

# HISTORY IN ACTION

Plains Talk  
Vol. 54 | No. 2

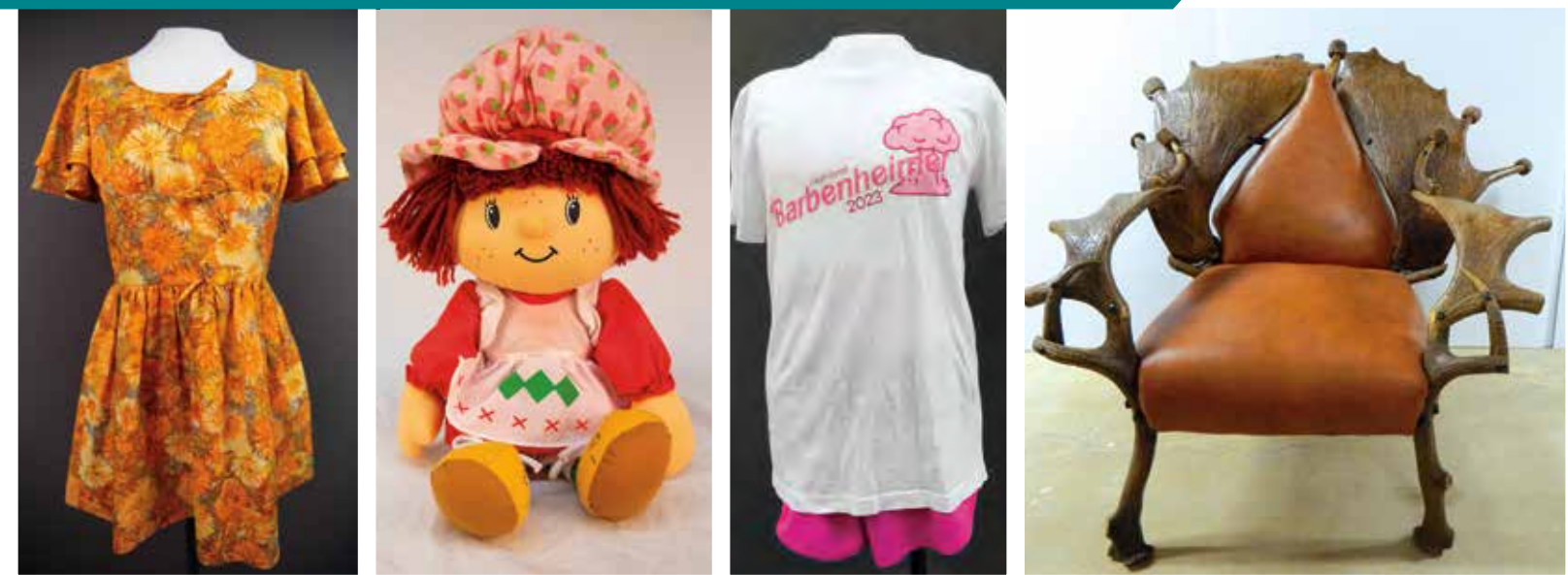
ANNUAL REPORT 2023







## New to the Collections



**From left, Row 1:** NDSU cowboy boots, 2013; curling broom, 1950-1960; audiocassette player with earphones and mixtape, 1993-2014; American flag-style banner from Cannonball Elementary School, 2016; Hardanger embroidery wedding dress, 1997

**Row 2:** Minidress, 1971; Strawberry Shortcake doll, 2002; Barbenheimer T-shirt, 2023; armchair, 1900-1910

**Row 3:** Sit 'N Spin toy, 1980-1985; accordion, 1963-1967



## History in Action



**Hello Everyone,**  
 History tends to be thought of in the past tense. Those of us at the State Historical Society of North Dakota who care for and make the past useful to citizens today will tell you that the past is a vibrant, ever-evolving place. New sources continually come to light, and we find new questions to ask of our sources. This results in new narratives and understandings of past events. Here are just a few of the ways our staff has used history to change the present this year.

In previous decades, the State Historical Society placed dozens of interpretive signs across North Dakota. Some of these have not been updated for 60 years or more. Our team has begun the process of updating older signs in a program that will be ongoing.

Since history isn't static, historic preservation needs change over time as well. This is well illustrated by a dramatic vertical shift in the Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site in Jamestown. With the thoughtful addition of an elevator, this building is now more accessible to visitors and available to serve as a vital community resource for events, programming, and rentals.

The history of the State Historical Society is one of activity and movement. First, we were in the basement of the North Dakota Capitol, then, thankfully before the 1930 fire, relocated to the Liberty Memorial Building (incidentally sharing space with the adjutant general). In 1981, we opened the North Dakota Heritage Center. As demand for our services grew and to better serve the public, we launched an expansion project, completed in 2014, which created new galleries and State Archives storage as well as a café, among other improvements. Now we find ourselves working closely with the adjutant general and his staff to build the North Dakota Military Gallery at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum.

2023 was a whirlwind of North Dakota history in action. The State Historical Board, agency staff, State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation, and our volunteers let no moss grow under their feet, and we are excited to share our future with you.

Enjoy,  
*Bill Peterson*

Bill Peterson  
 Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

**VISION** Inspire discovery and open minds to help shape the future of vibrant communities.  
**MISSION** Identify, preserve, interpret, and promote the heritage of North Dakota and its people.  
**CORE PURPOSE** Respect the past, serve the present, inspire the future.

### 2023 North Dakota State Historical Board

- Matt Dunlevy, Grand Forks, President
- Amy Mossett, Halliday, Vice President
- Lacey Anderson, Bismarck, Secretary
- Calvin Grinnell, Bismarck
- Richard Stenberg, Williston
- Alan Svanes, Kintyre
- H. Patrick Weir, Medora
- Thomas Beadle, State Treasurer
- Ron Henke, Director, Department of Transportation
- Michael Howe, Secretary of State
- Sara Otte Coleman, Director, Department of Commerce-Tourism Division
- Cody Schulz, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

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- Bruce Dolezal, Dickinson, Vice President
- Robert Horne, Fargo, Immediate Past President
- Barbara Lang, Jamestown, Treasurer
- Darrell Dorgan, Bismarck, Secretary
- Twyla Baker, New Town
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- Armen Hanson, Devils Lake
- Dennis Hill, Bismarck
- Nancy Johnson, Fargo
- Jon McMillan, Grand Forks
- Jan Murtha, Dickinson
- Ryan Taylor, Bismarck

**Cover:** Artist Kim Eslinger leads a workshop on portrait painting in conjunction with *There's a Story There: Art in the State Collections*. Participants drew inspiration from Charles François Jalabert's 1874 portrait of Medora von Hoffman, which will be on display at the ND Heritage Center as part of this exhibit in June 2024.



# 2023 at a Glance

**607,722 VISITORS**  
ANNUALLY TO STATE MUSEUMS  
AND HISTORIC SITES



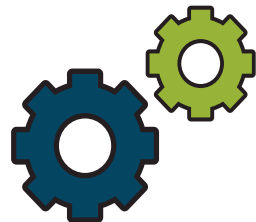
**80,000 SQ. FT.**  
OF EXHIBITS  
STATE MUSEUMS  
AND  
HISTORIC SITES

**10 FRIENDS GROUPS**  
SUPPORTING  
**10 HISTORIC SITES**



**3** NEW NATIONAL  
REGISTER LISTINGS

**EMPLOYEES**  
**83.5 FULL TIME**  
**96 TEMPORARY**



**1 GOVERNING  
BOARD**



**200**  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
**9,000**  
**HOURS ANNUALLY**



**3,000**  
**ANNUAL CULTURAL**  
**RESOURCE REVIEWS**  
OF FEDERAL AND STATE  
UNDERTAKINGS

**60**

**STATE MUSEUMS  
& HISTORIC SITES**

49  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS  
8  
INTERPRETIVE CENTERS  
21  
SERVICE BUILDINGS  
19  
CCC MARKERS/KIOSKS  
**ON A TOTAL OF  
1,224 ACRES**  
*(Lawn care is our middle name!)*

**64,532**  
AGENCY SOCIAL  
MEDIA FOLLOWERS



**1,339,118**  
USERS OF  
AGENCY WEBSITES



## Creating Inspiring Education Opportunities



Historic Sites Manager Chris Dorfschmidt points out a favorite 19th-century book to an attendee at a teacher workshop in August at the Chateau de Morès State Historic Site.

**WHETHER BRINGING NORTH DAKOTA** teachers to state historic sites for illuminating workshops or creating hands-on activities for students, our education team has expanded its efforts to inform and enrich.

In 2023, nearly 70 teachers participated in summer workshops led or facilitated by the agency's education team. Workshops included "E Pluribus Unum: Immigration History and the Impact of German-Russian Immigrants to North Dakota" featuring a visit to Strasburg's Welk Homestead State Historic Site and "Barons, Bulls, Boom, and Bust" at the Chateau de Morès State Historic Site in Medora. Meanwhile, we've upped programming for students across the state. Field trips to state museums and historic sites, virtual programs, and off-site visits by staff reached 16,986 students, a 17% increase over the previous year!

**PLANNING IS UNDERWAY** for North Dakota's contribution to the upcoming national commemoration of the July 4, 2026, semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The State Historical Society is leading a commission determined by the 2023 legislative assembly.

At the State Museum, an exhibition opening in fall 2025 will invite visitors to explore the people, places, and forces that have shaped the region and state over the past 250 years and made us who we are today.

*This circa 1920 Native American parfleche and Oscar H. Will & Company seed packets from the 1950s will be featured in the upcoming exhibition. SHSND 1986.234.71, 2002.42.1, .7, .12*



## LOOK WHAT YOU CAN EXPLORE IN STATE COLLECTIONS!

**129,602** BOOKS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**2.1 MILLION** PHOTOGRAPHS

**1,581** NEWSPAPER TITLES

**4,550** ORAL HISTORIES

**3,521** MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

**1,787** LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORD SERIES

**2,354** STATE GOVERNMENT RECORD SERIES

**2,550** FEET OF SHELF SPACE OF MOVING  
IMAGE COLLECTIONS

**80,000+** MUSEUM ARTIFACTS

**12 MILLION+** ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS

**9%** OF N.D. ACRES SURVEYED FOR CULTURAL  
RESOURCES

**20,000** CULTURAL RESOURCE REPORTS &  
**72,000** SITE FORMS USED BY **671** SPECIALISTS

## Connecting With Future Scientists

Did you know? With nearly 5,000 natural history specimens, including birds, bugs, plants, and shells, in our collections, the ND Heritage Center & State Museum is also a natural habitat for budding zoologists and ornithologists. Locally, we partner with Bismarck State College and the University of Mary to provide their students behind-the-scenes access to these holdings. On class visits, students tour the natural history collections, learn about how federal policy impacts what we collect, and even on occasion help us measure and photograph specimens. The experience, says Bismarck State College Associate Professor of Biology Deanna Solhjem, "allows my students to see how much work goes into maintaining these important collections, including paperwork and legal possession concerns, and my students also get to learn that biologists and other researchers can access collections to enhance current research projects."



**SCANDINAVIAN FOLK ART, NATIVE AMERICAN LANDSCAPES**, and the people, places, and wildlife of the northern Plains were among the topics of exhibits that opened at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum.

Traditional Scandinavian artforms take center stage in ***Fantastical Flourishes: The Folk Art of Pieper Bloomquist*** on exhibit through November 2024. The artist's paintings, cabinetry, and ceramics draw on folk art imagery and her experiences to render a fanciful modern world.

*Pieper Bloomquist's delightful folk art comes to life in "Regal, Minnesota," 2018*



Featuring largescale photographs, artifacts, and video recordings of elders, ***On the Edge of the Wind: Native Storytellers & the Land*** explores connections between cultural practices, regional landscapes, and tribal oral narratives. Produced by the Arts Council of North Dakota in association with the State Historical Society, the exhibit is open to public viewing until early July 2025.

*Nearly 600 students participated in hands-on learning activities related to On the Edge of the Wind during education programs in the spring and fall.*



*Donor Margaret Schaffer of Mesquite, Nevada, found this circa November 1889 image of North Dakota's first governor, John Miller, and his cabinet officials by photographer David Francis Barry behind an old family photo and sent it to the State Archives. We were thrilled to add it to the collections. SHSND SA 2023-P-004-00001*



*Lars Gustaf Sellstedt's 1870s-era portrait of entrepreneur William G. Fargo, namesake of North Dakota's largest city, is among the artworks in There's a Story There. SHSND 1983.447.1*

For more than a century, the State Historical Society has collected fine art reflecting the people and landscapes of the northern Plains. ***There's a Story There: Art in the State Collections*** showcases 19 of these artworks by acclaimed artists such as John James Audubon, George Catlin, and John Singer Sargent at the State Museum.

***FASHION & FUNCTION: NORTH DAKOTA STYLE*** received an Award of Excellence in the Exhibits category from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Produced by the Audience Engagement & Museum team, the exhibition, which closed in January 2023, traced the evolution of our region's sartorial choices. Director Bill Peterson, Exhibitions Manager David Newell, and Assistant Curator of Collections Lori Nohner accepted the award at a September ceremony during AASLH's annual meeting in Boise, Idaho.



*Attendees strike a pose in 1920s styles during one of our sold-out "Mystery at the Mansion" dinners at the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site in October. Participants arrived as pre-assigned characters and spent the evening searching for clues to help solve the murder of a wealthy jewelry designer. A team member scripted this party game.*



*From left: Gov. Doug Burgum presents the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award to five-time world champion boxer and Olympic silver medalist Virgil Hill, while Secretary of State Michael Howe and State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson look on. Hill was selected for the state's highest honor by Burgum with the concurrence of Howe and Peterson. Photo by Susan Peterson*



# Establishing Deeper Connections With Core Constituencies



**IN THE 2023-25 BIENNIUM, MORE THAN \$470,000 IN CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS** were awarded by the State Historical Society to 20 organizations across North Dakota. Supported by the state Legislature, Cultural Heritage Grants provide funding to nonprofit organizations and city, county, and tribal governments. Eligible projects include capital improvements, exhibits, special projects or events, educational activities, and collections.

*Key historical structures at Cass County Historical Society's Bonanzaville, USA, a pioneer village and history museum in West Fargo, are set to undergo restoration with support from a \$26,614 Cultural Heritage Grant. Photo by Beth Jansen*

**THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND (HPF) APPROPRIATION** from the National Park Service, we distributed more than \$150,000 to four North Dakota organizations. HPF grants are available for historic and archaeological properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Recipients include the Traill County Courthouse in Hillsboro, Belle Mehus Auditorium in Bismarck, Mayville Public Library, and the Logan County Courthouse in Napoleon.

*Traill County Courthouse received \$45,000 to rehabilitate its sandstone steps.*



## Bridging the Past

When increased federal infrastructure funding allowed the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) to begin replacing aging bridges in rural areas, our Archaeology & Historic Preservation team partnered with NDDOT to help ensure that historically significant examples weren't lost to posterity. Agency staff has been working with NDDOT to develop a process to identify historic and unique bridges prior to demolition, which in cases has led to bridges being put up for "adoption" and moved to new homes. In 2023, 93 bridges in 35 counties were reviewed and documented by the agency, with some saved through repair or removal.

*Midway Bridge, built between 1900 and 1914 and formerly located in rural Grand Forks County, found a second life near Grafton in Walsh County due to an agency partnership with the state Department of Transportation. Photo by KLJ*



**UPDATED INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE PRODUCED** by agency staff was installed at seven of North Dakota's state historic sites. Team members added new history and interpretation and removed language deemed inappropriate or insensitive. Read new signs at Fort Dilts, Camp Buell, Fort Clark, St. Claude, Lake Jessie, Walhalla, and Whitestone Hill state historic sites.

*New signage at Whitestone Hill State Historic Site.*



**IN MARCH 2023, OUR FOUR-DAY "CLASS B BASKETBALL AT THE STATE MUSEUM"** event featured historical items related to Class B boys basketball, including newspaper articles, photos, video footage, game programs, and *Hoopster* preview booklets. As part of the "Flicker Tales of North Dakota" oral history project, 33 interviewees subsequently shared their Class B basketball memories with State Archives staff.

*Bob Allard of the Epping Eagles shoots a layup against the Mandaree Warriors, 1977. SHSND SA 10958-0010-001-00013*

**MAY THE PAST BE WITH YOU.** As keepers of North Dakota's historical memory, the State Archives is home to more than 8 miles of paper documents, from oral histories to photographs to manuscript collections. In addition, we hold nearly 48 terabytes of digital records. In 2023, 1,592 patrons requested information and the team welcomed about 1,400 visitors to the Orin G. Libby Memorial Reading Room.

**THREE NEW NORTH DAKOTA LISTINGS WERE ADDED** to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the federal government's list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. North Dakota nominations are coordinated by the State Historical Society.

The **Chester Fritz Auditorium at the University of North Dakota** in Grand Forks is a late-modernist building designed by architect Myron Denbrook and built in 1972 using precast concrete panel technology.

The **Baukol Historic District** includes 41 properties in the Baukol Addition in Grand Forks reflective of the modern movement and constructed between 1946 and 1962 to address housing needs following World War II.

Located near Hettinger, the 1952 **Andrew Erickson Barn**, used for dairy and beef cattle, features a low concrete sidewall with a Gothic-arched roof and attests to trends in the development of agriculture in North Dakota.



*Since opening in 1972, Grand Forks' Chester Fritz Auditorium has hosted a range of entertainment luminaries including Ray Charles, Willie Nelson, and Johnny Cash. Photo by Agatha Frisby*



**THE AGENCY IS HELPING PRESERVE THE HISTORY** of the 1883 Bismarck-Mandan Rail Bridge.

With the bridge slated to be removed and replaced, the State Historical Society, through funds from the BNSF Railway Company, awarded \$271,000 to three Mandan entities to help maintain the old bridge's memory and document the transition to a new bridge.



*Bismarck-Mandan Rail Bridge, April 2023.*  
HAER ND-2-10

- The North Dakota Railroad Museum received \$5,000 to create an exhibit about the old rail bridge.
- The Mandan Historical Society was awarded \$69,250 to create four videos about the current bridge, the new bridge project, and Bismarck and Mandan before and after the bridge.
- The city of Mandan will be provided salvage pieces of the old bridge and receive \$196,750 to build a plaza area on Memorial Highway's east end incorporating these pieces, interpretive signage, and a welcome sign. BNSF will pay \$229,000 to salvage the materials for this project.

## Preserving Community

Heavy rains in fall 2019 and spring 2020, combined with a failed sump pump, left the basement of Grand Forks' B'nai Israel Synagogue severely water damaged. "We really just didn't know what to do," recalls longtime member Jennifer Tarlin, adding there's "not a kind of national network that restores flooded synagogues."

With a \$35,980 Cultural Heritage Grant from the State Historical Society, along with \$89,068 in matching funds, the congregation was able to replace the basement's floors, walls, and kitchen, along with other improvements. And in February 2023, the synagogue's basement reopened for fellowship and religious classes, with a Passover Seder held in the social hall for the first time in more than three years that spring.

"The overall morale of the congregation was at a particularly low ebb due to the combined impact of COVID isolation and the damage to our building," says Tarlin. The grant "not only helped us organize the process of restoration ... but it also gave the fundraising process momentum, and I think a bit unexpectedly showed us that we had many friends in the community who wanted to help us succeed."



*Built in 1937 by the DeRemer architectural firm, the art deco B'nai Israel Synagogue, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a vital center for North Dakota's Jewish community. At right, congregants attend a Hannukkah party in the renovated basement. Photos by Bert Garwood*

## Optimizing Our Assets

**PLANS FOR THE NEW NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY GALLERY** addition to the ND Heritage Center & State Museum are moving forward, with fundraising efforts and concept planning underway. The roughly \$60 million project, a collaboration of the State Historical Society, the ND National Guard, and their respective foundations, will include a gallery tracing our military history from early Native American practices to today as well as an event center and expanded cafe. The state Legislature has authorized up to \$20 million in credit from the Bank of North Dakota, with a ND National Guard Foundation capital campaign raising the remaining funds.



*From right: State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson and Foundation Executive Director Dale Lennon participate in a planning session with Zerr Berg Architects of Fargo. Zerr Berg has been selected to design the 54,000-square-foot expansion expected to break ground in fall 2025.*



*Curator of Collections Research Mark Halvorson (far right) and a security detail from the ND Army National Guard keep watch over the USS North Dakota's ornate punch bowl at the January 2023 State of the State reception in the North Dakota Capitol's Great Hall. Did you know? The punch bowl, part of the former battleship's 1910 silver service, is the only object from the museum collections still used for its original purpose. Every four years, the public is served punch from it at the governor's inaugural ball. It is also brought out on the governor's request for other special occasions. Photo by Shirley J. Olgeirson*

**FOUR ARTWORKS FROM THE AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT & MUSEUM DEPARTMENT COLLECTIONS** underwent work at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis: Charles François Jalabert's 1874 portrait of Medora von Hoffman, future wife of the Marquis de Morès; the circa late 1860s painting "Indian War Party" by William de la Montagne Cary; J.W. Wallace's 1894 portrait of U.S. Sen. Henry C. Hansbrough of North Dakota; and a 1980 carving of the "Fort Berthold Singers" by Ivan Young Bear. These artworks are part of *There's a Story There: Art in the State Collections*, reopening June 21, 2024, at the State Museum.

*Conservation work on the Medora von Hoffman portrait included the removal and replacement of discolored varnish, repair of a canvas tear, and reinforcing the canvas stretcher. The painting also received a new frame. SHSND 1972.1630*







The Kittson cabin at Walhalla State Historic Site, a circa 1852 warehouse used by fur trader Normal Kittson to supply oxcarts, was disassembled then reconstructed from a mix of original logs and in-kind replacements.

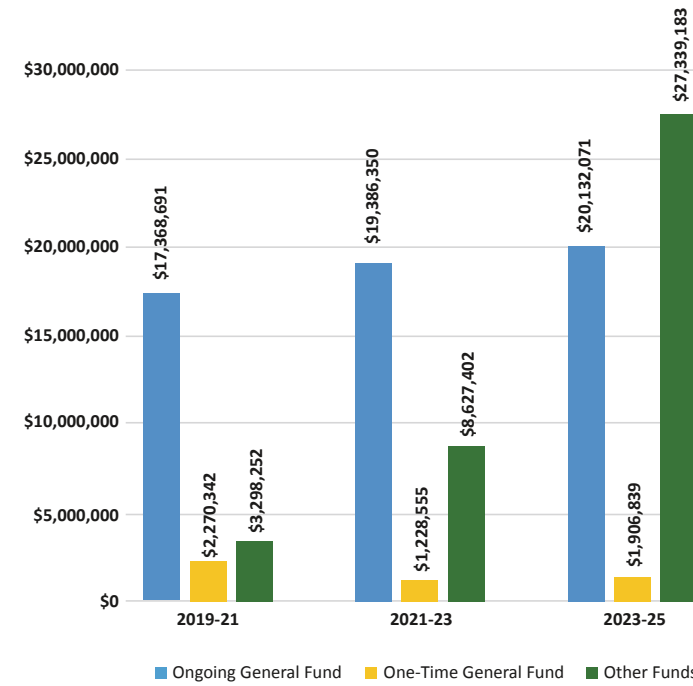
**A CONTACT STATION REMODEL, A REROOF AT A MILITARY FORT HOSPITAL**, an accessibility upgrade to a 19th-century courthouse, and a fur-trade era warehouse reconstruction were among the 37 much-needed capital improvement projects across 10 state historic sites completed by the agency.

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940, the former contact station at the Chateau de Morès State Historic Site in Medora (once used for ticket sales) received an interior remodel. The remodel featured mold and asbestos remediation as well as new plumbing lines, electrical wiring, drywall, paint, and tiles. The station is expected to reopen soon with a small public space and restrooms. At Fort Totten State Historic Site, the former military hospital received a new roof. Meanwhile, Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site in Jamestown added accessibility features such as an elevator, street-level entrance, and Fifth Street Southeast sidewalk.

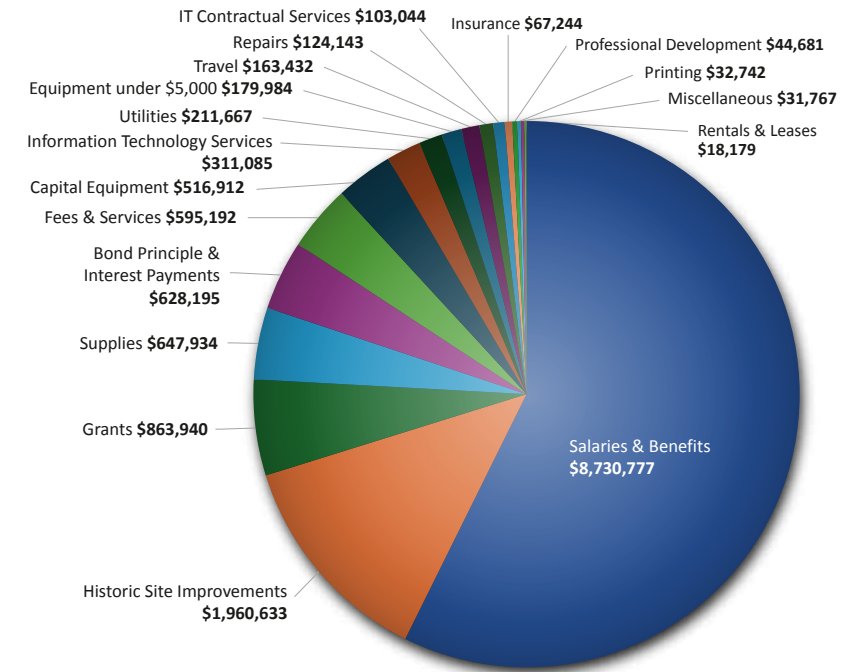
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY STAFF PENNED THE FEATURED CHAPTER** on state museums and historic sites for the 2023-2025 North Dakota Blue Book as well as the concluding chapter exploring 150 years of Bismarck history in commemoration of the capital city's 2022 sesquicentennial celebration. Published by Secretary of State Michael Howe, the Blue Book contains reference material about all things North Dakota and is available for purchase in the ND Heritage Center & State Museum's store and on its website.



# Financials



APPROPRIATIONS



EXPENDITURES

# Embracing Technology

**IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM MULTIPLE TEAM MEMBERS**, the State Historical Society purchased a Snapmaker Artisan 3D printer. The printer will allow staff to complete tasks such as designing custom mounts for museum objects, creating store merchandise, or printing examples of archaeological artifacts for the public to see up close and touch.

*Computer and Network Specialist Ashton Steckler introduces the agency to the new 3D printer.*



# Keeping North Dakota Moving

The agency's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) plays a vital role in ensuring North Dakota's roadworks minimally impact historically significant properties. As part of its Section 106 responsibilities, the SHPO reviews federal projects with potential effects for historic cultural resources. In 2023, the SHPO worked on 122 projects with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, a federal designee. Projects ranged from new streetlights for Hunter in Cass County to a major reconstruction of the Pacific Avenue/I-94 Business Loop in Medora intended to improve access for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, slated to open July 4, 2026.

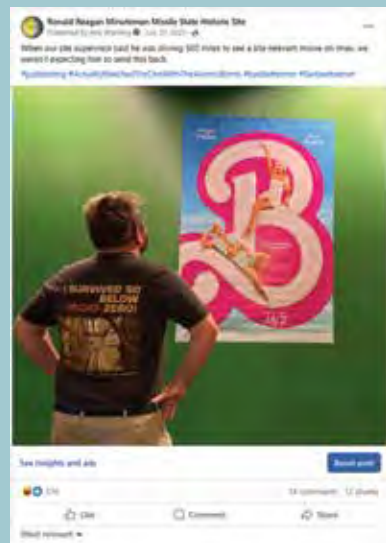


This circa 1940s sign built by the Civilian Conservation Corps will be moved to Chimney Park to make way for a new roundabout and other road improvements near the Chateau de Morès State Historic Site in Medora. The SHPO partners with the state Department of Transportation to protect cultural resources on road and infrastructure projects throughout North Dakota.

**THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR VISITORS** and collections is our number one priority. A new security system installed in the ND Heritage Center & State Museum and funded by the state Legislature has nearly doubled the amount of camera views available. Among other features, it includes live analytics, ensuring security officers' attention is drawn to where it is most needed.



# Social Media Superhero



Ever wondered how much a nuclear blast door weighs in hamsters? Forty thousand, according to Rob Branting, supervisor at the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site near Cooperstown. His May 2023 post on the subject netted some 10,000 likes thanks to the enthusiastic response of the U.K.-based Facebook

group “Americans Will Use Anything but the Metric System for Measurement.”

That post was one of many by Branting that helped the site attract the highest number of 2023 Facebook

followers (a roughly 160% increase over the previous year) among state historic sites and museums operated by the agency, surpassing even the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Branting’s 427 posts reached 6,832,841 viewers.

The secret to his success? Keep it relevant and relatable, says Branting. He tries to post one humorous and one informational Cold War-themed item per day with enough appeal and references to popular culture (“Oppenheimer” helped, he points out) for a broad audience. Branting’s dry, self-deprecating style is on display in his riffs on everything from the plight of a site supervisor battling the snow and isolation of North Dakota winters to an ongoing tongue-in-cheek rivalry with the much larger Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota, where Branting was formerly an intern. “It’s ironic because while they get more visitors, we have a far more comfortable elevator,” he quips.

**3D-PRINTED MODELS OF FOSSILS** from North Dakota were created for our paleontology exhibits at the State Museum to help bring bygone creatures to life for visitors of all ages. Inside the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time, visitors can now find a 3D-printed skeleton of one of the world’s smallest bear predecessors, the rare *Eoarctos vorax* fossil (also known as dawn bear). In addition, a hand-painted cast of Dakota the Dinomummy’s right arm will be added to the existing display on the 67 million-year-old fossil.

*Preparator Andrew Kerr puts the finishing touches on the dawn bear exhibit. Just 30 inches long, the now-extinct animal sported claws similar to a cat’s and lived roughly 32 million years ago.*



*Research Archaeologist Margie Patton pushes a magnetometer as part of State Historical Society remote sensing survey work in a neighborhood south of Mandan in advance of a proposed water line by Missouri West Water. The project aims to provide reliable water access for homes in this area while minimizing impact to any subsurface materials at a nearby archaeological site.*



# Foundation Year in Review

**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY ENDOWMENT CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTH DAKOTA YOUTH:** Jim and Gerd Tuchscherer’s generous donation of \$100,000 to the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation established an endowment that now provides financial stipends to National History Day in North Dakota student winners, assisting them with travel expenses to the national competition in the Washington, D.C., area. The state contest offers students in grades 6-12 the chance to explore history with a focus on North Dakota subjects.



*North Dakota students at the 2023 national competition.*



**MILITARY GALLERY MOVES AHEAD:** The State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation is part of two committees helping to plan a military gallery at the ND Heritage Center. We are proud to be collaborating with the State Historical Society, ND National Guard, and ND National Guard Foundation on this exciting new gallery. It will feature exhibits spotlighting North Dakotans’ contributions to the Armed Forces, the military’s significance in North Dakota and beyond, and the state’s role in international endeavors. Designed to honor, educate, and inspire, this gallery will showcase the state’s rich and diverse military history.

*Military gallery planning committee members tour the Fargo Air Museum in September.*

**INCREASING OUTREACH THROUGH TECHNOLOGY:** In recent years, the Foundation acquired Re:discovery Software’s Proficio, a database management tool, which not only facilitates the efficient organization of the Foundation’s collections but also allows us to extend a cost-effective solution to statewide historical societies and museums. As part of our pilot program in 2023, we partnered with the McIntosh County Heritage Center to allow them to begin recording and uploading their community collections into the database. Once complete, these collections will be accessible to the public for research purposes and to other heritage centers seeking specific artifacts to enhance their displays.

*Student volunteers from North Dakota State University use the Proficio software to help the McIntosh County Heritage Center catalogue its collections.*



**PROMOTING THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ITS MISSION:** Throughout each year, the Foundation supports the State Historical Society in various ways. This includes sponsorship of events organized by the agency’s Employee Council, such as March Madness, Cup of Cheer, and Larks Night Out. Additionally, financial resources are allocated for professional development, facilitating employees’ participation in national conferences. The Foundation also plays a role in advancing educational outreach initiatives like National History Day and Teen Takeover, aimed at North Dakota’s students and educators. Moreover, the Foundation’s support extends to state historic sites, providing funding for school field trips and special projects as well as participating in events like the state historic site staff training sessions at the ND Heritage Center.





STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
OF NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Heritage Center  
612 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

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# » Experience « Our Beautiful 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse!

*Fun for Families  
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[history.nd.gov](http://history.nd.gov) | [statemuseum.nd.gov](http://statemuseum.nd.gov) | 701.328.2666

HISTORY FOR *everyone.*

