



Step back in time as you learn more about what life was like in rural USA.

Experience a self-guided walking tour of our historic building sponsored by the Geddes Historical Society

Hope you enjoy your time here and take home some memories of days gone by.



WELCOME TO THE

Historical Village

We invite you to consider making a donation; your support is invaluable in helping us keep the Historical Village operational and beautiful.

Geddes Historical Society
PO Box 132
Geddes, SD 57342

If you have questions or would like more information about our great town please contact
Ron Dufek: 605-680-4028



GEDDES, SD

2. PETER NORBECK'S BOYHOOD HOME

This is the boyhood home of Peter Norbeck, South Dakota's 9th Governor. During his term, beginning in 1917, he was instrumental in designing the state's highway system and bringing electricity to rural areas. He also personally raised the initial funds to start the Mount Rushmore project.



3. PAPINEAU'S TRADING POST

This trading post was built in 1857. History has passed down the saying that this was the first commercial building erected in the South Dakota Territory. Cuthbert Ducharme, better known as Papineau, operated the post, buying and selling animal furs. Because the trading post was situated near the Missouri River, steamboats could easily drop off supplies and pick up goods for delivery to eastern markets.



1. WNAX BUILDING

Known as a "fair price" gas station, WNAX offered customers a windshield wash and an engine oil check with every gas purchase in the 1950s, when gas cost 27–29 cents per gallon. The company traces its roots to the owners of the WNAX Radio station in Yankton, SD, and had expanded to over 500 stations by the early 1930s.

4. RED, WHITE AND BLUE SCHOOL HOUSE

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, roughly 5,000 one-room schoolhouses operated across the Dakota Territory. A singular teacher instructed all eight grades, often managing 20 to 40 students simultaneously. The yearly salary for a school teacher ranged narrowly from \$32.00 to \$48.00. Reflecting their deep American pride, early settlers painted this school building in the colors of the flag: red, white, and blue.



5. CLAIM SHANTY

The Homestead Act offered United States citizens the chance to claim 160 acres of land upon meeting the five-year residency requirement. Early settlers initially constructed a one-room structure, using wood or sod, for their basic needs until they could legally secure the property. This specific Claim Shanty was built by Charles and James Phillips in approximately 1883. Charles occupied the shanty for his whole life, remaining there until his death at age 82.