

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
**South Dakota**

COUNTY:  
**Clay**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
**NOV 19 1974**

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Spirit Mound (PAHA WAKAN)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *N of Vermillion Hwy SD 19*  
**Section 14--Spirit Mound Township**

CITY OR TOWN: *Vermillion wis.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **No. 1**

STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046** COUNTY: **Clay** CODE: **027**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Pasturage</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Ernest Schmidt**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Rural Route 3**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Clay County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Register of Historic Sites**

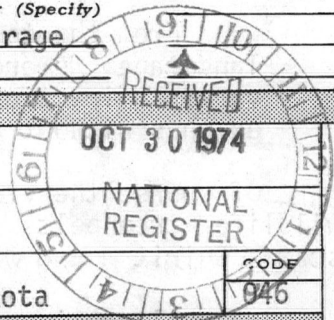
DATE OF SURVEY: **1972**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Clay County Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 160**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY NUMBER: **NOV 19 1974**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The hills constituting Turkey Ridge which include Spirit Mound were originally carved by streams which flowed through the region before ice covered it. The ice sheets overrode them, rounding off the sharper corners and extending their elongated shapes. This action is well shown on Spirit Mound at the southern end of Turkey Ridge.

The historical appearance of Spirit Mound is best described through the eyes of Lewis and Clark:

This Mound is situated on an elevated plain in a level and extensive prairie. . . , the base of the Mound is a regular parallelogram, the long side of which is about 300 yards in length, the shorter, 60 or 70 yards, From the longer side of the base it rises from the North and South with a steep ascent to the height of 65 or 70 feet, leaving a level plain on the top of 12 feet in width and 90 in length. The North and South part of this Mound is joined by two regular rises, each in oval forms of half its height, forming three regular rises from the plain. The ascent of each elevated part is as sudden as the principal Mound at the narrower side of its Base.

From the top of this Mound we beheld a most beautiful landscape; Numerous herds of buffalo were seen feeding in various direction; the Plain to the North N.W. and N.E. extends without interruption as far as can be seen.

Of course the view has been altered considerably due to vanished wildlife, tree belts, power lines, etc.; but if preserved in its present state, Spirit Mound would appear much as Lewis and Clark left it.

Natural erosion, a cattle lot, and the location of a pit silo on the west side have been the only factors altering Spirit Mound's appearance.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

August 25, 1804

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>exploration</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In August of 1804, the Lewis and Clark party camped on the Missouri's south bank near the mouth of White Stone Creek. Clark reported that across the river to the north they could see a conical hill and he related its spiritual background:

In a northerley derection from the Mouth of this Creek in an emence Plain a high Hill is situated, and appears of a Conic form, and by the different nations of Indians in this quarter is Suppose to be the residence of Deavels. That they are in human form with remarkable large heads, and about 18 Inches high, that they are very watchful and are arm'd with Sharp arrows with which they Can Kill at a great distance; they are Said to kill all persons who are So hardy as to attempt to approach the hill; they State that tradition informs them that many Indians have Suffered by these little people, and among others three MAHAR Men fell a sacrefise to their murceless fury not many Years Sence. So Much do the Maha [Omaha], Soues [Sioux], Ottoes [Otoes] and other neighboring nations believe this fable, that no Consideration is Suffecient to induce them to approach the hill. (DeVoto, 22)

The following morning, Saturday, August 25, Clark, Captain Lewis, and several of their men walked the nine miles to Spirit Mound. They discovered its inhabitants to be a great number of birds and insects driven to the hill's lee side by the prairie winds. Climbing the summit they surveyed the surrounding country and returned to the river. As to the spirit legend Clark speculated:

One evidence which the Inds give for believeing this place to be the residence of some unusial Spirits is that they frequently discover a large assemblage of Birds about this Mound is in my opinion a Sufficent proof to produce in the Savage Mind a Confident belief of all the properties which they ascribe it. (DeVoto, 24)

No archeologic discoveries have been made on Spirit Mound. Its significance lies in the hill's association with Lewis and Clark. The many

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thwaites, R. G. (ed.) ORIGINAL JOURNALS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION, 1804-1806, New York.  
 DeVote, Bernard. THE JOURNALS OF LEWIS AND CLARK. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1953.  
 TOUR GUIDE, RURAL CLAY COUNTY. South Dakota, 1971.  
 ANTIQUARIAN PRESS. 1959, I, 121-123.  
 AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN. September, 1891. 289.  
 REGISTER OF HISTORIC SITES IN CLAY COUNTY. South Dakota, 1972.

HR  
 NE  
 14/667130  
 4749400  
 SE  
 14/667130  
 4748200  
 SW

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

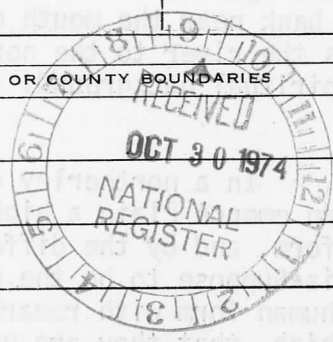
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	42°	52'	51"	96°	57'	48"			
NE	42°	52'	51"	96°	57'	12"			
SE	42°	52'	13"	96°	57'	12"			
SW	42°	52'	13"	96°	57'	48"			

14/666320  
 4748180  
 NW  
 14/666290  
 4749390

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 240 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Lloyd R. Moses**

ORGANIZATION: **Clay County Historical Society** DATE: **12/2/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**116 N. Harvard**

CITY OR TOWN: **Vermillion** STATE: **South Dakota** CODE: **046**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: James E. Gillihan  
 Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 10-10-74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/19/74

ATTEST:  
Charles H. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.15.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Dakota	
COUNTY Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 19 1974

(Number all entries)

Significance--Page 2

dams along the river have inundated the majority of their campsites and council sites. Spirit Mound is one of the few remaining physical features on the Upper Missouri readily identifiable as a place the explorers visited and recorded.



PROPERTY *Spirit Mound*

STATE *S. D.*

*Clay*

WORKING NUMBER *10.30.74.1829.*

*78002544*

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS *1*

MAPS *2 USMS*

CONTROL REVIEW

*OK*  
*cm*  
*11.4.*  
*74*

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept*  
*LEBOVICZ*  
*11-11-74*

ARCHEOLOGIST

*Accept*  
*M. Baum*  
*8 Nov 74*

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept*  
*Cole*  
*11/11/74*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*Accept*  
*for Mullaugh*  
*11.15.74*

National Register Write-up *2-75*

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry *2-4-75*

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered **NOV 19 1974**



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE South Dakota	
COUNTY Clay	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 19 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Spirit Mound

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Section 14--Spirit Mound Township

CITY OR TOWN:

-----

STATE:

South Dakota

CODE

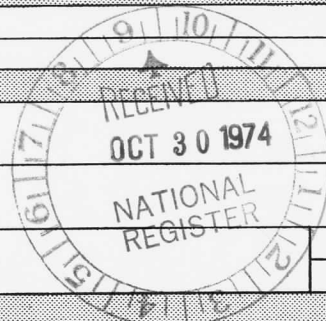
046

COUNTY:

Clay

CODE

027



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

John Derby

DATE OF PHOTO:

Summer, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Historical Preservation Center, USD Alumni House, Vermillion, SD 57069

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Spirit Mound from the West.

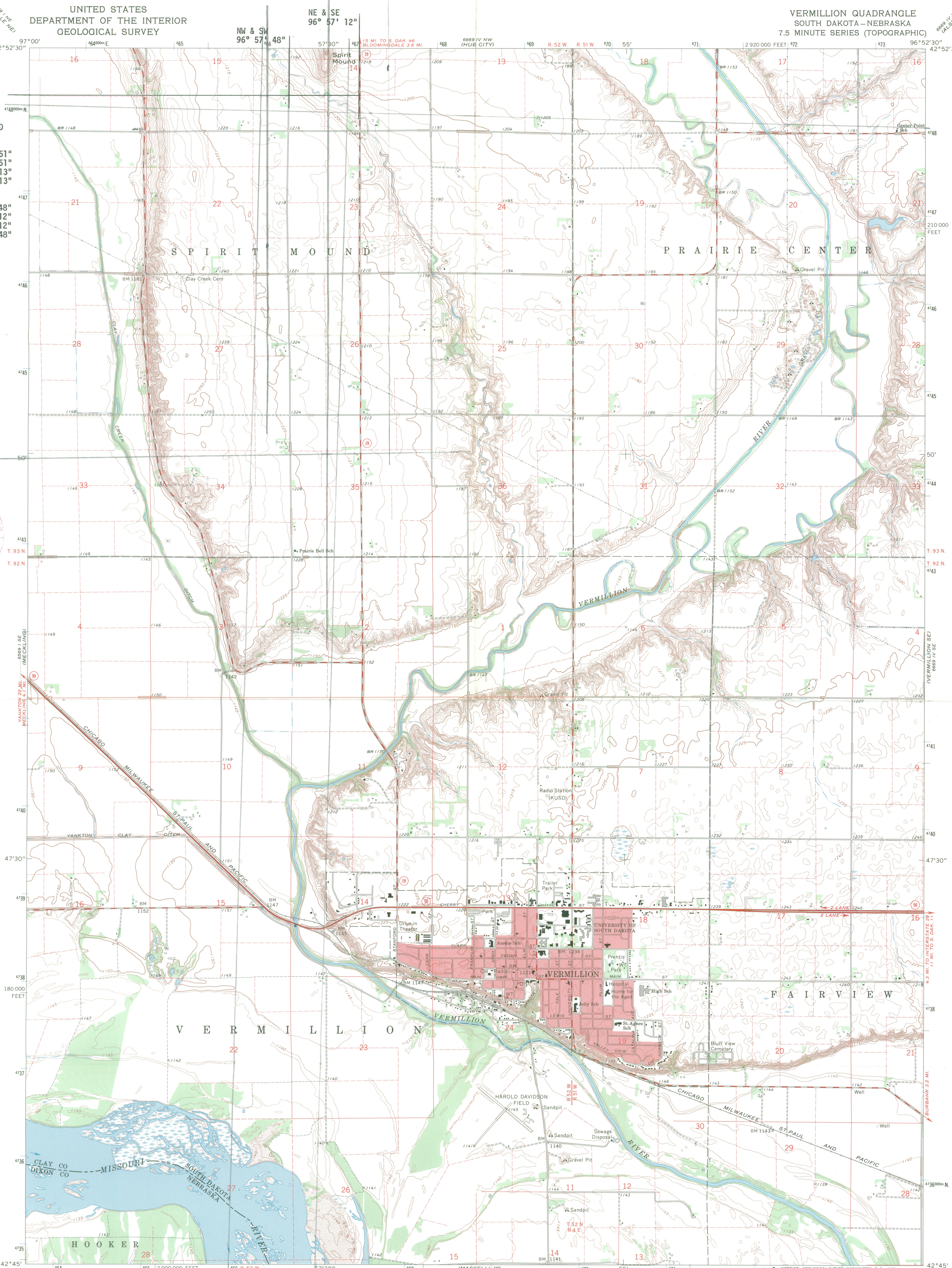


SW & SE  
42° 52' 13"

SPIRIT MOUND

Latitude  
NW 42° 52' 51"  
NE 42° 52' 51"  
SE 42° 52' 13"  
SW 42° 52' 13"

Longitude  
NW 96° 57' 48"  
NE 96° 57' 12"  
SE 96° 57' 12"  
SW 96° 57' 48"



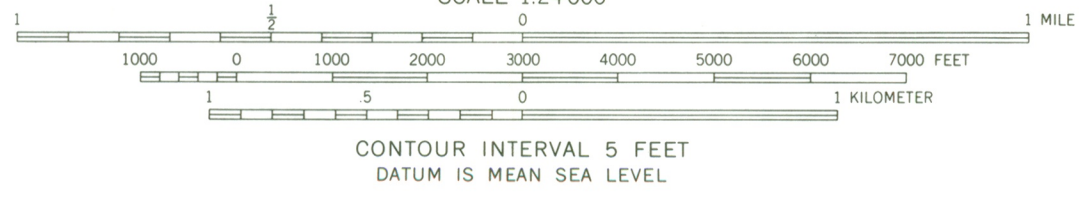
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on South Dakota coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

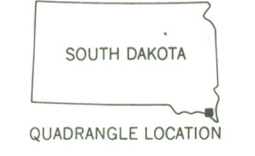
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

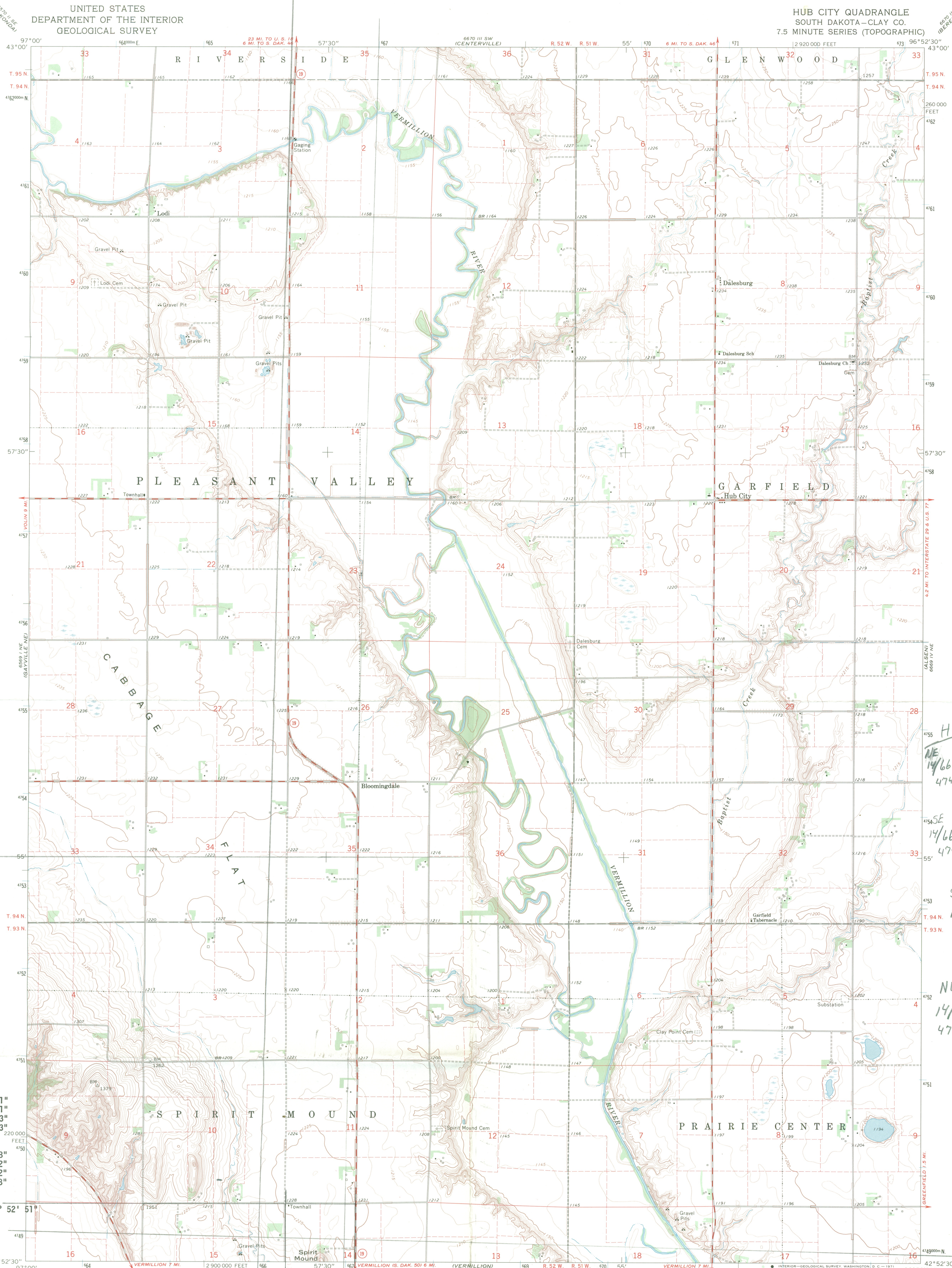
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

State Route



VERMILLION, S. DAK. - NEBR.  
N4245-W9652.5/7.5  
1969

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



**SPIRIT MOUND**  
Latitude  
NW 42° 52' 51"  
NE 42° 52' 51"  
SE 42° 52' 13"  
SW 42° 52' 13"  
Longitude  
NW 96° 57' 48"  
NE 96° 57' 12"  
SE 96° 57' 12"  
SW 96° 57' 48"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin. Control by USGS and USC&GS. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on South Dakota coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue. Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked.

SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**  
Secondary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather, hard surface improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
State Route



HUB CITY, S. DAK.  
N4252.5-W9652.5/7.5  
1969  
AMS 6669 IV NW—SERIES V873



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE <b>South Dakota</b>	
COUNTY <b>Clay</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>NOV 19 1974</b>	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Spirit Mound**  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**9 miles north, 1 mile west of Vermillion, SD on Hwy. 19**  
CITY OR TOWN:  
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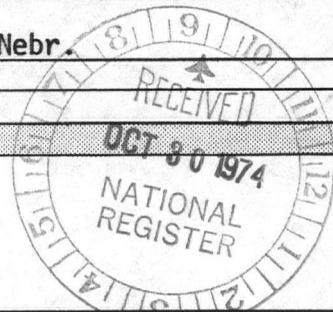
STATE: <b>South Dakota</b>	CODE <b>046</b>	COUNTY: <b>Clay</b>	CODE <b>027</b>
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
**USGS Hub City, S. Dak. and Vermillion, S. Dak.-Nebr.**  
SCALE: **1:24,000**  
DATE: **1969**

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE SOUTH DAKOTA

Date Entered NOV 19 1974

Name

Location

Spirit Mound (Paha Wakan)

Spirit Mound Township  
Clay County

Hon. George McGovern  
Hon. James G. Abourezk  
Hon. Frank E. Denholm

Also Notified

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. James E. Gillihan  
Cultural Preservation Director  
Department of Education and Cultural  
Affairs  
Office of Cultural Preservation  
State Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota

Regional Director, Rocky Mountain  
Region

PR MMott/dyw 12/11/74