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Thesis Presentation
The Big Question

- How can LA be used to preserve and protect historically significant places?
  - Work with the National Register of Historic Places to determine which places are culturally significant to an area then coordinate preservation efforts.
  - Use existing guidelines detailed by the National Parks Service as well as create new ones to design from. Either during or after preservation take a look at how a preserved site should be used or treated to be able to maintain the conditions.
  - Preserving the buildings and landmarks of an area can preserve the culture of an area which can preserve the knowledge of how a group of people came to use the area.
Social and Environmental Conditions

• From:
  - It was common to see a horse or oxen drawn plow farming across Western North Dakota in the early 1900’s. Tractors were often very expensive though several families might pool their money to buy one to make farming easier.

• To: Site Picture
  - Farming was very difficult in the clay soil and the lack of water often led to unsuccessful farms. Many people found it more fiscally responsible to turn the land into ranching cattle instead of farming crops.
  - Many people found out very quickly the difficulties of growing crops in western North Dakota and either abandoned their homestead or paid for it instead of living on it and improving it for five years.
  - The properties that were abandoned were often bought up and sold to large scale ranchers who used the land to raise cattle and other farm animals.
Theoretical Premise Relevance

- Phenomena of Weathering and Exposure
  - This site has been virtually untouched for over 50 years and because of the lack of upkeep certain aspects of phenomena have been exposed like weathering.
  - The roof slats have fallen apart, the ground around the base of the building has washed away exposing the rock underneath, and the siding has fallen off exposing the interior make up of the walls which has also be eroded away.
  - This homestead was exposed to the elements and this exposure wasn’t typical among homesteads making this site unique. Typically homes were built into hillsides or in low spots on the property, this one was built on top of a hill.
Theoretical Premise Relevance

- **Phenomenology of Place:**
  - By using this I can create experiences for the person in the space therefore allowing that person to think deeper into what this space is all about and what their experience means to the cultural significance of the site as a whole.
  - By being able to come up with deeper meanings as to why a site is the way it is and what its significance means to the whole, can help to explain culture and create an understanding of why something was done the way it was done.

- **Determinism**
  - Environmental determinism, I believe, is why the site looks the way it does. The original builder chose to use what he had on the site to build his home.
  - There are many different types of homestead building styles all throughout western North Dakota and this style made the most sense given the materials he was able to work with.

- **Relevance?**
  - Landscape Architecture is directly related to phenomenology and creating spaces. Though determinism is not directly related to a specific portion of Landscape Architecture in this instance it is directly related to my site and other sites that might be preserved.
The rain and the wind are two of the most significant factors as to why this site has deteriorated the way it has. The wind rips at the exposed parts of the building making it one of the first points repair.

The Image below is of the actual homestead property as it was applied for in 1913
Analysis of the Site: Important Pieces

- The top picture is one of the former barn or granary that sat on the site. Though there are no pictures of it available it was built of the same construction based off the personal accounts of neighbors listed in the original homestead patent files.

- The second picture is of an old tractor. This is a cultural artifact and since they were expensive it was possible that this tractor was used to help the neighbors farm as well.

- The third picture looks to be a worn down area of land but based on the method of construction it was most likely where the Gregory’s got the clay and mud to create the inner insulation of the building.

- The final picture is of the fencing. This was common at the time to place fencing around areas that you wanted to keep animals out or in. This is important to keep because it shows where the personal area of the property was.
Analysis of the Site: Important Pieces

Protect and Maintain

Gregory Homestead
Hutmacher Homestead
Montgomery Homestead in Arizona

Repair

Gregory Homestead
Hutmacher Homestead
Johns Homestead in Georgia
Where I will go

- Restore the building and surrounding area
  - Create signage to explain what is going on at a specific time during the restoration process. This signage can help to educate the viewer about this type of building construction as well as teach them about the type of living these people went through to settle the land.
  - Provide contacts if the person wants to become involved with the restoration process. Work with school groups interested in learning about turn of the century homestead building styles so they can get hands on experience of what the Gregory family did to build their home.
Where I will go?

• Create day trips from Medora after restoration is complete
  - Use this site in conjunction with the Hutmacher homestead, the Svhovec homesteads, and several other cultural relics of western North Dakota, day trips can be taken of either Czechoslovakian or Ukrainian homesteading history.
  - Work with the National Register of Historic Places and North Dakota Tourism to make these trips more easily accessed to those thinking of taking this type of trip.

• Day 1
  - Start Medora
  - Gregory Homestead
  - Old Grassy Butte Post Office
  - Hutmacher Homestead
  - Prairie Outpost Park
  - Ukrainian Cultural Institute
  - End Medora ≈ 140 miles roundtrip

• Day 2
  - Start Medora
  - Enchanted Highway
  - Hettinger County Historical Society
  - Gary Greff’s old home
  - Emil Svhovec Homestead and monument to the family
  - Additional Svhovec Homestead
  - End Medora ≈ 170 miles roundtrip

Google Earth Map