



September 27, 2021

Mark Jenniges
City of Mitchell
612 N Main Street
Mitchell SD 57301

RE: SDCL 1-19A-11.1 Consultation

Project: 210816004S – Dakota Wesleyan University – Demolition of Science Hall and Music Hall
Location: Davison County
(COM)

Dear Mr. Jenniges:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to SDCL 1-19A-11.1. The South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) would like to provide the following comments concerning effect of the proposed project on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota.

On September 20, 2021, the SHPO received notification of the above-referenced project to demolish two buildings, Science Hall and Music Hall, on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell. Science Hall and Music Hall are the only remaining historic structures at Dakota Wesleyan University, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. SDCL 1-19A-11.1 outlines a specific process that must be followed prior to any governmental action that may harm any historic property that is included in the National or State Registers of Historic Places.

Demolition of these historic properties will encroach upon, damage or destroy a historic property National and State Registers of Historic Places. Therefore, our office has initiated an investigation to determine whether the proposed project has considered all feasible and prudent alternatives to demolition of the historic properties. In order to expedite our review, please provide an abbreviated Case Report consisting of items 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10 consistent with ARSD Article 24:52:07:03. For item #10, please have the Mitchell Historic Preservation Commission review and comment on the abbreviated case report within 180 days of receipt prior to submittal to SHPO.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact, please contact Heather Mulliner at heather.mulliner@state.sd.us or (605) 773-6005. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ted M. Spencer
State Historic Preservation Officer


Heather Mulliner
Historic Preservation Specialist