path on both sides. The land, which makes up Hilgers Gulch, was part of his original land claim by Anson Hilger, one of Pierre's first businessmen. For many years, the gulch was an unsightly slew. In 1987, Governor Janklow determined to do something to show appreciation to the citizens of Pierre for all they do for state government. He converted the slew into a beautiful park.

### 20. South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center (SDCHC)

Directions: From the Hilgers Gulch take right turn onto Governor's Dr., passing the SD State Health Lab on the left. Next, you will see the entrance signs to parking at the Cultural Heritage Center on the left. Parking is at the top of the hill.



The SDCHC is a modern earth mounded building covered with native grasses housing interpretive displays of the state's history. There is also an Archive for genealogists and historians.

### 21. South Dakota State Capitol Building

Directions: Turn left out of the parking lot and turn right onto Church St and left on to SD Blvd and you can cross Broadway Ave and arrive at the north side of the Capitol. Ample parking is available and handicapped parking at the west end of the Capitol.

The SD State Capitol building was constructed between 1905 and 1910. It is a scaled down version of the Montana Capitol building. Extensive restoration since the 1970's and ongoing provides the building with lasting significance and beauty. There is a self-guided tour script to follow.



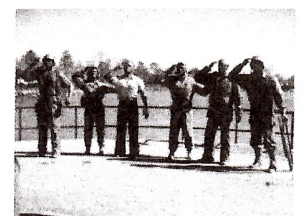
### 22. Capitol Lake, Flaming Fountain, and Memorials

Directions: To the east of the Capitol parking lot, within walking distance, is the Capitol Lake, Flaming Fountain, and Memorials.

- Capitol Lake is an artesian fed man-made lake next to the Capitol building.
- The Flaming Fountain Memorial features an artesian flowing well that provides a background for the WWI and WWII memorials. There was natural gas in the water that was ignited until it was depleted.
- The Fighting Stallions Memorial honors the lives of eight men including Governor George S Mickelson who were killed in the crash of a state aircraft on April 19, 1993. The stallions are life-size bronze by Korczak Ziolkowski.

Sculptures in bronze by Lee Leuning and Sherry Treeby are in the following memorials:

- WWII memorial is a tribute to the 65,000 South Dakotans involved in the war representing six different soldiers saluting the American flag.

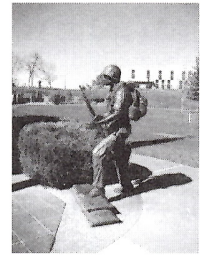


## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

- Korean War Memorial is a statue of an American GI placed in front of the Memorial Wall.



Korean War



- The Vietnam War Memorial depicts a battle weary foot soldier bearing his M-16 rifle in one hand and the dog tags of a fallen brother in the other outstretched hand.

- Nearby memorials honor the state's fallen firefighters and law enforcement officers.

- Across the Capitol Lake is a grey granite statue and monument of a 1918 Union Soldier erected in honor of our military personnel.

- In the surrounding Capitol Campus and local Pierre streets are located several bronze statues of former Governors called the Trail of Governors. Three statues are added each year. Visit [www.trailofgovernors.com](http://www.trailofgovernors.com)

### 23. Governor's Mansion

Directions: Across the Capitol Lake you can see the Governor's Mansion. You can drive by after exiting the southeast parking lot; turning left onto Capitol Ave and bearing left to turn left on to Washington Ave.

Completed in 2005 during the term of Governor M Michael Rounds, the mansion features native rock from Crazy Horse Monument and native granite from Milbank. This is a private residence and contains rooms used for public government functions.

*[From here, you can travel east to the next destination, Farm Island, or west in town to the Hughes County Courthouse.]*

### 24. Farm Island

Directions: Drive south on Washington St to Wells Ave (Highway 34). Go east for 3 miles.

Farm Island State Park is on the right. There are campgrounds, fishing docks, boat ramps, and swimming beaches. There is an entrance fee.

Farm Island served as the farming & gardening island for Fort Pierre Chouteau, in fact, so much corn grew there, a small flourmill was installed at the fort. During that time, the island was known as Roy's Island; however, the name Farm Island came into use due to the purpose the island served. There are some remnants of Civil Conservation Corp buildings on the island.



### 25. Hughes County Court House

Directions: Located north of the intersection of Capitol Ave and Pierre St.

The original courthouse served as the temporary capitol for the state government offices until the wooden (first) capitol was built. The current building was constructed in 1934 as a Public Works Administration project.

### 26. Historic Pierre Street

Directions: Located south of the Hughes County Courthouse.

The historical business district has many unique shopping opportunities in old and well-preserved commercial buildings.

## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

### 27. **Pierre Hill Residential District**

Directions: Located north of the Hughes County Courthouse looking uphill on North Grand and North Huron from Broadway Ave to Elizabeth St.

Many very beautiful residential homes mostly built 100 years ago.

### 28. **South Dakota National Guard Museum**

Directions: Located in downtown Pierre, turn left and go three blocks to Dakota Ave/S Chapelle St corner.

Collections include memorabilia and artifacts of the SD National Guard from 1862 up through the present and the SD Air National Guard from the late 1940's to the present.



### 29. **Legion Cabin**

Directions: Continue down Coteau St to Island View Dr. You will see La Framboise Island straight ahead; turn right one block to the Legion Cabin.

The log building was to be built out of native Black Hills logs. It was completed in the spring of 1942. The Legion Cabin was used for United Services Organizations (USO) shows during WWII. It has been used as the headquarters for the American Legion Post 8 ever since. Notice the Vigilante sign there.

### 30. **La Framboise Island**

Directions: Drive west on Island View Dr until you must turn right. Turn left in one block onto Missouri Ave. Go three blocks, then turn left on Poplar St and continue across the causeway.

The Island was named for Joseph La Framboise who built a fur trading post near here in 1817. The information panel shows several hiking trails where you will find lots of wild life.

### 31. **Pierre Visitor Center**

Directions: Return on Poplar St, then turn left onto Missouri Ave. Drive two blocks and turn right onto James St. The visitor center is on your left.

The visitor center contains a wealth of information about nearby historical sites, hotel, restaurants, local events and a lot more information. [www.pierre.org](http://www.pierre.org).

### 32. **SD Discovery Center**

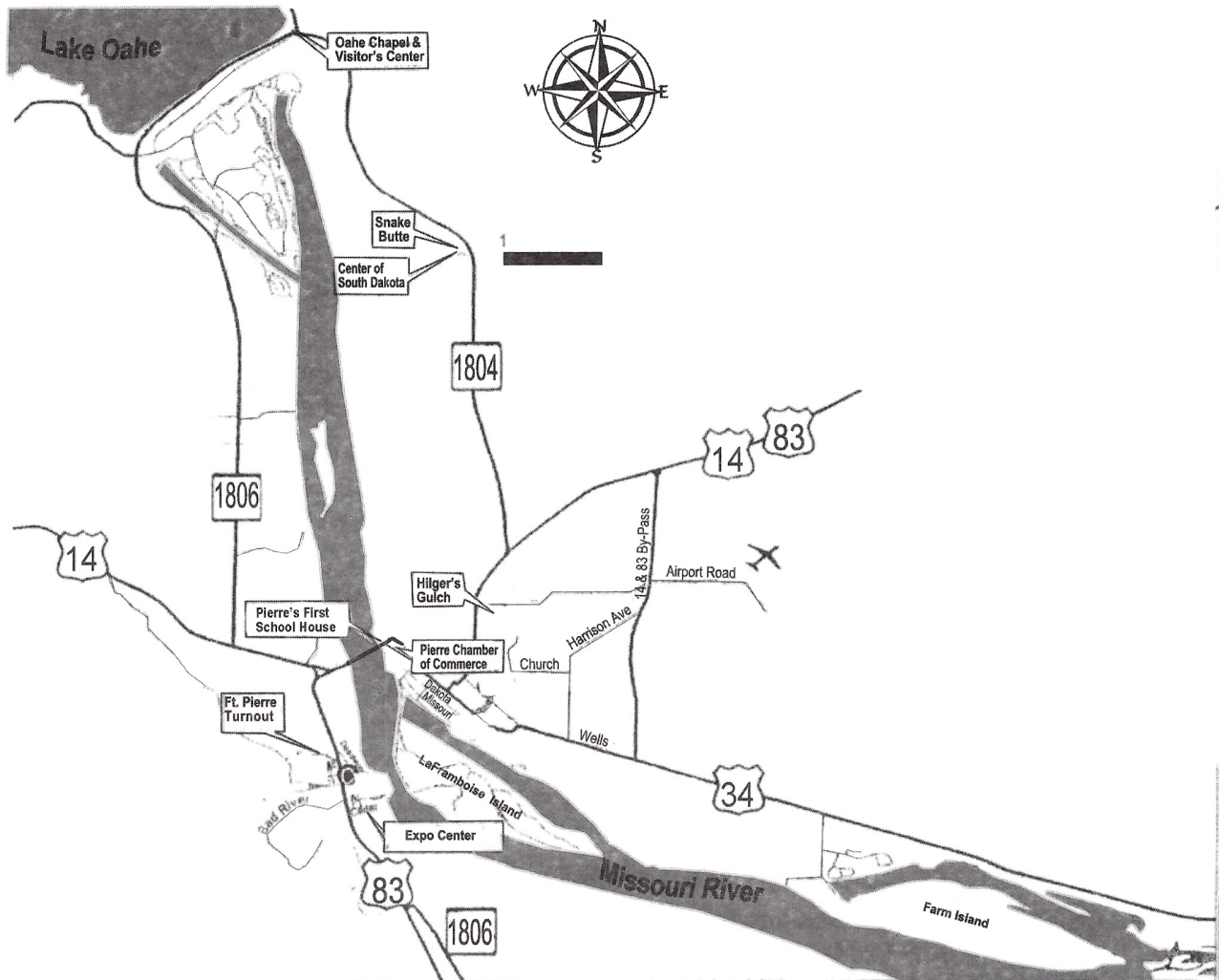
Directions: Right next to the visitor center.

This building, completed in 1933, formerly housed the Pierre Electric Power Plant; now it has become a fun and interesting family attraction, consisting of hands-on scientific and technological exhibits.



## Fort Pierre and Pierre Driving Tour

*We enjoyed having you visit our twin towns on the Missouri River.  
Please come back again!*



This program receives Federal Financial assistance from the National Park Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and South Dakota law SDCL 20-13, the State of South Dakota and U. S. Department of the Interior prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, disability, ancestry, or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: South Dakota Division of Human Rights, State Capital, Pierre, SD 57501, or the Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 201 I Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20240.

*Revised 5/2016*