I. Introduction

[SLIDE 1] American politics has often been characterized by a struggle between our governments at all levels to define their relative roles and powers. Articles of Confederation, for example, made the individual states vastly superior to the nation. US Constitution – gave more power to the federal government. Local governments added another level to the debate that shaped the current relationships between governments.

 Colonial settlers to America brought the concept of local, or county, government from England, where the kingdom was divided into smaller units known as shires. While most county officials in the early colonies were appointed by colonial or later state governors, the independent nature of the settlers pushing westward made them want to select their own officials, providing for local election instead of some distant appointment.

 Just like back in England, the reason local governments were often created was to create a mechanism for authority and provide services in places distant from the national or state capitals. This was especially important in the formative years of our nation when transportation and communication was extremely difficult.
But like the struggle between the federal and state governments, the state and county governments also struggled to define their roles. In 1868 the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in Merriam v. Moody that counties had to have specific enabling legislation from the state and did not have their own inherent powers, became known as “Dillon’s Rule”.

II. Historical Evolution of SD County Government, 1862-1942

Two general patterns for initial county creation:

a. In some territories (For example: Idaho and Montana) the initial county creation legislation established a relatively small number of large counties which, together, covered the entire state. These larger counties were gradually subdivided to create that state’s final county map.

b. Second pattern (Ex. South Dakota and North Dakota). County creation was less systematic and hinged on settlement patterns of Euro-Americans. Initially, counties were created only for those portions of the state with a significant level of white settlement. These counties didn’t necessarily cover the entire state. Many unsettled regions were simply part of no county, organized or otherwise, for a long while.
As the population of Dakota increased dramatically during the 1870s and 1880s, the number and level of organization of Dakota’s counties also increased significantly. First steps were taken in 1871 with the creation of 3 huge new counties occupying all of the formerly unorganized portions of Dakota Territory east of the Missouri River. Two years later these counties were replaced with a vast grid of over three dozen smaller counties, most of which did not organize local governments. This was the opposite west of the Missouri River. Anticipating that west-river settlement would eventually be as dense as east-river, several smaller counties were initially formed.

[SLIDE 2] In 1883, the legislature created 8 counties in what are now Butte, Harding and Perkins Counties. As the population growth didn’t meet expectations, all 8 were combined into a single large, Butte County by 1897 [SLIDE 3] which was later subdivided back into three counties. [SLIDE 4] East-river counties had all achieved their present boundaries by 1885. This did not occur until 1943 west-river. Slow growth in the western counties resulted in many of the counties only existing on paper until further settlement warranted organizing a county government or until they were dissolved into another county.

One of the interesting aspects of county creation in South Dakota was the names given to the newly formed counties. Most were simply named for
Territorial legislators involved with creating the county. Four were named for Territorial Governors – Edmunds, Faulk, Pennington, and Mellette. A few were also named for Territorial secretaries, Congressional delegates, and judges. The Civil War had a tremendous impact on those who created South Dakota Counties. Grant County formed in 1878 and named after General Ulysses Grant. Hamlin County formed in 1872 and named after Hannibal Hamlin, who was President Lincoln’s first Vice President. Meade and McPherson Counties were both named after Civil War Generals. Union County created in 1862 and named for the Union. So this tells us the Civil War obviously greatly impacted the people of this period. The obvious one, Lincoln County, was actually not named after President Lincoln but instead named for Lincoln County, Maine, the birthplace of Wilmont W. Brookings.

Prior to 1885, the law authorized the governor to appoint 3 commissioners to organize new counties as soon as he was satisfied there were at least 50 legal voters. This was often questionable as it was hard to determine what qualified a legal voter. An example was Sanborn County - When the railroad was constructed through the county, the workers were counted as legal voters because tracking the number of actual residents was so difficult. That law also authorized those three commissioners to appoint county officers and temporarily locate the county seat until a county-wide
vote could be held to determine the permanent county seat, which still didn’t always finalize the decision. Votes were often challenged and the courts, with a few exceptions, ultimately made the decision. In 1885, in order to limit the influence of the Governor upon the county creation process, the Legislature changed the process to require a countywide vote to determine if organization should occur. At the same election voters selected an interim slate of commissioners and the location of a temporary county seat.

III. Historical Patterns of SD Courthouse Construction, 1862-1942

1. Selection of County Seats – county seat fights

South Dakota settlers fully realized the importance of having the county seat as near to them as possible. The town chosen as county seat almost automatically became the county’s commercial and civic center. County residents knew they would need to make frequent trips to the county seat so they wanted that trip to be as short as possible. Permanence of a community on the frontier during the 1870s and 1880s was also no guarantee. While not the only way, the construction of a railroad and the designation as a county seat were two of the surest ways to ensure a town’s permanence on the prairie. Those individuals who were selling lots in a potential county-seat city were especially interested in making sure the vote
went their way because they were almost guaranteed a good price for the lots.

Because of the importance of this issue, county seat “wars” developed between competing communities. Governor Nehemiah G. Ordway, governor of South Dakota from 1880 to 1884, was very involved with the local debates over county seats. As I mentioned before, prior to 1885 the Governor had the power to appoint three commissioners who would then select the county seat. Cash often exchanged hands to help with the decision and to help ensure certain communities were chosen. The importance of being selected even as the initial temporary county seat cannot be overstated because this gave that community a head start on constructing a court house which then gave them a more legitimate argument to retain the county seat when it came to a county-wide vote.

Examples of Governor Ordway’s influence occurred in Sully, Potter, Sanborn, and Hyde Counties. [SLIDE 5] Sully County – Citizens of Onida felt confident they would be selected as the county seat when the county was organized in 1883. Ordway named the commissioners and they started to ask what incentives would be offered to select their community but Onida offered none so Clifton was chosen as the county seat. Election was held in 1884 with Onida winning 504 votes to Clifton’s 499. Clifton challenged the
election and decided to hold onto the records until it was decided by the courts. Onidans went to Clifton and took the safe and county records back to the Onida Hotel. Clifton residents went to Onida to take the records back but were met by a large mob. Onida civic leaders decided to let them have the records without violence, confident they would get them back through the courts, which they eventually did.

[SLIDE 6] Similar thing happened in Potter Co. between Forest City and Gettysburg. Gov. Ordway’s appointees picked Forest City even though Gettysburg was obviously more centrally located. Forest City requested a court order to protect the records but received it too late to keep them from being taken by angry Gettysburg residents who took them without waiting for a final court decision. The move was never challenged by Forest City after Gettysburg took the records.

[SLIDE 7] Spink County experienced a more dramatic county seat fight. On 10 Dec. 1884, Governor Ordway received a dispatch from the Mayor of Redfield stating that the county records were in the hands of the Sheriff and Redfield was besieged by an angry, armed mob of Ashton residents, angry because the records had been taken to Redfield. Governor sent the Mayor of Ashton a message: “Will not the citizens of Ashton retire to their homes and permit the law to take its course? It is much better so.
Please give me this assurance.” On Dec. 11th – Governor receives a reply from Ashton’s mayor saying his people were not armed and though mad were not thinking of attacking. In the mean time, the Governor had asked for the Militia to be dispatched to Redfield. Governor telegraphed Redfield saying he has assurance from Ashton that everything was fine. The Redfield Mayor still wanted the troops sent, however, just in case the mood shifted. Shots were fired in this particular dispute but no one was killed or injured. The troops arrived a few days later with no violence. The issue was settled by the courts without conflict.

Grant County War – Grant County also had a heated county seat war.

- Heated dispute between Milbank in Big Stone City in 1881.
- Accusations of voter fraud were thrown back and forth in the rival newspapers.
- [SLIDES 8-9] Ultimately, the district court ruled the canvass board was illegal and the count seat was moved to Milbank.

That was the case with most of the county seat disputes. Violence always seemed on the brink of erupting but cooler heads always prevailed. I could not find any record of anyone being injured or killed as a direct result of these disputes. Most were carried on in the middle of the night with residents sneaking over to the competing town and stealing records.
[SLIDE 10] Governor Ordway said in regard to county seat fights:

“The trouble in almost every instance grows out of the rivalry of two or more towns, each of which is determined to become a county seat. The passions of men are aroused … and excite animosities that will long outlive the trouble which inspired them, and finally lead to acts of lawlessness which disgrace the Territory and lay the promoters and participants liable to indictment for felony. [SLIDE 11] The law is stringent enough. Its energetic and even merciless enforcement in one or two cases as an example is what seems required.”

The same year Governor Ordway made this statement the Legislature apparently did not agree with him as they removed from the Governor the power of appointing interim commissioners and ultimately the temporary county seat and gave it to the local residents. A revised law stated a local vote would determine the temporary county seat and initial slate of commissioners. This was perhaps done in an effort to remove the outside influences stirring up these county-seat debates and let the locals decide for themselves.

Not all failed county seats turned to force to retain or take the county records. When the election didn’t go their way or looked like it wouldn’t go their way, a few simply decided to form their own counties. Example was
Day County – Webster v. Andover for county seat. In the fall of 1882, Webster was successful in a vote to become the county seat and quickly tried to build a courthouse in order to establish their claim as the permanent county seat but because of insufficient funds they failed to do so. Andover thus decided to pursue the county seat and had the support of the North and Southwest portions of the county, which at that time included Marshall County to the north. To split this coalition the town of Webster got the territorial legislature to pass a bill splitting the county in two, forming present Marshall Co. and Day Co. and thus taking away the support for Andover as the county seat. Webster retained the county seat within the new boundaries of Day County.

Similar to the Day/Marshall County split was the split between Sanborn and Miner Counties in 1882. Following Howard becoming the county seat of Sanborn County (which included Miner Co. at the time) over Forestburg, citizens in the western part of the county successfully petitioned the legislature to form a new county, present day Sanborn County. This didn’t settle the dispute, however. Letcher and Forestburg both had a separate slate of county commissioners they were claiming to be the official slate so Woonsocket took advantage of the split and became the county seat.
Another example was the Custer and Fall River Counties Split in 1882 – Custer County was split into 2 counties (Custer and Fall River Counties) after the city of Custer was selected as the county seat. This angered southern residents of the county who felt a trip to Custer to conduct business was too much of a hardship. They successfully petitioned Governor Ordway in getting Fall River Co. established with Hot Springs as the county seat.

**INFLUENCE OF THE RAILROADS**

Along with Governor Ordway, the railroads were also influential in determining a few county seats. Howard allegedly defeated Forestburg thanks to individuals working on the RR through the county at that time and who were more than happy to vote in exchange for some easy money and free drinks. And in Edmunds County there were 3 towns in the center of the county who all wanted to be the county seat. All were located near where Ipswich is now – Edmunds, Freeport, and Georgetown – and felt securing a railroad through their town would help their chances. The railroad came through and ignored all of them and platted Ipswich, which later absorbed the other 3 cities and became the county seat. The same thing happened in Brookings and Brown Counties as well. In Brookings County the town of Medary was the first county seat but the railroad built north through the site
of Brookings, causing Medary to dry up and Brookings to boom. Columbia in Brown County was the first county seat but when the railroad was building into the area the city wouldn’t donate land for the right-of-way and demanded that the railroad build a bridge. The railroad simply decided to plat a different community instead, and started Aberdeen, which like Brookings, boomed at the expense of Columbia.

The issue of railroad access also came up in the Charles Mix County seat fight. Wheeler had served as the county seat for several years but was never connected to the railroad. Lake Andes made this a point of contention during the election and after several unsuccessful attempts to move the county seat were finally successful in 1916.

2. Construction of Courthouse buildings

Within a matter of months after a county’s organization and the designation of a county seat, the commissioners were already making plans for the construction of a new building. Those responsible for the design and construction of the courthouse were generally very aware of the building’s local importance so they frequently tried to erect “landmark” buildings to embody the strength and future prospects of both the county and the county
seat. Existence of a substantial county courthouse helped establish a perception of the county as a permanent entity with local authority and worked to solidify the position of a community as the county seat. Although the scale and sophistication of the planned building varied according to the population and financial circumstances of the county, the new courthouse was almost always destined to be among the most imposing structures in the county seat and often in the entire county.

To begin the process, county voter’s needed to submit petitions requesting the commissioners issue bonds (this step was most likely just initiated and circulated by the commissioners.) Following receipt of the petition, and the vote of approval by county voters, commissioners had to find buyers for the building bonds and select a site. In Milbank, during their county seat battle with Big Stone City, money was raised prior to the election that would have gone toward construction costs of the courthouse. The newspaper did say the money would be returned if they lost, which they did not.

Courthouses were usually built on donated land – but other methods for obtaining land were used as well. Plankinton donated land for Aurora County. Moody Co. condemned several town lots to get land for its second courthouse site. Grant Co. built on land formally used as a city park. The
Milwaukee promised Milbank land for a courthouse if they were successful in being chosen the county seat over Big Stone City.

Nearly all SD courthouses were architect-designed and chosen through a competitive bidding process (which means possibly somewhere there are plans for courthouses that were never built). Nearly a dozen east river counties built their 1st courthouse between 1883 and 1885.

IV. Architectural Evolution of SD Courthouse Design, 1862-1940

So once the county was organized, the county seat determined, the petitions received, the bonds issued, and the site selected, came the fun task of actually building the courthouse. For most counties, erecting a courthouse was one of the earliest priorities upon organization. Especially for those towns that were able to win a county seat election, quickly getting a courthouse built was very important to give the impression that decision is now final. The architectural design of South Dakota courthouses had a noticeable evolution over nearly a century that followed the development of the respective county.

1. Wood-frame vernacular designs (c.1862 – c.1915)
South Dakota counties during this period were basically infants. Most simply did not have much money yet and county populations were minimal. Because of this, the earliest courthouses were usually small, simple buildings either rented or purchased by the County to provide immediate but temporary space for government offices and storage space. The first Haakon, McCook, and Gregory County Courthouses were all wooden structures that had previously been used as school houses. The first Jones County Courthouse was actually in the basement of the local Congregational Church. Marshall County Commissioners worked out of various Main Street Britton buildings and the old Arlington Hotel in Britton until 1906. The first Butte County commissioners worked out of their own homes. Those constructed during this period were done so with wood to expedite construction at a cheaper cost. Most were designed locally by non-professionals. Here is an example from Buffalo County in Gann Valley, SD. This building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places but was demolished in 2007. After the battle for the Grant County seat was settled between Milbank and Big Stone City, a two-story wood-frame courthouse was built in Milbank for $4,000. It was destroyed by fire in 1895.” In 1913, the City of McIntosh provided Corson County with a wood-frame courthouse free of charge.
It was expanded in 1920 and 1934 and served the County until 2006 when it was destroyed by fire.

This category generally represents the first courthouse constructed, rented, or used in a newly organized county. Many were quickly replaced because of lack of space and concerns over flammability and losing irreplaceable records. This did occur in Grant County on July 30, 1895 and in Hanson County in 1901. Almost none of these buildings continue in their historic role. Several other examples are still extant but not used for government.

2. 19th-Century Eclecticism (c.1880 – c.1905)

[SLIDE 16] Another period of courthouses design emerged beginning in 1880 as most of the east-river counties were being formed. The courthouses constructed over the next quarter century following 1880 generally reflected an eclectic combination of visual elements rather than features characterizing a single style of formal architecture. In most cases these courthouses were a County’s first large, architecturally significant courthouse. The population across South Dakota began to expand rapidly as part of the Dakota Boom. This was also the period of most of South Dakota’s county seat fights. Consequently, many were constructed to
convey a greater sense of authority than the previous simple wood-frame buildings had done but also constructed rapidly before another community could challenge it for the county seat.  [SLIDE 17] One method of construction for courthouses during this period was timber framing with a soft brick veneer. This allowed for a cheaper method than a complete masonry building but it did restrict the longevity of these courthouses so many were replaced in the early 20th century with masonry buildings. The Hand County Courthouse that served from 1889 to 1927 is an example of this construction.

Many of these late 19th-century courthouses displayed a high level of architectural detail to convey that sense of permanence and authority. Italianate elements were common – simple rectangular massing, wide, bracketed eaves, a low roof, and strong symmetry.  [SLIDE 18] An example of a courthouse with Italianate detailing is the old Hughes County Courthouses. It has the wide bracketed eaves, tall, narrow windows, and a symmetrical façade.  [SLIDE 19] The old Moody County Courthouse (which is now the Masonic Temple in Flandreau) is an existing example of an eclectic courthouse. It has decorative trusses in the gables that are a feature of the Stick style but also has Italianate windows (tall, narrow windows, decorative hoods above them).
The second Hyde County Courthouse had a mansard roof with dormer windows, eaves with decorative brackets, and tall narrow arched windows indicative of the Second Empire style. Many courthouses constructed during this period also had Queen Anne, Italianate, or Romanesque elements and a prominent tower or cupola. Examples, respectively, include the first Hyde County Courthouse [SLIDE 21], and courthouses in Kingsbury [SLIDE 22] and Lincoln [SLIDE 23] Counties. The Richardsonian Romanesque style [SLIDE 24] was nationally popular during this period but few were actually constructed in South Dakota. One example is the former Minnehaha Co. Courthouse, now a museum, built in 1890, shown here. Its features common to the Richardsonian Romanesque style include massive Quartzite walls, rounded arches, and a tower (this one happens to be a 150-foot clock tower).

Interiors and primarily the arrangement of functions within courthouses from this period became standardized. Basements were used for storage vaults, furnace rooms, and occasionally jails. The first floor was largely used for offices for the Register of Deeds, the Treasurer, and the Auditor, while the second floor was used for judicial purposes.

Other examples of courthouses constructed during this period include [SLIDE 25] Hutchinson, Custer County and Fall River County. Shown here
[SLIDE 26] is a historic photo of Custer County as it originally looked.

[SLIDE 27] Here is how the building looks today. The wings on the sides were added in 1915. [SLIDE 28] Fall River County today [SLIDE 29] and Fall River County as it used to look. Hutchinson and Fall River are both still used as courthouses. Minnehaha County is now a museum.

3. 20th-Century Classicism (c.1905 – c.1930)

[SLIDE 30] Following the turn of the twentieth century until the Great Depression of the 1930s, county courthouses in South Dakota and across the country took on another distinctive design. National trends shifted from Romantic and Victorian era designs, such as Italianate, Queen Anne, Second Empire, etc., and shifted toward more classical designs. One reason for this is that many counties were now more established and increased prosperity and cultural stability suggested the ability of counties to bond for and finance significantly larger buildings. One of the main classical elements found in many of these courthouses was columns, which served to reinforce the building’s image as a center of government. Many were also often constructed with limestone and concrete.

Several different individual classical styles are represented in South Dakota courthouses from this period. The first is neoclassical. Neoclassical
buildings are generally multi-story, rectangular, symmetrical structures. Most were constructed with smooth-cut ashlar stone and the primary feature was a monumental portico or entry bay centered on the façade with classical columns.  [SLIDE 31] One example of this style is the Codington County Courthouse in Watertown. Notice the rectangular plan with three stories, the symmetrical façade, and a centered portico with columns.  [SLIDE 32] Another example is the Hamlin County Courthouse. It too has a rectangular plan with three stories, a symmetrical façade, and the columns centered on the façade. More examples include the [SLIDE 33] Douglas County Courthouse, and the [SLIDE 34] Moody County Courthouse.

Another similar style of this period is Renaissance Revival. These courthouses featured window crowns, pilasters, complex facades and rooflines, and enlivened plain walls, which is just a fancy way of saying there is a lot of decoration on the wall. Another key feature added to the Renaissance Revival style for courthouses was the dome or tower. Renaissance Revival examples include Brown, Brookings (constructed with limestone), and Lawrence Counties. The Brown County Courthouse shown here [SLIDE 35-36] includes the two-story columns supporting a pediment, window crowns with keystones on third story, and window pediments on the second story. Also notice the balustrade along the roofline and the large
dome/clock tower. [SLIDE 37-38] The Brookings County Courthouse also has the characteristic columns and dome, as does the [SLIDE 39] Lawrence County Courthouse, the [SLIDE 40] Sully County Courthouse, and the Marshall County Courthouse [SLIDE 41].

A third style was known as Beaux Arts. These buildings were often the most ornate buildings found in South Dakota. They included visual and textural details similar to the Renaissance Revival, but also contained other elements like terra-cotta garlands or shields, rusticated wall surfaces, and several other exterior ornaments. [SLIDE 42] An example of this style is the Pennington County Courthouse. Characteristics of the Beaux Arts style includes paired columns, a balustrade, shorter attic story, decorative features along the cornice and door. [SLIDE 43] The Bon Homme County Courthouse is another example of this style.

The predominant interior feature of these Classical courthouses was a two or more story central lobby or rotunda area that was heavily detailed. It also often had an interior dome or skylight. Several courthouses have this feature. Some examples are [SLIDE 44] Deuel County, [SLIDE 45] Grant County, [SLIDE 46] Lawrence County, and [SLIDE 47] Bon Homme County. Many courthouses from this period also adopted cruciform interior plans and show the trend of public interior spaces becoming more and more
ornate and monumental. [SLIDE 48] For example, the Pennington and [SLIDE 49] Sully County Courthouses have classical columns in their interiors as well as their exteriors. [SLIDE 50-51] The Codington County Courthouse, for example, has a very ornate interior with the dome and other decoration. Other interior decorative elements included marble or faux marble floors and walls, such as the [SLIDE 52] Hamlin County Courthouse, small alcoves for statuary, such as in the [SLIDE 53] Moody County Courthouse, and other interior areas intended for murals, like [SLIDE 54] Lawrence and [SLIDE 55] Pennington Counties.

4. Prairie, Art Deco and Moderne Designs (c.1917 – 1940)

[SLIDE 56] The era of architectural modernism began just before the 1920s. [SLIDE 57] Not all courthouses built during this period were ornate, monumental pieces of architecture. The Jones County Courthouse built in 1917 was much simpler and echoed the Prairie Style much closer than it did any classical styles, though it is still not a good example of this style. The Prairie style generally had two stories, details emphasizing horizontal lines, massive square porch supports.
The Charles Mix County Courthouse was one of the most unique from this period. This Prairie style courthouse is one of the most significant examples of this style in the state. It features a central portion above flanking wings, horizontal lines, and horizontal bands of windows. William L. Steele who designed the building, was a former employee of world-famous architect, Louis Sullivan. The ornamentation at the top of the narrow pilasters or engaged columns reflects Sullivan’s influence.

In the mid-1930s, a new wave of architectural modernism affected courthouse design. This period was characterized by two predominant styles: Art Deco and PWA Moderne. Many courthouses constructed during this period used some kind of federal assistance from one or more of President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal Programs. One such program that helped finance the construction of many public buildings and structures, including courthouses, was the PWA (Public Works Administration, later known as the WPA – Works Progress Administration). It helped fund construction of several public buildings across the country during the 1930s as part of FDR’s efforts to revive the nation’s economy. The buildings and structures constructed included auditoriums, band shells, post offices, ball parks, picnic shelters, and courthouses.
There were 9 PWA-financed courthouses constructed in South Dakota during this period. Examples include: [SLIDE 59] Hughes County (1933), [SLIDE 60] Clark County (1935), [SLIDE 61] Lake County (1935), [SLIDE 62] McCook County (1934), [SLIDE 63] Miner County (1936), [SLIDE 64] Davison County (1937), [SLIDE 65] Aurora County (1939), and [SLIDE 66] Edmunds County (1934). Some of these courthouses and several other public buildings, especially federal buildings, also include artwork and sculptures that were financed through similar programs.

The Art Deco style featured smooth wall surfaces (often concrete), low-relief geometric ornamentation, and projecting vertical wall elements that gave the building an obvious vertical emphasis. [SLIDE 67] One of the best examples of the Art Deco style in the state is the Jerauld County Courthouse in Wessington Springs. Notice the smooth wall surface, the vertical lines giving the building a vertical emphasis, and the geometric elements, or chevrons, above the building’s pilasters. [SLIDE 68] Another example is the Aurora County Courthouse in Plankinton. It too has smooth wall surfaces, vertical lines, and geometric features along the roofline. Both the demolition of the old Aurora County Courthouse and the construction of the new Art Deco courthouse were federal relief projects through the WPA.
Another example of the Art Deco style is the Davison County Courthouse.

Often geometric patterns that decorated the building’s exterior were also used in its interior. Here is a photo of the Jerauld County Courthouse’s interior detailing that shows the applied geometric patterns.

Also you can see how the geometric patterns are used in the Davison County Courthouse’s interior, and applied to this Miner County Courthouse handrail. Here is another common New Deal project. This mural inside the Davison County Courthouse was painted by Bill Lackey. Many of these murals often depicted various aspects of a County’s local history, such as mining in Pennington County.

Because of the financial limitations imposed by the Great Depression, the Moderne style was generally less ornate and less monumental than earlier courthouses. Moderne style emphasized horizontal rather than vertical lines like the Art Deco style did. It also featured smooth wall surfaces and rounded corners where possible. Heavily detailed rotunda/lobbies vanished in this design and were replaced with either a cruciform or L-shaped arrangement of hallways. Overall, this style had very few decorative elements. There are few if any courthouses of this style in
South Dakota. [SLIDE 76] The Miner County Courthouse, shown here, does feature a mixture of Art Deco and Moderne elements with the horizontal lines across the first floor and the decorative panel across the windows. It still is closer to Art Deco, however, than Moderne.

5. Courthouses: Midcentury to Recent

[SLIDE 77] World War II interrupted courthouse construction in South Dakota. Following 1940 there was a 19-year period where no new courthouses were constructed in South Dakota. Those built after 1957 and today tend to be built purely for function with little to no decorative details. Some examples include [SLIDE 78] the Brule County Courthouse, built in 1957-58; [SLIDE 79] the Day County Courthouse, constructed 1963-64; [SLIDE 80] the Buffalo County Courthouse, built in 1978-79; and [SLIDE 81] the Harding County Courthouse, constructed 1996-97.

6. Any Questions? – [SLIDE 82]