Self Guided
Tour Books
Welcome to the

South Dakota
State Capitol Building
SELF GUIDED TOUR SCRIPT
OF SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING

This booklet has been designed to give our guests a more meaningful tour of our State Capitol and historic points on the Capitol Complex. It will provide historic data and identify a variety of features that visitors will encounter in the State Capitol. This handout is designed to assist you on your walking tour of the Capitol, starting at the Capitol Annex entrance on the North side of the building.
SOUTH DAKOTA CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION

The South Dakota State Capitol Building was constructed between 1905 and 1910. The more than 114,000 square foot structure was constructed of a variety of materials including native field stone, Indiana limestone, and Vermont and Italian marble. The structure is 161 feet tall, 190 feet wide, and 292 feet long, and features hundreds of hand-crafted materials including carved woodwork and marble, special cast brass, and hand laid stone. The Capitol Building was designed and built for just under $1,000,000 by Minneapolis architects C.E. Bell and M.S. Detwiler. It is a modified version of the Montana State Capitol in Helena. The current estimated value of the South Dakota Capitol is nearly $58,000,000. Government agencies moved into the Capitol Building in the summer of 1910 from a small wooden building which was located at the Southwest corner of the Capitol grounds near the corners of Capitol Avenue and Nicollet Avenue.

The building referred to as the “Capitol Annex” is located immediately North of the original State Capitol Building. The Annex was constructed and added onto the State Capitol in 1932, in answer to a government need for more office space. In 1932, nearly all state government in Pierre was housed in the Capitol and Annex. As you walk throughout the building, please notice the subtle and dramatic differences in architecture between the Capitol and Annex. The most noticeable of those differences is the construction of the floor. The Annex floor is constructed of marble and granite tiles while the floor in the Capitol is
inlaid Italian terrazzo tile. As you enter the “back” door ground floor of the Capitol Annex, you are first greeted on your left by the Capitol Protective Services Office.

From the Capitol Protective Services Office, please proceed down the hallway through a small door threshold. This “threshold” is the original back door entrance to the Capitol and the Anteroom. The Anteroom was used as an entrance into the building; it houses the coat room and restroom facilities. Immediately through the Anteroom, please notice the base of the Grand Staircase and the beginning of hand laid terrazzo floor tiles. Each terrazzo tile was individually hand laid by Italian artisans throughout the Capitol.
SOUTH DAKOTA CAPITOL RESTORATION

The Legislature and the Governor, in the late 1970s, formed the Capitol Restoration and Beautification Commission in order to establish a long-term plan to restore the Capitol Building to its original grandeur. In 1976, the Commission and Governor Richard Kneip directed the restoration of the Supreme Court Room and the Governor’s Reception Room on the second floor of the Capitol. In 1980, the Commission and Governor Bill Janklow directed a complete restoration of the remainder of the State Capitol Building, a project that would last almost ten years and be completed for the Centennial Celebration of the State of South Dakota in 1989. Restoration of the State Capitol Building was and still is the most extensive restoration of a public building in the history of South Dakota.

THE LEGEND OF THE BLUE TILES

According to legend, 66 Italian artists were hired to lay terrazzo tile flooring throughout the new Capitol Building. Artists often leave their signature on their individual piece of art; however, in this case it was impossible for each Italian artist to leave a personal signature of his craft in the stone flooring of the Capitol. Instead, each artist was given a special blue stone as a “signature stone” for the artist to place somewhere in the Capitol at the artist’s discretion. Only 55 of the 66 blue stones have ever been found. A sample of one of the blue “signature stones” is found on the first floor immediately in front of the double doors leading
to the basement (underneath the marble staircase). Beginning in the mid-1980s, contractors from Sioux Falls were hired to repair hundreds of feet of cracks in the terrazzo tile throughout the State Capitol Building. These cracks were caused by settling of the building during the drought years of the 1930s. Upon completion of each crack repair, the workmen also used a “signature stone” in the form of a small heart stone. A specimen of a heart tile is found immediately in front of the right corner display case of the First Lady Gown Collection.

As you continue your tour of the building, you may notice, from time to time, small brass “buttons” protruding from the marble floor at certain points. These brass “buttons” were installed after the 1940s renovation of the Capitol in order to provide engineers with elevation reference points throughout the building. Every five years, professional engineers check these reference points and compare them to a known elevation in order to determine if the South Dakota Capitol Building foundation is moving in the locally expansive soils.

**FIRST FLOOR (Ground Level)**

First Floor - In Front of Marble Staircase

This area is referred to as the “First Floor Rotunda.” It is primarily used as the gallery and display area of the Capitol. This area features the Governors Gallery of portraits of all Governors of South Dakota since Statehood as well as numerous portraits of Supreme Court Justices of
South Dakota. The area also features the First Lady Gown Collection and historic information about each of the First Ladies since Statehood. Each case shows a replica of the gown worn to the Inaugural Ball by the First Lady when her spouse or brother was elected Governor. Often times, the replica is made from the exact material worn by the First Lady.

SECOND FLOOR

Rotunda and Corridors

As you walk up the marble staircase from the ground floor to second floor, you find yourself near the Capitol Rotunda. The word Rotunda means “under the dome.” The distance from the Rotunda floor to the top center black circle of the dome is 96 feet. From the top of the Rotunda to the ball on top of the copper outer dome is an additional 65 feet. Greek, Roman, and Celtic architecture are the primary symbolic design features used in the construction of the South Dakota Capitol. Under the Victorian leaded stained glass of the dome are 16 oval-like alcove openings which represent the “Tree of Life”. Below are rectangular openings which circle the dome and feature a Pasque flower, the State Flower of South Dakota. The Pasque flower is surrounded by Acanthus leaves which symbolize wisdom, while the bottom ring of the dome shows entwined bands of ribbon representing the “ring of eternity”.

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In each corner of the Rotunda Dome is a large circular mural, each portraying a Roman goddess; Venus with Cupid, Ceres, Minerva, and Europa with Zeus (the bull). The 1910 murals by Edward Simmons were painted to represent the major interests in South Dakota: Love of Family, Love of State; Agriculture; Wisdom, Industry, and Mining; and Livestock. Each circular mural contains a background of real gold leaf.

Below each mural are the Seals of Sovereignty or seals of the four white governments which have claimed ownership of what is now called South Dakota. The Seals of France, Spain, South Dakota, and the United States of America are represented.

In each corner of the Rotunda near the top are four statuary niches which contain a special flag display. In the center of
each niche the flag of the four governments which have claimed ownership of South Dakota are represented, including the modern French flag, Spanish flag, Dakota Territory, and the flag of the United States. Many Native Americans believe that there are seven directions and Plains Indian tribes have used colors to represent directions. The colored flags in the niches represent the Native American colors: 1.) white is North or “the direction from which snow comes;” 2.) red is East or “direction of the rising sun;” 3.) yellow is South or “direction from which the Sun shines;” 4.) black is West or “the direction from which thunder comes.” 5.) The blue stained glass represents the sky; 6.) the green terrazzo tiles represent the green grass; and 7.) the final direction, center or “where you are,” is represented by the brass triangle in the center of the Rotunda floor.

Other flags which are significant to South Dakota in the statuary niches are the State Flag of South Dakota (light blue), the flag of the United Sioux Tribes (white with teepee ring), 50th Anniversary of Mount Rushmore flag (white) and a Warrior Eagle Staff. The Warrior Eagle Staff is said to be the “first” flag used by Native American people as they traveled across the Great Plains. The Warrior Eagle Staffs were decorated differently and were used for many purposes including a means of long distance identification of various bands of Sioux people. The displayed Warrior Eagle Staff is wrapped with smoked buffalo hide and strung with beads and eagle feathers over green willow branches.
CENTENNIAL BRONZES

In the four corners of the Rotunda are larger statuary niches which contain four large bronze sculptures donated to the State of South Dakota for the Centennial Celebration in 1989. The sculptures, created and cast by South Dakota artist Dale Lamphere of Sturgis, SD, are entitled “Wisdom,” “Vision,” “Courage,” and “Integrity.” According to the artist, these titles also represent the strengths shown by South Dakotans.

OTHER ROTUNDA POINTS OF INTEREST

A hand-crafted Tennessee marble statue of General William Beadle by Daniel Webster is displayed on a white marble base in the Rotunda or corridor. General William Beadle is remembered as “The Father of Education” in South Dakota by implementing a public land leasing and set-aside program for the purposes of funding public education. A duplicate of this statue is placed in our nation’s Capitol in Washington, DC. General Beadle was also honored by having a college and county named after him.

Looking directly out the three front doors of the Capitol Rotunda, you will notice two brass cases between the doors. These two cases are rotating displays which normally depict important events in recent history.

Over the center pair of doors, please notice a stained glass window which was commissioned in 1996 by the South
Dakota Capitol Club as a remembrance to the eight families of the 1993 state airplane crash which killed five state employees including Governor George S. Mickelson and three South Dakota businessmen. The design, by Rapid City artist Wayne Warvi, is symbolically laid out with stained glass in multiples of eight to signify the tragedy.

The Rotunda floor is a combination of American-laid prism glass and Italian terrazzo tile. American-laid prism glass was used in order to allow light to flow through to the first level of the Capitol and also to allow light from the first level to penetrate into the Rotunda. The exact center of the Rotunda is the brass triangle on the Rotunda floor; a spectacular photograph may be taken of the inside of the dome from this point.

All columns in the Rotunda and throughout the Capitol are made from Scagliola, a man-made marble. Scagliola originated in Italy and is extremely difficult and expensive to repair or duplicate. The general ingredients of Scagliola are keen cement, marble dust/shavings, water/milk, yarn, and ink. The Scagliola columns are built separately and installed around a 12”-18” steel I-beam to support the building structure. The Scagliola is not a structural component, but simply for decoration and finished with a hand-crafted plaster column top.

Along the corridors of the second floor, visitors will find 18 paintings in a half-circle, called Lunettes. The word “Lunette” comes from the root word “lunar” meaning half-moon shaped. These oil paintings were done specially for
the South Dakota Capitol by artist William Peaco, and depict common scenes of South Dakota in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Marble water fountains with solid brass spigots and handles adorn the corridors just off of the Rotunda. The open sea shell designs, along with the Pasque Flower and Acanthus leaves, provide continuity to the symbolism shown throughout the Capitol. A heart design at the top of the water fountain is added for additional character. Originally, flowing water to each fountain was not provided, but a brass cup and bowl of fresh water were added each day for employee and visitor comfort. Fixtures were added later as running water became available throughout the building.

**GOVERNOR’S RECEPTION ROOM**

(Second floor, West Wing)

The Governor’s Reception Room was restored in 1978. The Room includes the original furniture which was installed in the first Governor’s Office, including his desk, chair, couch, and conference table where the first Cabinet officials met to discuss the State’s business. Ceiling, carpeting, draperies and brass light fixtures look similar to those which were present in 1910.
SUPREME COURT ROOM

(Second Floor, East Wing)

The South Dakota Supreme Court Room is located just off the Rotunda on the second floor of the State Capitol. The South Dakota Supreme Court Room remains one of only a few original Supreme Court Rooms in America that is used for sessions of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Room was restored in 1978. Wall stencils, solid brass light fixtures, velvet draperies, original furniture and hand-carved mahogany wood adorn the room inside. Behind the bench, a large oil painting by Charles Holloway entitled “Mercy of the Law,” is displayed as an angel guarding over the legal process.

Inside the Anteroom to the Court a glass case displays Supreme Court memorabilia and a brief history of the South Dakota Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court Room is no longer open to tours due to the events of September 11, 2001, which prompted elevated security measures in many government offices across the United States.

STATE SEAL

Most door hardware in the State Capitol Building is original. This original hardware includes cast brass door knobs which depict the South Dakota State Seal in the center of the door knob. Some hardware has been replaced with push button electronic hardware for security purposes.
GRAND STAIRCASE AND VAULT

The Grand Staircase is one of the central focal points of the South Dakota State Capitol Building. Constructed of Vermont “Whitecloud” Marble, the Grand Staircase has been used since 1910 as the processional staircase.

The “Vault” is the semi-circular area directly over the Grand Staircase. The Vault ceiling is constructed of Victorian leaded stained glass while the cross members are constructed of painted solid oak. The painting at the end of the Vault is entitled “The Advent of Commerce” by Edward Simmons. Although Native Americans were trading goods and furs with other Native Americans long before the white man arrived on the Great Plains, this painting is representative of the first trading of Native Americans with white explorers.
THIRD FLOOR

The third floor of the State Capitol is the “Legislative Floor” of the Building. It is divided into two distinct “sides” (House, East side and Senate, West side) with the Rotunda and Grand Staircase in the center.

As you proceed from the top of the Grand Staircase to the right, around the corridor you will notice a large set of enclosed photographs in a flip file. This flip file is a chronological photographic record of the past legislatures of South Dakota. Legislators are listed by name and year of service with the South Dakota Legislature.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House of Representatives was restored in the mid-1980s. The House Chamber is decorated in earth-tone colors, decorative plaster and solid oak wood accents.
Carpeting has been restored to an exact duplicate of what was installed in 1910, while all oak wood wainscoting and oak desks have been stripped and refinished to new condition. The chairs and ornate wood decor at the front of the Chamber are all hand-carved oak. Brass light fixtures and lamps are exact duplicates of the 1910 versions originally installed. Chandeliers in the House of Representatives are not original or duplicates; they were removed from the original Federal Court Room in Pierre and installed in the Capitol. The Federal Court House was also built in 1910 and was purchased by the State as an office building. The House of Representatives is accented with decorative stenciling on the plaster ceiling and side walls; backlit Victorian leaded stained glass adorns the ceiling.

The mural, “The Peace That Passes Understanding” by Charles Holloway, is the central ceiling feature in the House. The wall stencil of an eagle and wreath at the center of the front wall symbolize strength and integrity in government. The House of Representatives is flanked by a lobby on each side; a private lobby for legislators during session and one for lobbyists.
THE SENATE

Proceeding around the Rotunda in the third floor corridor, visitors will come to a set of double doors which is the entrance to the Senate Chambers.

The Senate was also restored in the mid-1980s. The Senate is decorated in green tones, scagliola columns, Vermont White Cloud marble, cherry wood, and African mahogany. Carpeting has been restored to an exact replica of that which was present in 1910. The cherry wood rolltop desks and front African mahogany podium have been stripped and refinished to new condition. Chairs and ornate woodwork at the front of the Chamber are hand-carved African mahogany. All Senate light fixtures are exact duplicates of the 1910 fixtures, including the chandeliers, each of which are constructed of 750 lbs. of solid brass. The Senate is accented with decorative ceiling stenciling;
backlit Victorian leaded stained glass is the ceiling focal point. The mural by Charles Holloway, “The Louisiana Purchase,” is displayed at the front of the Chamber near the ceiling.

On the third and fourth floors of the Capitol, please notice the quality of the doors and other wood. On the Senate side, all doors and jams are equipped with oak wood on the corridor side and cherry wood on the inside. This woodwork quality was accomplished by early craftsmen in order to maintain the integrity of the wood color and grain in the Senate facilities.

**OTHER THIRD FLOOR THINGS TO SEE**

On the third floor of the State Capitol Building, please notice the solid brass chandeliers and brass sconces (wall or column mounted fixtures). Many of the chandeliers and sconces are duplicate reproductions and many are from the original Capitol. Please notice the difference between the duplicate ceiling chandeliers in the hallway in front of the House and Senate and an original in front of the Page Office at the South end of the Rotunda.

The corridors of the third floor are equipped with original and restored furniture which was part of the original South Dakota Capitol Building. Please notice the quality of the wood on this furniture which is also equipped with solid brass feet.
FOURTH FLOOR

Just past the Senate private lobby, visitors may take the small black stairway or take the elevator immediately next to the Grand Staircase in order to reach the fourth floor of the South Dakota Capitol.

Proceeding from the stairway or elevator, visitors may enter the Senate Gallery where several hundred “theater type” chairs are located. The Senate Gallery was restored in the late 1980s and is used by the public for viewing of the Legislative process.

As you leave the Senate Gallery, visitors are encouraged to follow the corridor around until you come to an observation railing immediately across from the Grand Staircase. From this location, visitors can get a more concise view of the Rotunda and Grand Staircase murals. From this location, viewers may also understand the grandeur and apparent massive size of the South Dakota Capitol Building.

Proceeding again down the corridor, visitors will enter the House Gallery which was also restored in the late 1980s. Please notice the vast difference between the House and Senate Galleries with respect to the color, amount of space, and type of decor. Most televised programming of Legislative action takes place from the platform in the House Gallery. Past Governors have delivered the State of the State Address and Budget Address from the House of Representatives.
This now completes the self-guided tour of the South Dakota State Capitol. You are welcome to go back to any area, take pictures, and enjoy this great and historic building. To exit the building, please go back to the first (ground) floor. Capitol memorabilia, postcards, and souvenirs may be found at the Cultural Heritage Center Gift Shop in the Cultural Heritage Center at 900 Governors Drive. If you plan to travel throughout South Dakota, maps and other visitor information is available at the Tour Guide/Security Office near the back door of the Capitol Annex.

OTHER THINGS TO SEE ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

As you stand in front of the Capitol Building, note that the words “South Dakota” are emblazoned on the front of the building with the letter “u” looking like a “v” to emphasize the Greek influence on the construction. The copper outside cover of the dome, which was replaced in 1961, stands pitch black against the blue South Dakota sky.
Hilger’s Gulch Park is an attractive 1.5 mile walking trail with flower gardens and a spectacular view of the Capitol. On holidays and special events the Park is equipped with American flags. Hilger’s Gulch is named after a local Pierre resident, Anson Hilger, who once farmed an area in the big draw and raised a small contingent of horses near the fresh water spring in the gulch.

![Hilger’s Gulch Park Image](image1)

Governor’s Grove is an addendum to Hilger’s Gulch and is located on the West side of the park. The entrance to Governor’s Grove is adorned with two large monuments which are made from stones excavated in each county in South Dakota. Governor’s Grove was established by Governor George T. Mickelson so that each elected
Governor (or his family) could plant a tree in a specific area as a remembrance of his term as Governor. In association with Governor’s Grove, visitors are welcome to visit the Arboretum Trail which travels the entire Capitol Grounds identifying numerous tree species in the area.

Abundant wildlife is normally found on or around the Capitol Grounds. Visitors may see ducks, geese, sea gulls, pheasants, grouse, deer, reptiles, and a variety of birds of prey including falcons, owls, eagles, and hawks.

The Governor’s Residence is located on the east shore of Capitol Lake. It serves as a private residence for the First Family as well as a public building for gubernatorial-related meetings and entertaining of dignitaries. Tours of the Governor’s Residence are not available.

**SOUTH DAKOTA VISITOR CENTER**

The South Dakota Visitor Center, on the shores of Capitol Lake, is open from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily. A complete selection of visitor information is available at the Visitor Center. Visitors may enjoy the panorama of Capitol Lake or view the thousands of ducks and geese which call the warm water lake “home” during the winter months.
MEMORIALS AND MONUMENTS

(Capitol Lake)

The **Fighting Stallions Memorial** is a memorial by the people of South Dakota to celebrate and honor 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 Memorial features life-size cast bronze fighting stallions by Korczak Ziolkowski, over 90 tons of South Dakota mahogany granite, and a landscaped garden viewing area.

The **World War II Memorial** on Capitol Lake is a tribute to the 65,000 South Dakotans involved in the war. Six bronze statues, representing the different roles South Dakotans played in the war, stand saluting the American flag. South Dakota artists, Lee Leuning and Sherry Treeby, created the sculptures.

The **Flaming Fountain Memorial** features a flowing artesian well which contains natural gas in the water. The natural gas was ignited to provide a background of “water on fire” for the WWI and WWII adjacent memorials.
The **Korean War Memorial** pays tribute to South Dakotans who served and died in the War. In 2004, a statue portraying an American GI was placed in front of the Korean War Memorial Wall. The soldier is glancing at his fallen brethren whose names are forever now upon a wall of honor. He gives the soldiers a centurion salute and completes his mission. This memorial is a lasting monument to more than 26,000 South Dakotans who fought in the Korean War and more than 170 who never returned from combat. South Dakota artists Lee Leuning and Sherry Treeby created the sculpture.

The **South Dakota Vietnam War Memorial** depicts a battle-weary foot soldier, bearing his M-16 rifle in one hand and the dogtags of a fallen brother in the other outstretched hand. Laden with his regulation gear – his pack, helmet, canteen, and weapons – he also carries personal reminders of the place he calls home and the people who await his return. Created by South Dakota artists Lee Leuning and Sherry Treeby, the memorial honors the 28,000 South Dakota men and women who served in the Vietnam Era from 1961 to 1975.

The **Fallen Firefighters, Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Technicians Memorials** honor and recognize South Dakota Firefighters, Police Officers and Emergency Medical Technicians who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
At the corner of Wells and Capitol Avenue (just across the street from Capitol Lake) is a 1918 gray granite statue of a Union Soldier erected in honor of our military personnel.

The **South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center** is located northeast of the Capitol at 900 Governors Drive. The earth-mounded center is an official site along the Lewis and Clark National Historical Trail and was recently named “Best State History Museum” along the trail. One of the featured attractions is an Original Jefferson Peace Medal. Placed in front of the Cultural Heritage Center you will find the “Citadel”, a bronze created by South Dakota artist, Dale Lamphere. There is a small admission fee for the museum. The center’s gift shop features South Dakota-made products. The Cultural Heritage Center is open 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday (Memorial Day through Labor Day), 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday (Labor Day through Memorial Day) and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sundays and most holidays, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day, and Easter. Phone: 605-773-3458. E-mail: sdshs@state.sd.us Website: www.sdhistory.org.

Thank you for visiting our South Dakota State Capitol and Grounds. We hope you have enjoyed your visit and tour. For more information about South Dakota, please contact the SD Department of Tourism, 500 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-5070. Phone: 605-773-3301 or 1-800-SDAKOTA (732-5682).

For more information about Pierre/Fort Pierre please contact the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce, 800 West Dakota, Pierre, SD 57501.
State Nickname
South Dakota is called The Mount Rushmore State. The nickname comes from the world-famous mountain carving of four U.S. presidents in the Black Hills.

State Flower
The pasque, a small lavender flower, is a member of the buttercup family. It grows wild throughout the state, and its blooming is one of the first signs of spring in South Dakota.

State Bird
The Chinese ringnecked pheasant was introduced to South Dakota in 1898. The male has a long pointed tail, colorful plumage, and a white band around its neck.

State Tree
The Black Hills spruce is a member of the evergreen family. The pyramid-shaped tree is characterized by foliage of short blue-green needles and slender cones.

State Animal
The adaptable coyote hunts small game and rodents across the state. Coyotes are found in greatest numbers along the Missouri River, its tributaries, and in the Black Hills. The coyote’s characteristic howl is commonly heard on star-filled nights.

State Fish
The state fish – walleye – is the most sought-after game fish in South Dakota. Walleye populate all four Missouri River reservoirs and many of South Dakota’s glacial lakes.

State Insect
South Dakota is a leader in honey production. The honey bee (Apis Mellifera L.) was adopted as the state insect in 1978.

State Soil
Houdek is a deep, well-drained and loamy soil. Farmers use it for growing crops and for rangeland.

State Gemstone
The Fairburn agate is a semiprecious stone, first discovered near Fairburn, S.D. The brightly banded gem is used in jewelry and is a favorite of rock collectors.
State Mineral
Rose quartz, mined in the southern Black Hills, was first discovered near Custer in the late 1880s. The pink-colored quartz is used primarily for ornaments and jewelry.

State Fossil
The *triceratops* was a horned dinosaur of the late Cretaceous period (approximately 68 million years ago). It was a herbivore and used its horns for defense.

State Jewelry
Black Hills Gold jewelry is created exclusively in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Each design incorporates a motif of grapes and leaves in tri-color combinations of green, rose, and yellow gold.

State Seal
The state seal serves as a symbol of life in South Dakota. It depicts the state’s diversity of commerce and resources: farming, ranching, industry, logging, manufacturing, and mining. It bears the motto: “Under God the People Rule.” The seal was adopted in 1885, four years before the state was admitted to the Union.

State Flag
The South Dakota flag features the state seal surrounded by a blazing sun in the field of sky blue. “South Dakota, The Mount Rushmore State” is arranged in a circle around the sun.

State Capital
Pierre serves as South Dakota’s seat of government. The Capitol, which was built in 1910, is one of the most fully restored capitols in the United States.

State Song
“Hail, South Dakota” is the official state song adopted in 1943. It is a marching song composed by Deecort Hammitt.

State Slogan
Introduced in 1990, South Dakota’s state slogan is Great Faces, Great Places.

South Dakota Made
The South Dakota Made logo signifies that a product was made or processed in the state. It can be found on everything from buffalo sausage and Sioux Indian pottery to honey and smoked pheasant.
Souvenir self-guided tour booklet from my visit to the South Dakota State Capitol Building on
The South Dakota Capitol Complex
2,500 copies of this brochure were printed by the Bureau of Administration at a cost of $.45 per copy. Photos were provided by the South Dakota Department of Tourism. Updated November 2008.
www.historicpierre.com
Scan for more information about the Capitol Building