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November 1994

# Heritage Center Location Reconnaissance Study

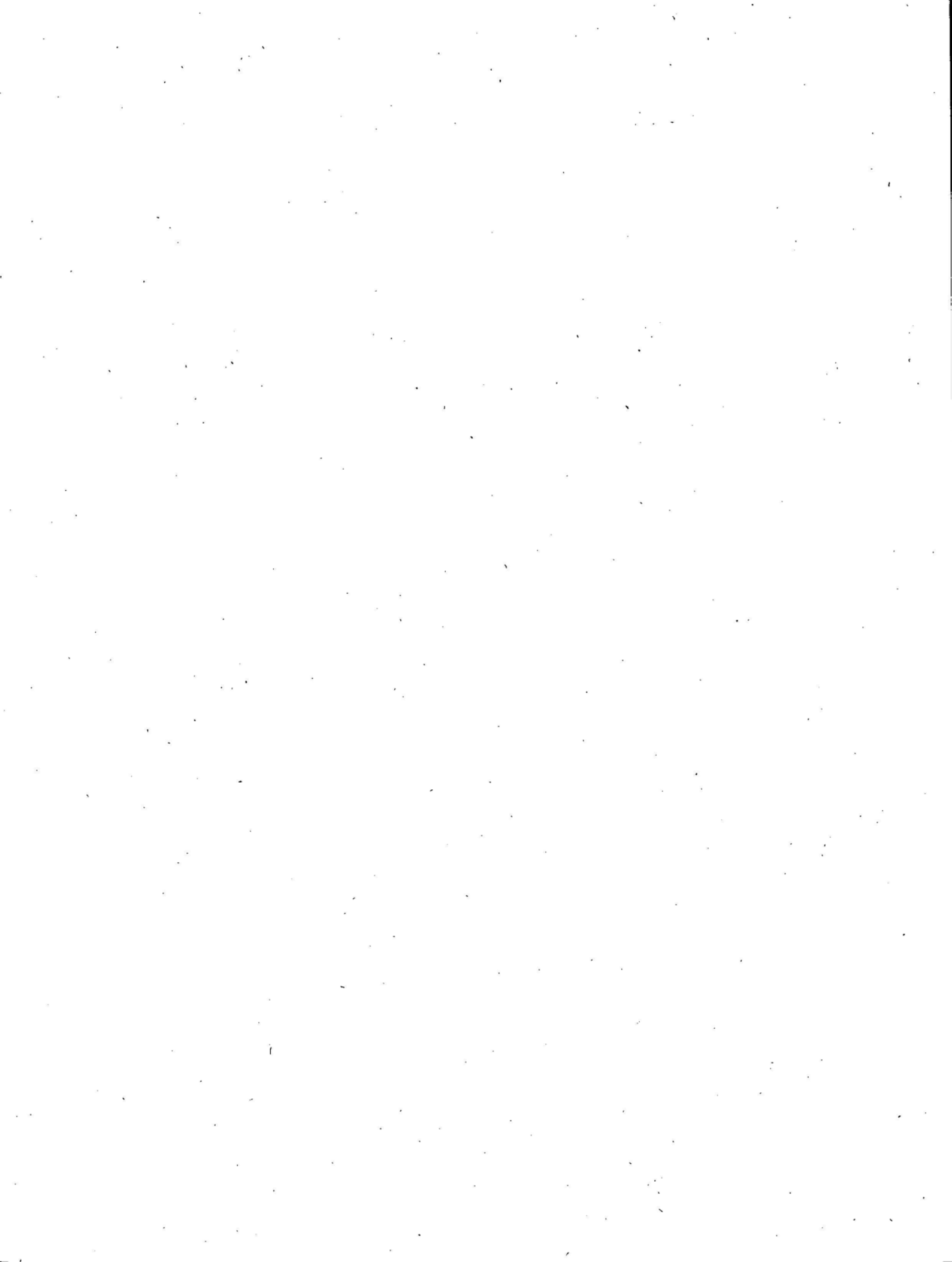


for Oglala Lakota  
Pine Ridge Reservation • South Dakota

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Recommended: Alex White Plume 11/8/94  
Alex White Plume  
Executive Director,  
Oglala Parks & Recreation Authority Date

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Edgar Fire Thunder  
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Oglala Parks & Recreation Authority Date

Prepared by staff the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region in cooperation with the Oglala Parks and Recreation Authority

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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SUMMARY .....	iii
PURPOSE OF THE STUDY .....	3
STUDY BACKGROUND .....	3
Oglala Sioux Parks & Recreation Authority .....	3
National Park Service .....	4
STUDY PROCESS .....	4
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE	
Tunkasila Tawoihanble .....	6
My Grandfather's Dream .....	7
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES .....	8
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS .....	8
SITE EVALUATION .....	9
GENERAL CONCEPTS .....	9
SITE A .....	12
SITE B .....	14
SITE C .....	16
SITE D .....	18
SITE E .....	20
SITE F .....	22
OTHER FACTORS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS .....	24
NEXT STEP .....	24
ESTIMATED COSTS .....	25
LIST OF PREPARERS .....	33
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	35

APPENDICES

Appendix A -	
Correspondence .....	37
Appendix B -	
Resource Information .....	41

MAPS

Region Map .....	1
Location Map - Heritage Center Sites .....	2
Concept for Site A .....	13
Concept for Site B .....	15
Concept for Site C .....	17
Concept for Site D .....	19
Concept for Site E .....	21
Concept for Site F .....	23

TABLES

Table 1 - Site Screening Criteria .....	10
Table 2 - Estimated Costs .....	26

ART WORK

Courtesy of Oglala Lakota College .....	Cover, 11
Mahpiya Not Afraid, artist .....	6-7
Sam Two Bulls, Jr., artist .....	5

PHOTOGRAPHS

Typical Reservation Community Architecture .....	iv
Examples of Tepees .....	iv
Site A .....	12
Site B .....	14
Site C .....	16
Site D .....	18
Site E .....	20

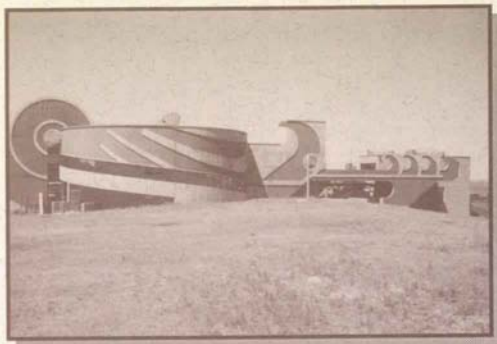
## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE CENTER STUDY

This study provides a basis for a comparative evaluation of sites for a Lakota heritage center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, southwestern South Dakota. A National Park Service (NPS) team was used to complete this reconnaissance study. The team served as a consultant to the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA), a (501[c](3)) non-profit corporation. The OSPRA is charged with the responsibility of promoting, conserving, preserving, protecting, and managing the Tribe's natural and cultural resources on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The study is in keeping with the spirit of the 1976 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Section 9, between the National Park Service and the Lakota that states:

"The Service shall render advisory assistance to the Tribe in the planning of recreation facilities or development on Pine Ridge Reservation lands outside the Badlands South Unit to the extent that appropriated funds and personnel are available therefore. Moreover, and in accordance with the terms of Section 6 of Public Law 90-468, if the Tribe offers to convey to the Secretary of Interior certain tribal lands within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, but outside of the Badlands National Monument for the purpose of erecting, thereon a heritage center, the Service shall accept such land and shall thereafter, subject to availability of appropriated funds and approval of building plans by both the Tribe and the Service, which approval shall not

unreasonably be withheld, proceed to erect the visitor center at the earliest reasonable date. In this context the Service shall cooperate with the Tribe in amending the existing Master Plan for the Badlands National Monument to include recognition of the development of recreational facilities in the Reservation Area, subject to agreement between the Service and the Tribe."

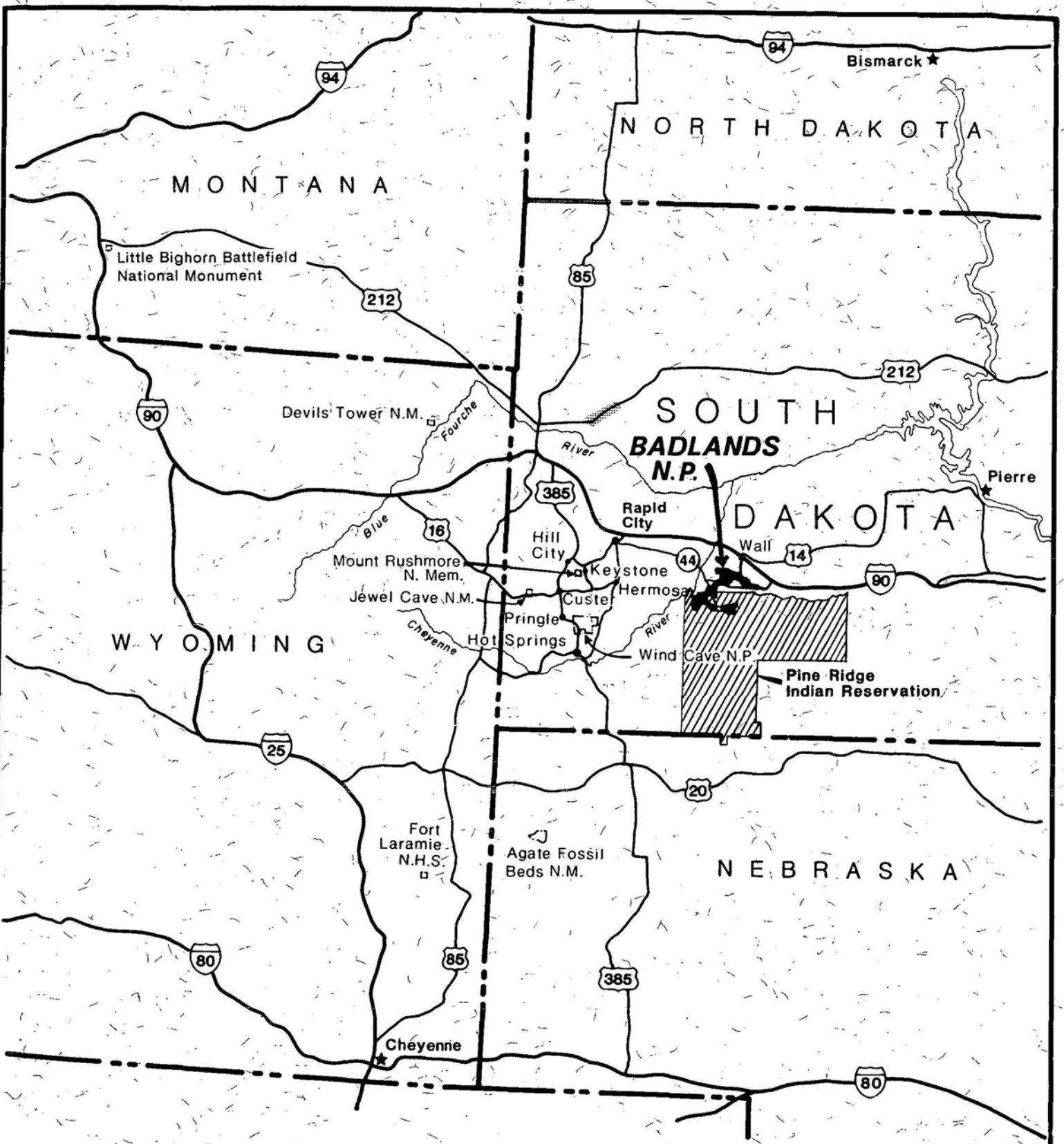
The study makes a preliminary evaluation of six potential sites using a future vision, objectives, and a set of criteria for site evaluation. Long range goals for this type of development were developed guided by a vision of the heritage center in the future. Specific objectives were defined. These embrace the ideas of enhancing visitor experience, providing increased interpretive opportunities, and increasing the efficiency of Tribal Park operations. Criteria used to evaluate the six sites included--proximity to potable water, primary road, power source, views and good orientation to Lakota landmarks, at least 15 acres of buildable terrain, and a setting for 50 tepees. Consideration was also given to insuring that the heritage center would not interfere with spiritual sites in determining the six sites. Two sites (A and F) are within Badlands National Park and offer the potential for a cooperative effort between the National Park Service and the Oglala, but may not fully meet the intent of 1976 MOA (Section 6 & 9). Other environmental factors were also considered.



Lakota Architecture



Example of Teepees



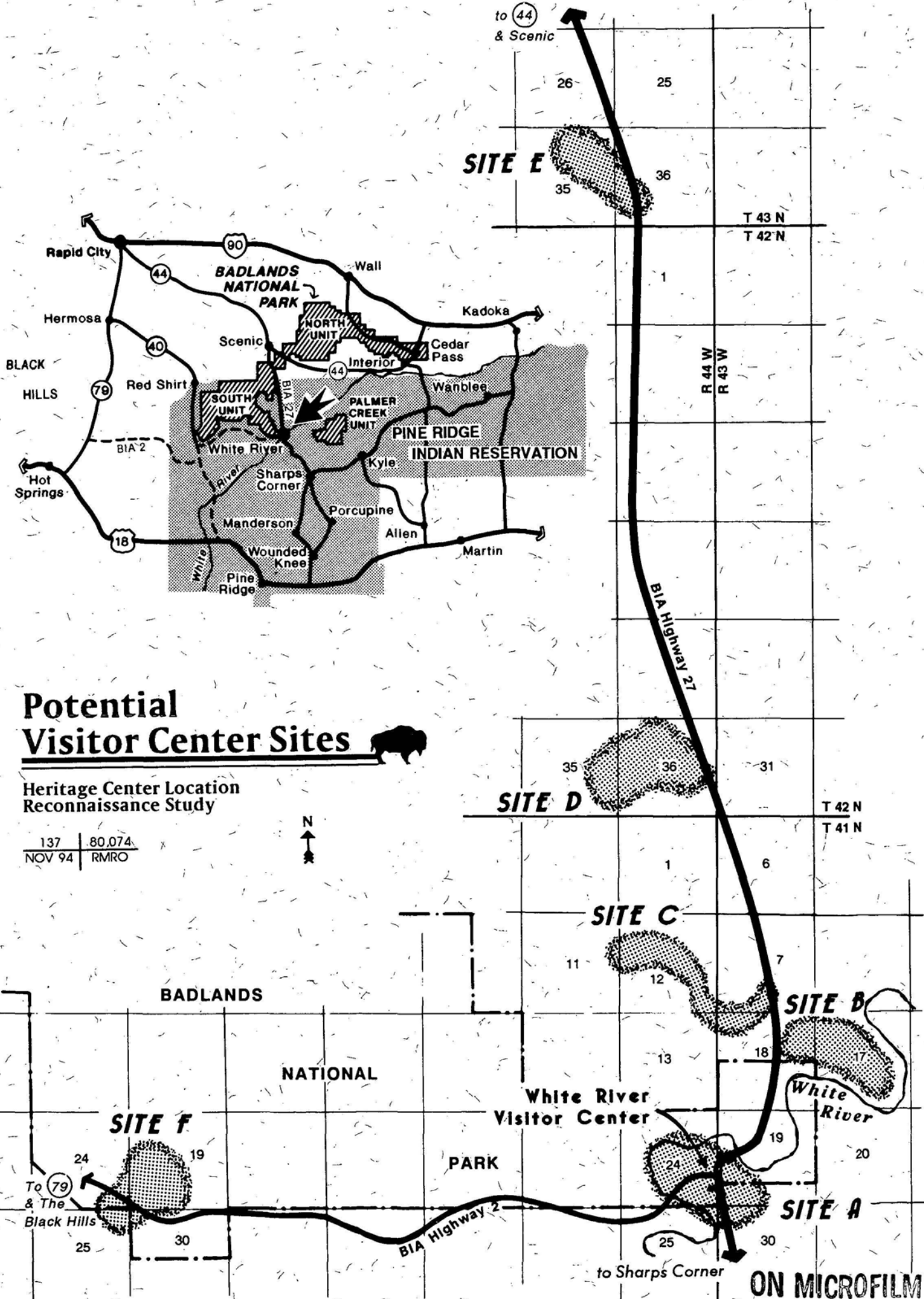
# The Region

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U.S. Dept. of the Interior - National Park Service

137	80,073
NOV 94	RMRO





# Potential Visitor Center Sites

Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study

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## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The study's purpose is to provide information to the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority, that will guide tribal decisions concerning the location for an Oglala Lakota Multi-Purpose Heritage Center. The study identifies sites that might be considered, suggests how each site might be developed, estimates the costs for each proposal.

## **STUDY BACKGROUND**

Today, Americans are rediscovering themselves and the importance of their cultural identity. In the past, this heritage has been seen in terms of isolated heroes, heroic events, and natural wonders. We are becoming increasingly interested in something larger - in the intricacies of the American landscape where the natural and the cultural, both the humble and the grandiose, fuse in distinctive regional pattern, and where layers accumulating over generations eventually impart a rich patina to the scene. Included and directly linked to the heritage of this country, are American Indian cultures. Collectively, reservations represent part of the American experience and heritage. Within Indian Tribes and on the lands and communities surrounding them, there are a multitude of resources and often hidden values that give voice to this culture. A heritage center complex may act as a catalyst to bring these ideals to the surface, harness them, and eventually turn them into a constructive and positive force that points out the contributions of American Indian communities to the history of the Nation.

The guiding principle for this heritage center is that it will provide a framework for cooperation and explore approaches that **allow the Lakota community to control its own destiny by incorporating a focused regional vision for the use and protection of resources and pursuit of economic opportunities.** The vision for the future is based on a common understanding of shared values, especially those within the Lakota community. The ideas of what could be in the future have strong ties to the local community and provide for the retention and enhancement of **their quality of life places through their eyes.**

**Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA).** National Park Service assistance was requested by the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority (OSPRA) in June of 1994. The OSPRA enlisted the National Park Service to act as a consultant for the purpose of evaluating prospective sites in accordance with the terms of Section 9 of Public Law 90-468 (see appendix information). This report is intended to provide information that may be used in the eventual selection of a building site for the heritage center complex by the Oglala.

The Oglala are one of the seven tribes or bands of the Great Teton Lakota Nation. Like other Lakotas (or Dakotas or Nakotas, depending on which dialect of the language is spoken), the Lakota have a unique culture, different from other tribes. One of the unique cultural values is the strength of the kinship ties to an extended family, that form the basis for the tribal structure. The culture has survived because survival has

always been considered at the tribal level.

The OSPRA, a tribal chartered non-profit organization (501[c](3)) is charged with promoting, conserving, preserving, protecting, and managing the Tribe's natural and cultural resources. Their charter includes the responsibilities for stewardship of tribal resources. The heritage center complex would serve as the center of activities for both tourist/economic development and for administrative/operational activities for the northern part of the Pine Ridge Reservation. The OSPRA provides the ideal vehicle for supporting the growing value of culturally-oriented American Indian reservations and heritage tourism.

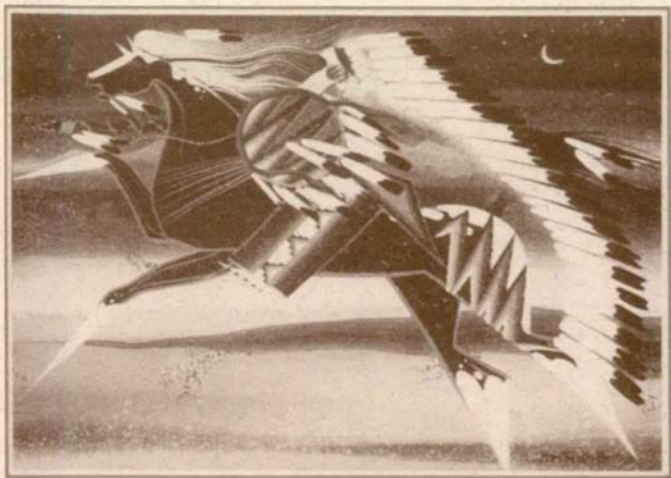
**National Park Service.** In 1982 the *Master Plan* for Badlands National Park called for the development of concession facilities on the White River in the South Unit. The plan called for an Indian heritage visitor center to be part a major part of the development. Also included was convention interpretive facilities, and dancing grounds and a field for Indian cultural demonstrations. A 1986 revision to the *Master Plan* moved this complex to Fog Creek and slightly changed the parameters of the type of facility that would be constructed.

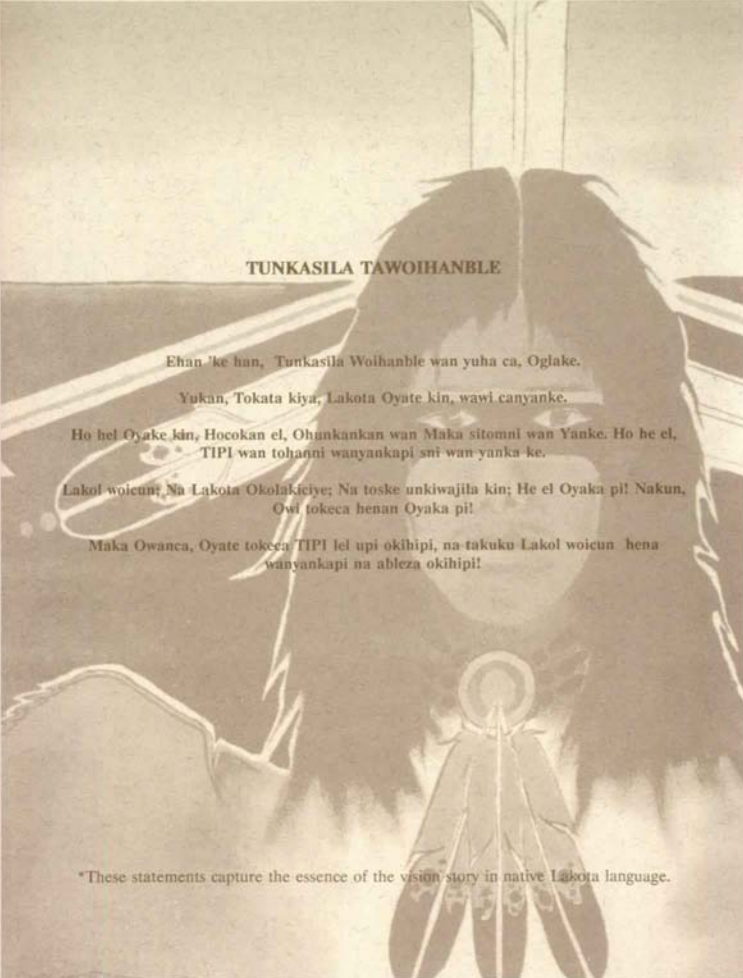
## **STUDY PROCESS**

The study process was designed to significantly shorten the time for planning requirements. The study provides a first step in outlining the pros and cons for various site alternatives. Some impact analysis was completed in

the preliminary investigation, but **full public involvement and further consideration of the impacts of each alternative** needs to be developed by the OSPRA as the process moves forward. Additional data will be required for the **completion of environmental documentation and for use with an environmental assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.**

This study involved the completion of four steps: **a vision for the future, the specific objectives, the criteria used to evaluate alternatives site locations and a comparative analysis table, and a site discussion.** The vision statement is a short narrative, put in a story form for ease of understanding. The story is an interesting way to relate a vision of "what could be" in the future. Specific objectives further define, clarify, or describe what is desired. As a whole, objectives are inter-related and interdependent on one another. Criteria for the site evaluation include factors that can be used to effectively discriminate between areas and show clear advantages and disadvantages of one area over another.





## TUNKASILA TAWOIHANBLE

Ehan 'ke han, Tunkasila Woihanble wan yuha ca, Oglake.


Yukan, Tokata kiya, Lakota Oyate kin, wawi canyanke.

Ho hel Oyake kin, Hocokan el, Ohunkankan wan Maka sitomni wan Yanke. Ho he el,  
TIPI wan tohanni wanyankapi sni wan yanka ke.

Lakol woicun, Na Lakota Okolakiciye; Na toske unkiwajita kin; He el Oyaka pi! Nakun,  
Owi tokeca henan Oyaka pi!

Maka Owanca, Oyate tokeca TIPI lel upi okhipi, na takuku Lakol woicun hena  
wanyankapi na ableza okhipi!

\*These statements capture the essence of the vision story in native Lakota language.



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE . . .

## MY GRANDFATHER'S DREAM

Sitting around a campfire under the stars, my grandfather shared with me his dream--of a place, a *hocoka* (a heritage center)--where our people (Ikce Wicasa) would come together to share their living stories with the rest of the world. Within this place stood a structure which was built to reflect our Lakota culture. It was linked to a large tepee village and used to demonstrate the connection between our past, present and future life. Our Ikce Wicasa used it to share aspects of the Lakota living culture. Oral histories were told so that *people from all over the world* could experience Lakota culture through Lakota eyes. At this place, my grandfather explained, visitors heard the elder's words, the *Lakota spoken words*, about the manifestations of the Lakota's deepest beliefs, our spiritual life.

You see, when Europeans first came to America, having had the printing press and recording their history through writings for hundreds of years, they did not understand how the Lakota culture was profoundly rooted in the spoken word. *Spoken words*, passed from generation to generation, are the basis of our stories and legends. Each word is considered to be a spirit and respected as such. They are the source of our Ikce Wicasa--our strength. Before the arrival of the Europeans, there were more than 300 Tribes--the Ojibwa Lakota being one of them. These living stories of rich history were told before the wider Council. They were more than entertainment--they were and are an essential part of our culture and teachings which are based upon a unique understanding and tie with the Lakota's place in Nature. Their circle of connection and participation included the earth, the sky, and the universe. Thus, Lakota teachings through the spoken word are inseparable from its ceremonies and beliefs. At our tepee campfires, visitors were surrounded by an atmosphere that demanded respect. This serious atmosphere was needed to tell the story of our valued heritage to a visiting public, my grandfather said.

My grandfathers' eyes opened wider as he grew more excited about his dream. The *hocoka*, he said, helped the Lakota prosper far beyond its borders. The heritage of our ancestors was not forgotten, but would grow in the eyes of the world. Council fires, again, burned in the minds of humans across the expanse of the North American continent. Our Lakota Elders and traditional storytellers held audiences spellbound as they shared our rich heritage, myths, mysteries, and legends with others and imparted the Lakota story to the publics around the world, my grandfather said.

Then my grandfather gazed down at me and his words burned in my mind. He said back then, as today, the Lakota lived as one with nature. The land, sky, water, and the four-legged still are inter-connected with the Lakota who are original members of the buffalo nation (the Pte Oyate). Each and everyone is respected for their place in the web of life. Presiding over all is the Great Spirit. Our legacy, these truths that come from our oral tradition of storytelling, were taught to *the people of the world* at this center. These ideas burned in their minds too, my grandfather said.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- The center provides an opportunity to communicate history from the Lakota culture's standpoint to the American public and the world-at-large.
- The concept for the center considers management of cultural and natural resources of the Pine Ridge Reservation. It creates a central control point for a Tribal Park on the northern part of the reservation.
- The center would be Lakota controlled and administered in cooperation and in partnership with the National Park Service.
- The center would serve as an orientation or starting point for a system of decentralized first-person cultural interpretation of ethnic life on the reservation.
- The center serves as a gathering point and focus for heritage events for the nine districts on the Reservation. Events and activities are prepared and given by each district in the finest oral tradition.
- The center acts as a repository for repatriated articles provided for in Public Law 101-601, The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1991.

## **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

At the time of this reconnaissance study, complete information on all programs was not available. The following is a list of things that will need consideration

when determining the selection of a final site.

- The location selected for a heritage center has important implications for a tribal parks' programs and its relationship to the south unit of Badlands National Park. Interpretation, trip planning, and the initial impressions visitors may have of South Dakota, the Pine Ridge Reservation, and Badlands National Park can all evolve from this complex. Programs that consider how the location of a heritage center will influence other stewardship programs, besides tourism development, need to be developed.
- Management of the area and logistical support for the reservation's northern area and how these programs will relate to one another is an important part in deciding where such a facility is located. This includes reintroduction of native species, especially the buffalo, and possible livestock grazing phase-out programs in a tribal park.
- The effect the possible replacement of White River Visitor Center with this complex may have on the Badlands National Park South Unit needs to be coordinated with the National Park Service.
- The relationship to other factors influencing programs, such as interpretation, visitor orientation and long-term impacts on park and reservation resources should be considered to properly determine the impact each proposed site has on operations.

- A design theme would be developed for the area which would unify all buildings, campground comforts, shade shelters, and any wayside structures. The theme needs to consider the terrain and natural setting of the park and the predominant cultural themes found on the reservation and echoed in the vision. Building designs would be patterned after traditional round tribal community buildings found on the reservation. Signing would be distinctly different from those found on Badlands National Park areas providing a pattern for identification of the Tribal park area.

## **SITE EVALUATION**

Six sites were selected for evaluation. Many others were considered but discarded because of incompatible use restrictions, cost, or physical and environmental factors. Site locations are shown on the Site Location map. Sites A, B, C, D, E, and F are considered in detail and evaluated against the set of criteria listed in Table 1. A brief description of the site, possible development and approximate costs are also included.

## **GENERAL CONCEPTS**

The heritage center complex requires enough land to provide for the building complex, parking, and a setting for Lakota lodges and wacipi grounds. The lodges would be provided by each of the nine districts represented on the reservation. The development would consist of overnight accommodations, a repatriation area, gallery, restaurant and gift shop, administrative center, arbor/lodges and open air bazaar, arts

and crafts sales. The administrative center may include offices for the Oglala Lakota Tribal Programs, the Oglala Sioux Parks and Recreation Authority and National Park Service personnel directly involved in the maintenance and administration of adjacent Badlands National Park. Other functions provided at the site would be an auto service station, small employee housing area, maintenance facility, and a small RV camping facility or campground. These additions bring development costs up to a total of 10 to 12.5 million dollars. Costs for roads, water and power vary by site. Costs for each site are shown in the cost table (See Table 2). The tribe may also offer concession opportunities to private companies to help finance visitor developments.

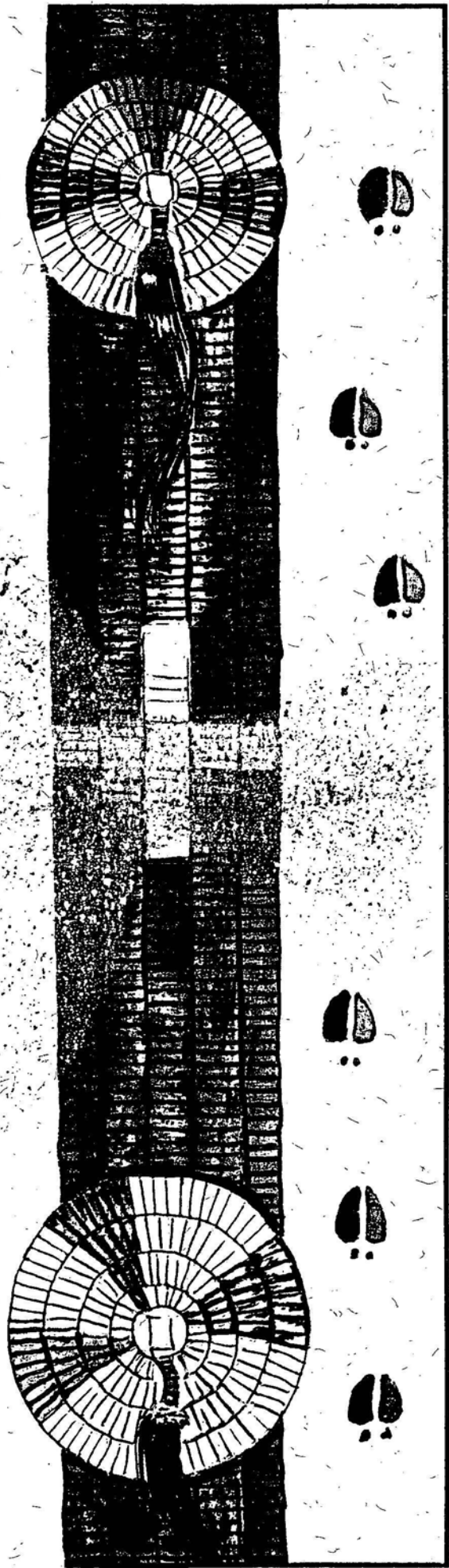
Potable water is a constant problem in this area. A pipeline is being constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mniwicohi (Missouri) Project to bring domestic water to this area of the reservation. The route generally follows the alignment of the White River through the reservation in this area. Estimates for the cost of providing water are projected to be the approximate cost of piping water from the proposed pipeline to each site or the closest water source.

Concepts shown for each site are conceptual in nature and do not reflect exact placement of facilities. Rather they suggest the relationships that may make for a visually pleasing design and one that will provide an orderly environment for the business of an attractive tourist development.



**TABLE 1**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>SITE SCREENING CRITERIA</b>
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Large enough for development
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Potable water source is available
✓	✓			✓	✓	Site within 1 mile & accessible from BIA highway 2 or 27
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Is on slopes that minimizes alteration of the natural landscape
	✓	✓	✓			Allows protection of the surrounding views and rural scene
✓	✓		✓	✓		Contains vegetation that will complement development and a setting for Lakota lodges
		✓	✓		✓	Offers opportunities for views and orientations to Lakota landmarks
		✓		✓	✓	Is free of geological and flood hazards, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and other natural constraints
	✓	✓	✓			Does not effect any cultural resources or spiritual sites
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Has access to primary utilities (water, electrical, sewer, telephone)
					✓	Use of the site is not subject to individual ownership rights or allotments--is within tribal ownership jurisdiction

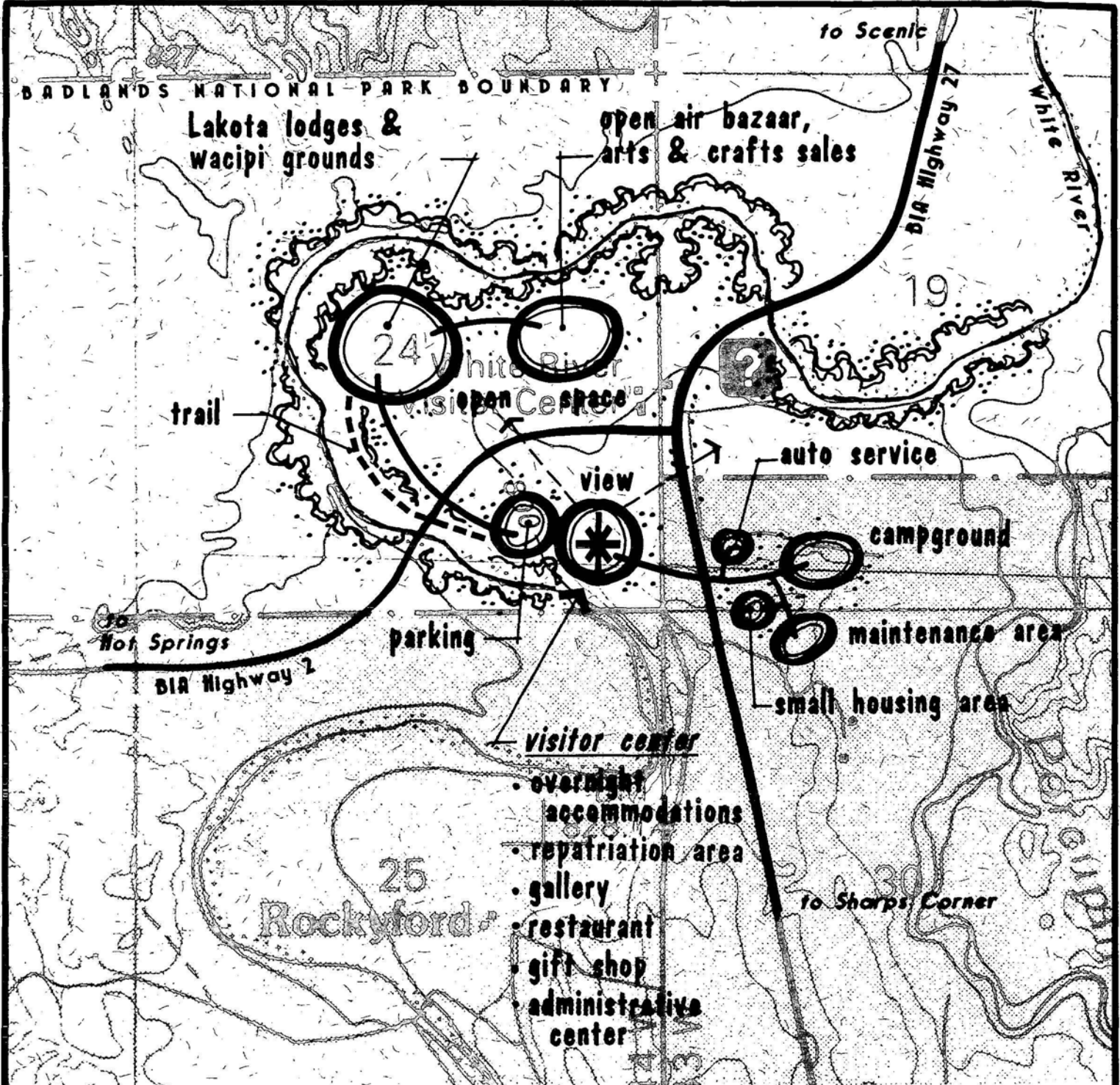


## SITE A

This is the location of the White River Visitor Center in Badlands National Park at the intersection of BIA Highways 2 and 27. Most of Site A is within the park boundary along the White River, just south of a grove of cottonwoods. The development area in section 19 and 30 would be on allotted lands. Most of the area is within a 100/500 year floodplain. If used, the building site for the complex must be located a short distance to the south, upslope and out of the floodplain. Soils information indicates that this area is alluvial land within the Haverson Association with a portion of the site within the Badlands Association, barren badlands intermingled with clayey or loamy soil. Depending on the exact location of the building site, expansive soil construction techniques may be required. These areas have accessible irrigation water, but water for this purpose is generally not dependable. The site has an adequate setting for Lakota lodges, but is close to a spiritual area used by the Lakota.

The landforms and existing vegetation are insufficient to screen development. The highway gives any development high visibility, but does not allow adequate space to screen or hide large parking areas from view should the site become a major development. This means that all vehicles would be directly visible from the main road making any inviting development very difficult to design. There is little or no room for expansion. The year round flows of the White River would not have to be augmented during the hot August season. Ownership of lands

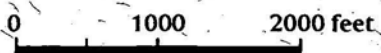




# Site A



Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study



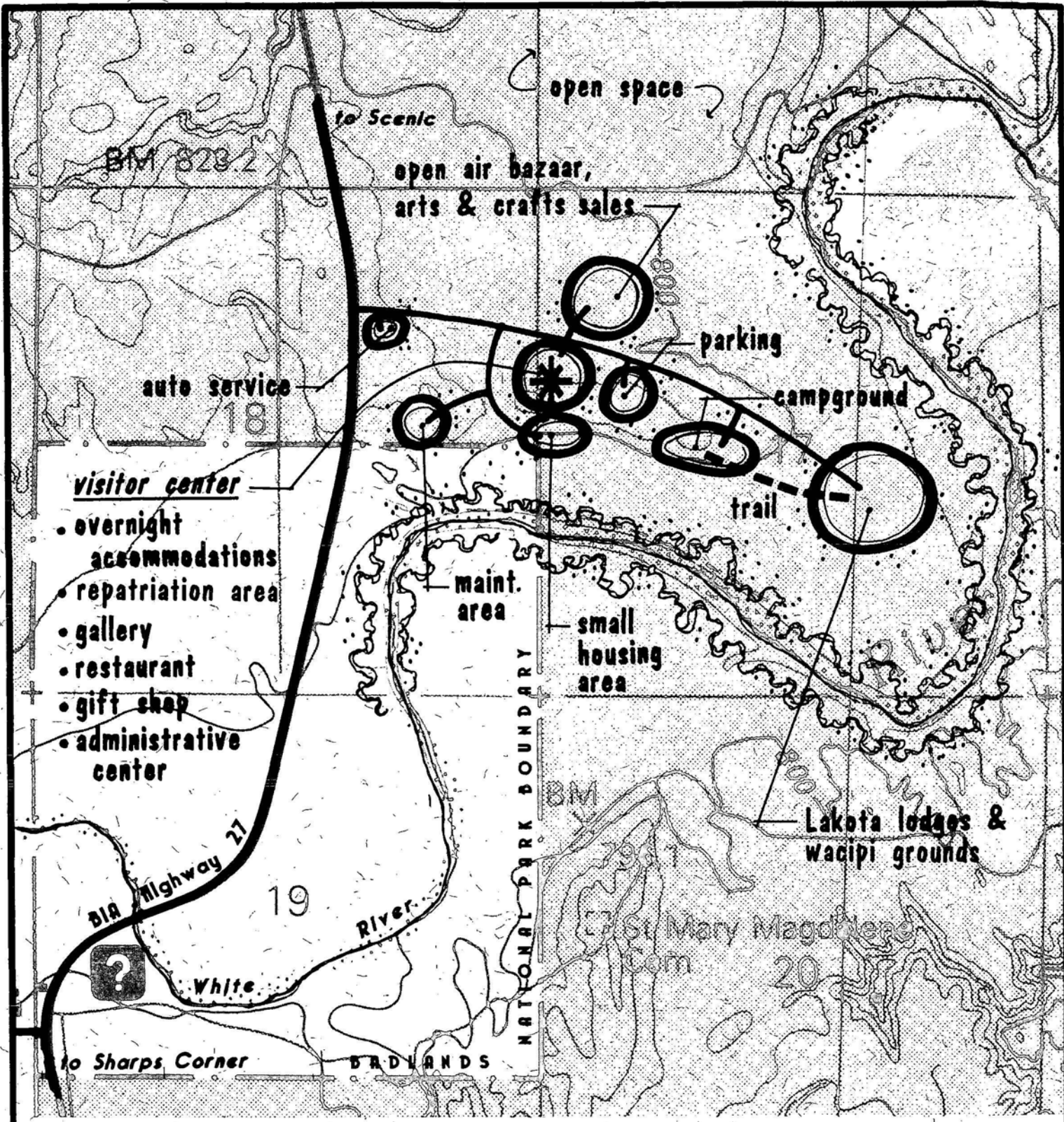
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NOV 94 | RMRO

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## SITE B

This site lies on the east side of BIA Highway 27 near the confluence of Cottonwood Creek and White River. Site B is outside the boundary of Badlands National Park within the Pine Ridge Reservation and includes a large grove of cottonwoods. Ownership of lands include some private, allotted, tribal and government lands. Some of the area is within a 100/500 year floodplain, but a large percentage could be developed. If used, the complex could be located so that it is not within sight of the road. Soils information indicates the area near the confluence is alluvial land within the Haverson association, with a small portion of the site in a basin within Badlands association--barren badlands intermingled with clayey or loamy soil. Depending on the exact location of the building site, expansive soil construction techniques may be required. Irrigation water from the White River would be accessible, but water for this purpose is generally not dependable. The gentle rolling terrain with a cottonwood grove as a backdrop provides a very nice setting to both hide parking and feature Lakota lodges in a village setting.

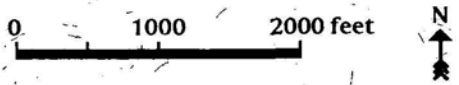




# Site B



Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study



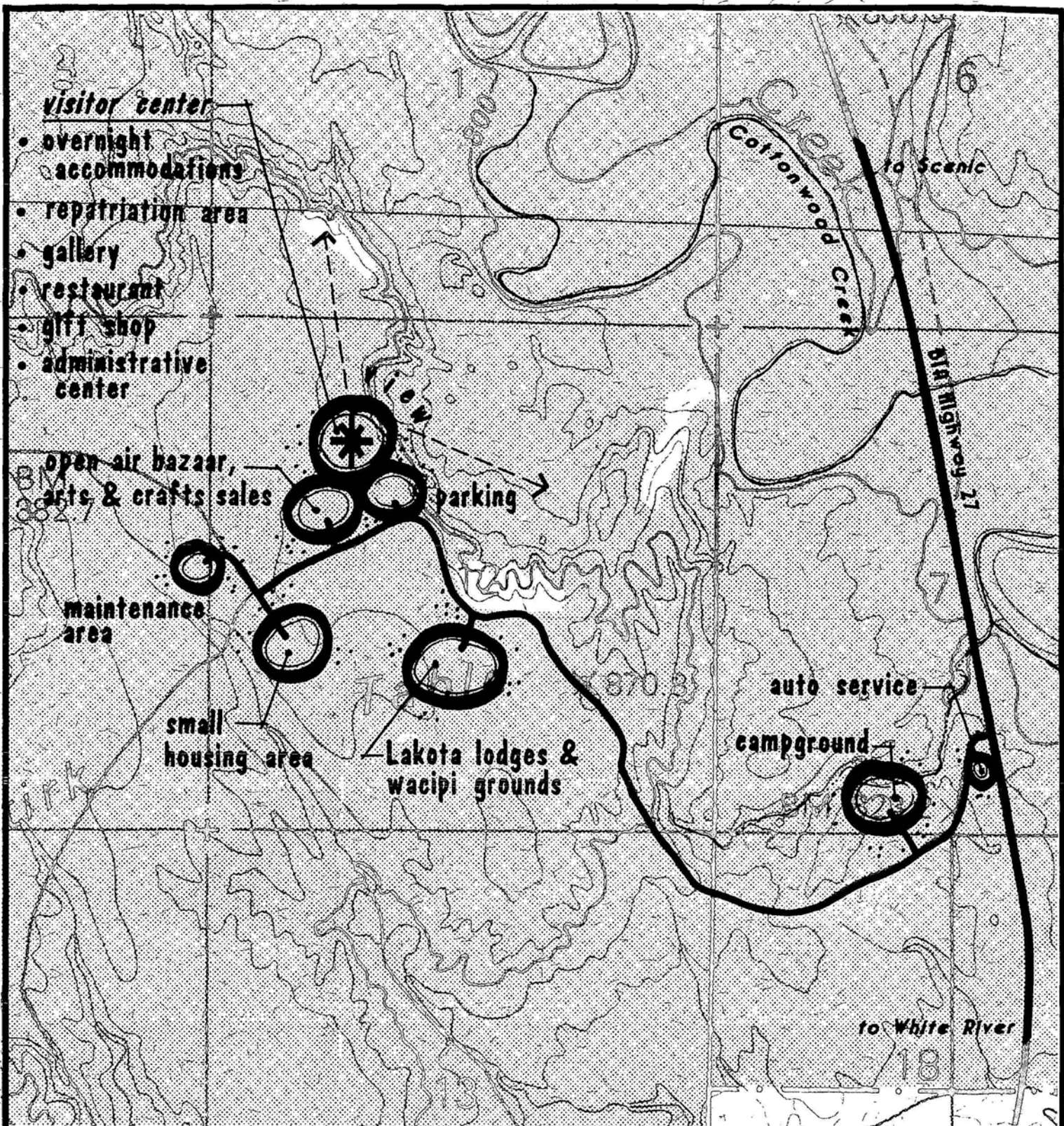
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## SITE C

This site lies on top of a butte, Stirik Table, and provides a panoramic view of the area. No river water is available. There are no floodplain restrictions, but a two mile paved road would be required to access the site. Site C is outside the boundary of Badlands National Park within the Pine Ridge Reservation. Ownership of lands include some allotted, tribal and government lands. Soils information indicates the area is within the Badlands Association, barren badlands intermingled with clayey or loamy soil. Most of the vegetation at the top is tall prairie grass. Depending on the exact location of the building site, expansive soil construction techniques may be required. The area is under tribal ownership, within a grazing allotment. The long road needed to access the area would wind upward from BIA Highway 27 to the top of the butte. The site is somewhat hidden and campground development would occur off site in the location marked on the map. There are no shade trees on the site. The area does not have an attractive area for Lakota lodges in a village setting. The bluff, however, provides excellent viewing of Lakota landmarks. There is adequate room for expansion.





0 1000 2000 feet



## Site C



Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study

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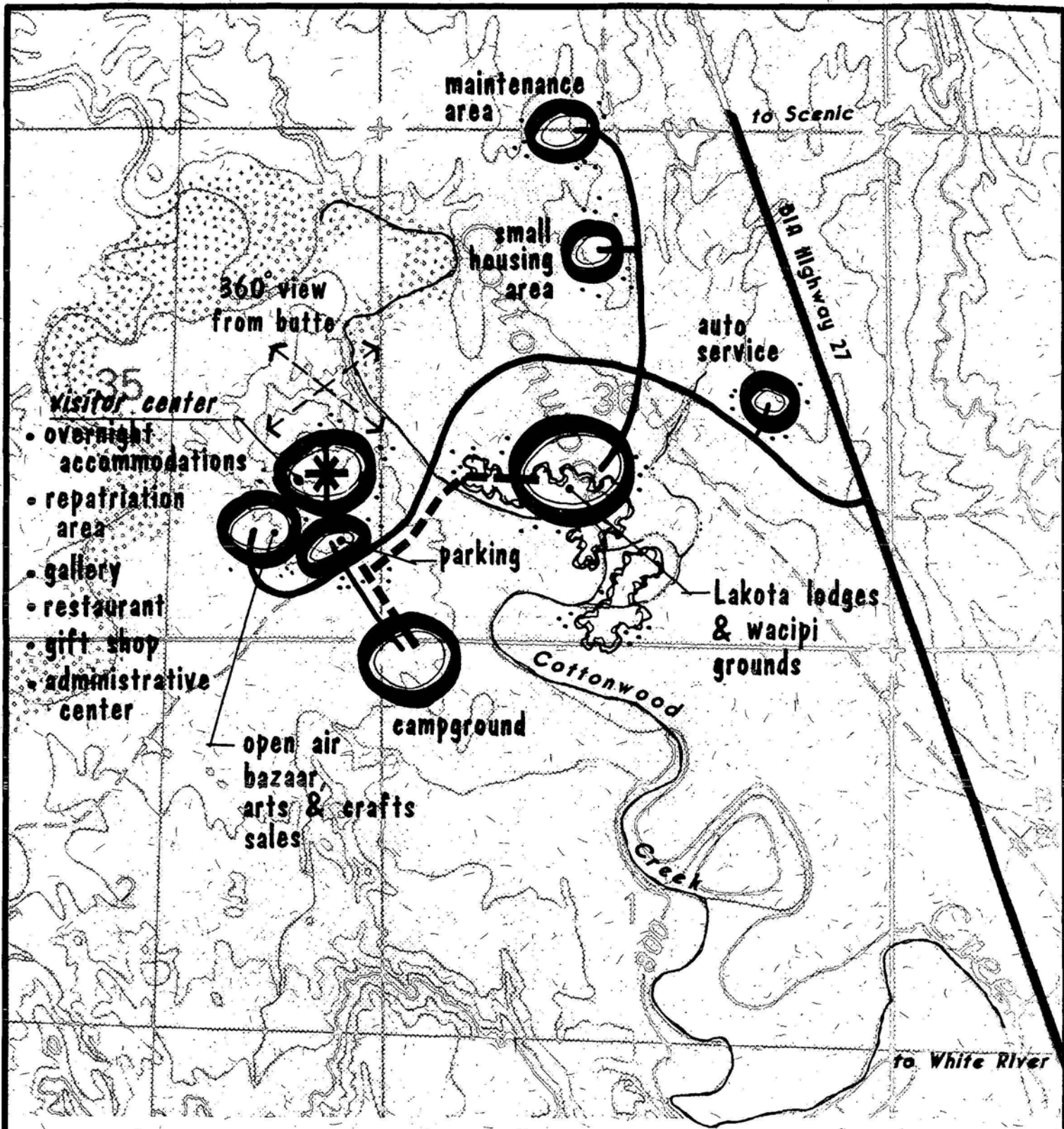
## SITE D

This site lies at the base of a small butte. It provides an excellent opportunity to blend a building into the backdrop of the butte while allowing the top of the butte to become a platform for visitors to view Lakota landmarks. From the butte, visitors have a 360 degree unobstructed view of the surrounding landscape. A grove of trees, along the Cottonwood Creek drainage, south of the butte provides shade for both a campground and Lakota lodges in a village setting. Water in Cottonwood Creek may dry up during some parts of the year. The site has floodplain restrictions from both flash floods and 100/500 floodplains along the creek. Irrigation water from the creek may be relatively accessible, but water for this purpose is generally not dependable. About a mile of paved road would be required to access the site.



Site D is outside the boundary of Badlands National Park within the Pine Ridge Reservation. Ownership of lands include some allotted, tribal and government lands. Soils information indicates the area along the river is alluvial land within the Haverson Association, with the remaining portions of the area within Badlands Association, barren badlands intermingled with clayey or loamy soil. Depending on the exact location of the building site, expansive soil construction techniques may be required.

Access to the site requires a major crossing at Cottonwood Creek. This could either be a low water crossing or concrete culvert design. Cottonwood Creek is subject to flash flooding and aerial photos reveal a large area of an active alluvial floodplain. Whatever the design, this crossing will require a **detailed study of flooding in the area**. The area is within tribal ownership. The road needed to access the area would wind toward the Cottonwood Creek bottom lands, providing an excellent site for Lakota lodges in a village setting. The building complex, parking and campground development would be hidden from view of BIA Highway 27. Commercial developments for auto services would be visible from the road. This site affords one of the best opportunities for viewing Lakota landmarks. There is adequate room for expansion.



## Site D



Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study

0 1000 2000 feet



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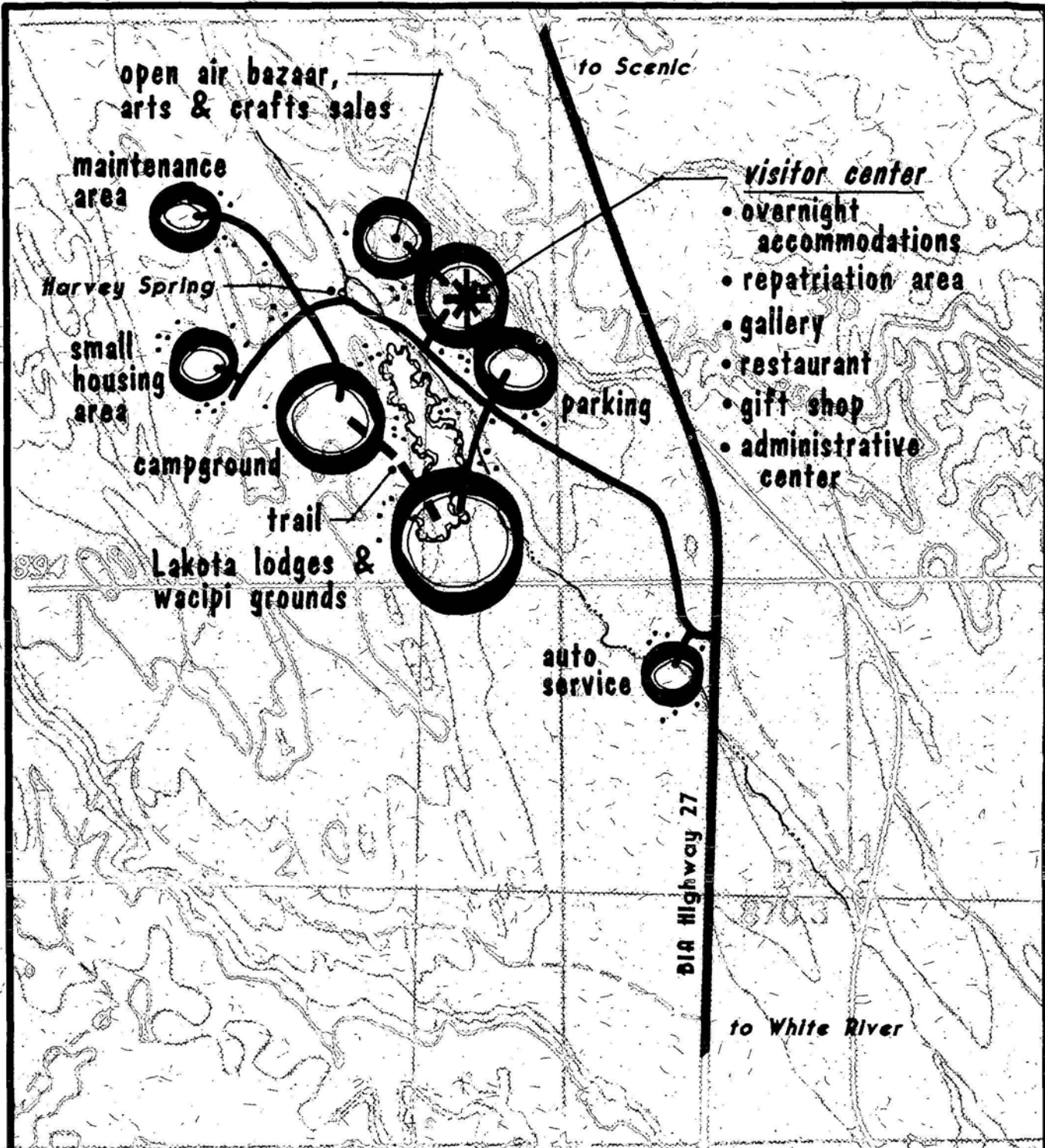
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## SITE E

This site lies just off Highway 27 near Harney Springs. There are no panoramic views. A few shade trees dot the area and water is available. The site has no floodplain restrictions. Site E is outside the boundary of Badlands National Park within the Pine Ridge Reservation. Ownership of lands include some allotted and tribal lands. Soils information indicates the area is within the Badlands Association, barren badlands intermingled with clayey or loamy soil. Most of the vegetation at the top is tall prairie grass with cottonwoods near the spring. Depending on the exact location of the building site, expansive soil construction techniques may be required. The site has little shade vegetation. The area is within tribal ownership, although a residence exists on site. If this site were chosen, the residence would have to be moved.

Any development would be highly visible from Highway 27. The site does not allow adequate space to screen or hide parking from view should the site become a major development. This means that all parked vehicles would be directly visible from the main road making any inviting development difficult to design. It also means that there would be little or no room for future expansion. There is a marginal site for Lakota lodges. The area has a number of historic sites nearby that could complicate locating the development. Harney Springs was the site of a past U.S. Cavalry confrontation with American Indians.





open air bazaar,  
arts & crafts sales

maintenance  
area

Harvey Spring

small  
housing  
area

campground

trail

Lakota lodges &  
wacipi grounds

to Scenic

visitor center

- overnight accommodations
- repatriation area
- gallery
- restaurant
- gift shop
- administrative center

parking

auto  
service

BIA Highway 27

to White River

## Site E



Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study

0 1000 2000 feet



137 | 80,079  
NOV 94 | RMRO

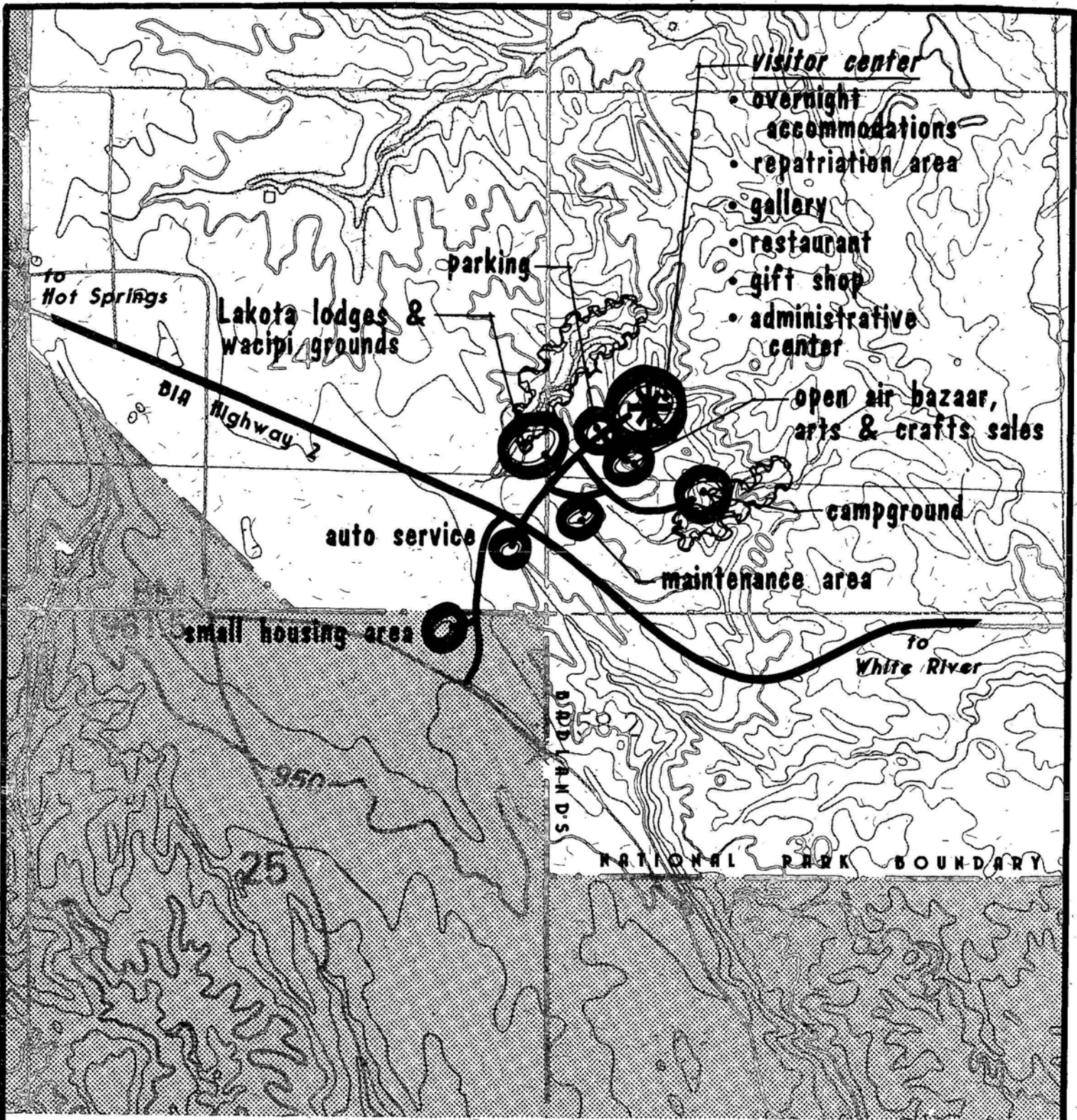
ON MICROFILM

## SITE F

This site lies just off of BIA Highway 2, near Fog Creek, and provides a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. Most of site F is within the boundary of Badlands National Park and the conceptual layout reflects some of the facility placement suggested in the 1986 revisions to the *General Management Plan* for that area known as Fog Creek. Ownership of lands include tribal lands only. Some Lakota landmarks are visible from the site. The short road and gently rolling hill may allow auto service, maintenance, the development and parking to be screened from the road. The site is well above the floodplain and would require only a short road to reach it. But the site is small and may not allow adequate development space for a pleasing design, one that blends with the natural landscape. Therefore, functions in the area diagram were placed closer together and appear crowded because the site is smaller than other sites considered.

Soils information indicates the area is within the Badlands Association, barren badlands intermingled with clayey or loamy soil. Most of the vegetation at the top is tall prairie grass. Depending on the exact location of the building site, expansive soil construction techniques may be required. The site allows for the subtle placement of the development on the landscape and would allow screening of the area from Highway 2. The site provides an adequate site for Lakota lodges in a village setting and a campground. Because the site is small, there does not appear to be adequate room for expansion.





0 1000 2000 feet



## Site F



Heritage Center Location  
Reconnaissance Study

137 | 80,080  
NOV 94 | RMRO

ON MICROFILM

## **OTHER FACTORS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS**

Success is defined to be a **quality and successful business operation that projects the image and dignity of the Lakota in a way that is admired by those who visit the land of the Pine Ridge Reservation.** The ability of the tribal government to use its tourism image has enormous implication for the Lakota people in their desire to have their culture seen and admired by visitors around the globe. The question then becomes--**What needs to be done to insure that a profitable and well run tourist business enterprise is established?** Just because a development complex is built does not mean it will be an instant success.

The following is a list of actions that should be considered upon completion of the development.

- Establish a management controls with tribal support that insures the independence and autonomy of tourism operations. The management controls need to insure established **authenticity and quality standards** for tourist operations of the complex are sustained over time. This includes the responsibility to insure **customer service standards** for a well run tourist business operation.
- Both BIA Highway 27 and 2 need to be improved so that an all-weather loop through this part of the reservation is established. This would connect Badlands National Park via Cedar Pass to the Black Hills and Hot Springs areas, between the Reservation

boundary and Highway 79. This strategy will insure that there is a scenic route advertised to bring visitors to the Pine Ridge Reservation and the heritage center complex.

- The intersection of Highway 44 and Highway 27 at the town of Scenic needs to be reconstructed to allow the unencumbered flow of traffic heading west on Highway 44 to go south on Highway 27 toward the Reservation.

## **NEXT STEP**

The following are suggested next steps in moving toward completion of the project:

- Complete data collection for those sites chosen for further consideration.
- Complete an environmental analysis, either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. This include public involvement and selecting a site.
- Obtain funding.
- Hire an architect and engineering firm (A&E) to do construction documents and site planning.
- Issue a request for proposals (RFP) to prospective construction companies.

## **ESTIMATED COSTS**

Costs vary slightly for each site, between \$9.9 and \$12.5 million, depending on parking and utilities. These costs are preliminary estimates only. They are in 1994 dollars and are shown in Table 2. Site A is the least expensive at \$9.9 million, and site D the most, at \$12.5 million.

**TABLE 2**  
Site A - ESTIMATED COSTS

Item Description	Unit	# of Units	Costs
<b>Heritage Center Development</b>			
Heritage Center	SF	7,500	1,800,000
Office Space	SF	2,500	387,500
Furnishings	LS		270,000
Landscaping/Lighting	LS		360,000
Interpretation/AV/Exhibits	LS		450,000
Parking/Cars	Space	200	240,000
Parking/Buses	Space	3	13,500
<b>Utilities-Wastewater Disposal System</b>			
Wastewater Lagoons	Acre	3	300,000
8" Ductile Iron Sewer Pipe	LF	3,000	150,000
Lagoon Liner	SF	65,340	392,000
6' Chain link Fencing	LF	2,000	54,000
Sanitary Dump Station	Each	1	50,000
Gravel Road	Mile	0.3	120,000
<b>Utilities - Water System (hookup to Mniwicohi Project)</b>			
6" Ductile Iron Pipe	LF	1,000	34,000
Connection to Water Pipeline	LS	1	20,000
6" Fire Hydrant	Each	3	7,500
Chlorinator Building	Each	1	50,000
30,000 gal. Underground Concrete Water Storage Tank	Each	1	58,000
<b>Utilities-Electric/Telephone</b>			
3-Phase Underground Electric	LF	1,000	30,000
Underground Telephone	LF	1,000	20,000
Pull Boxes	Each	3	1,500
<b>Utilities-Heat</b>			
2,000 gal. Propane Tank, fencing, piping to building	Each	1	14,000
<b>Campground</b>			
comfort stations, loop road, parking, w/utilities	Unit	50	375,000
<b>Maintenance Area</b>			
Building	SF	4,000	540,000
6' Chain link Fence	LF	1,000	27,000
<b>Housing</b>			
Duplexes, 2 bedroom units	Each	4	1,000,000
<b>Auto Service Station</b>			
auto service/pumps/parking	Each	1	350,000
<b>Road</b>			
Asphalt road, 2 lane	Mile	1	825,000
<b>Construction cost, material, and labor</b>			<b>7,939,000</b>
<b>Facilitating Administrative Services/Project Planning</b>			<b>1,191,000</b>
<b>Construction Supervision</b>			<b>794,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9,924,000</b>



**TABLE 2**  
Site B - ESTIMATED COSTS

Item Description	Unit	# of Units	Costs
<b>Heritage Center Development</b>			
Heritage Center	SF	7,500	1,800,000
Office Space	SF	2,500	387,500
Furnishings	LS		270,000
Landscaping/Lighting	LS		360,000
Interpretation/AV/Exhibits	LS		450,000
Parking/Cars	Space	200	240,000
Parking/Buses	Space	3	13,500
<b>Utilities-Wastewater Disposal System</b>			
Wastewater Lagoons	Acre	3	300,000
8" Ductile Iron Sewer Pipe	LF	3,000	150,000
Lagoon Liner	SF	65,340	392,000
6' Chain link Fencing	LF	2,000	54,000
Sanitary Dump Station	Each	1	50,000
Gravel Road	Mile	0.3	120,000
<b>Utilities - Water System (hookup to Mniwicohi Project)</b>			
6" Ductile Iron Pipe	LF	3,000	102,000
Connection to Water Pipeline	LS	1	20,000
6" Fire Hydrant	Each	3	7,500
Chlorinator Building	Each	1	50,000
30,000 gal. Underground Concrete Water Storage Tank	Each	1	58,000
<b>Utilities-Electric/Telephone</b>			
3-Phase Underground Electric	LF	14,000	420,000
Underground Telephone	LF	14,000	280,000
Pull Boxes	Each	3	1,500
<b>Utilities-Heat</b>			
2,000 gal. Propane Tank, fencing, piping to building	Each	1	14,000
<b>Campground</b>			
comfort stations, loop road, parking, w/utilities	Unit	50	375,000
<b>Maintenance Area</b>			
Building	SF	4,000	540,000
6' Chain link Fence	LF	1,000	27,000
<b>Housing</b>			
Duplexes, 2 bedroom units	Each	4	1,000,000
<b>Auto Service Station</b>			
auto service/pumps/parking	Each	1	350,000
<b>Road</b>			
Asphalt road, 2 lane	Mile	2	1,650,000
<b>Construction cost, material, and labor</b>			<b>9,482,000</b>
<b>Facilitating Administrative Services/Project Planning</b>			<b>1,191,000</b>
<b>Construction Supervision</b>			<b>948,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,621,000</b>

**TABLE 2**  
Site C - ESTIMATED COSTS

Item Description	Unit	# of Units	Costs
<b>Heritage Center Development</b>			
Heritage Center	SF	7,500	1,800,000
Office Space	SF	2,500	387,500
Furnishings	LS		270,000
Landscaping/Lighting	LS		360,000
Interpretation/AV/Exhibits	LS		450,000
Parking/Cars	Space	200	240,000
Parking/Buses	Space	3	13,500
<b>Utilities-Wastewater Disposal System</b>			
Wastewater Lagoons	Acre	3	300,000
8" Ductile Iron Sewer Pipe	LF	3,000	150,000
Lagoon Liner	SF	65,340	392,000
6' Chain link Fencing	LF	2,000	54,000
Sanitary Dump Station	Each	1	50,000
Gravel Road	Mile	0.3	120,000
<b>Utilities - Water System (hookup to Mniwicohi Project)</b>			
6" Ductile Iron Pipe	LF	10,000	340,000
Connection to Water Pipeline	LS	1	20,000
6" Fire Hydrant	Each	3	7,500
Chlorinator Building	Each	1	50,000
30,000 gal. Underground Concrete Water Storage Tank	Each	1	58,000
<b>Utilities-Electric/Telephone</b>			
3-Phase Underground Electric	LF	1,000	30,000
Underground Telephone	LF	1,000	20,000
Pull Boxes	Each	3	1,500
<b>Utilities-Heat</b>			
2,000 gal. Propane Tank, fencing, piping to building	Each	1	14,000
<b>Campground</b>			
comfort stations, loop road, parking, w/utilities	Unit	50	375,000
<b>Maintenance Area</b>			
Building	SF	4,000	540,000
6' Chain link Fence	LF	1,000	27,000
<b>Housing</b>			
Duplexes, 2 bedroom units	Each	4	1,000,000
<b>Auto Service Station</b>			
auto service/pumps/parking	Each	1	350,000
<b>Road</b>			
Asphalt road, 2 lane	Mile	2.2	1,815,000
<b>Construction cost, material, and labor</b>			<b>9,235,000</b>
<b>Facilitating Administrative Services/Project Planning</b>			<b>1,385,000</b>
<b>Construction Supervision</b>			<b>924,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,544,000</b>

**TABLE 2**  
Site D.- ESTIMATED COSTS

Item Description	Unit	# of Units	Costs
<b>Heritage Center Development</b>			
Heritage Center	SF	7,500	1,800,000
Office Space	SF	2,500	387,500
Furnishings	LS		270,000
Landscaping/Lighting	LS		360,000
Interpretation/AV/Exhibits	LS		450,000
Parking/Cars	Space	200	240,000
Parking/Buses	Space	3	13,500
<b>Utilities-Wastewater Disposal System</b>			
Wastewater Lagoons	Acre	3	300,000
8" Ductile Iron Sewer Pipe	LF	3,000	150,000
Lagoon Liner	SF	65,340	392,000
6' Chain link Fencing	LF	2,000	54,000
Sanitary Dump Station	Each	1	50,000
Gravel Road	Mile	0.3	120,000
<b>Utilities - Water System (hookup to Mniwicohi Project)</b>			
6" Ductile Iron Pipe	LF	14,000	476,000
Connection to Water Pipeline	LS	1	20,000
6" Fire Hydrant	Each	3	7,500
Chlorinator Building	Each	1	50,000
30,000 gal. Underground Concrete Water Storage Tank	Each	1	58,000
<b>Utilities-Electric/Telephone</b>			
3-Phase Underground Electric	LF	12,000	360,000
Underground Telephone	LF	12,000	240,000
Pull Boxes	Each	3	1,500
<b>Utilities-Heat</b>			
2,000 gal. Propane Tank, fencing, piping to building	Each	1	14,000
<b>Campground</b>			
comfort stations, loop road, parking, w/utilities	Unit	50	375,000
<b>Maintenance Area</b>			
Building	SF	4,000	540,000
6' Chain link Fence	LF	1,000	27,000
<b>Housing</b>			
Duplexes, 2 bedroom units	Each	4	1,000,000
<b>Auto Service Station</b>			
auto service/pumps/parking	Each	1	350,000
<b>Road</b>			
Asphalt road, 2 lane	Mile	2	1,650,000
Bridge (Cottonwood Creek)	LS	1	300,000
<b>Construction cost, material, and labor</b>			<b>10,056,000</b>
<b>Facilitating Administrative Services/Project Planning</b>			<b>1,463,000</b>
<b>Construction Supervision</b>			<b>976,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12,495,000</b>

**TABLE 2**  
Site E - ESTIMATED COSTS

Item Description	Unit	# of Units	Costs
<b>Heritage Center Development</b>			
Heritage Center	SF	7,500	1,800,000
Office Space	SF	2,500	387,500
Furnishings	LS		270,000
Landscaping/Lighting	LS		360,000
Interpretation/AV/Exhibits	LS		450,000
Parking/Cars	Space	200	240,000
Parking/Buses	Space	3	13,500
<b>Utilities-Wastewater Disposal System</b>			
Wastewater Lagoons	Acre	3	300,000
8" Ductile Iron Sewer Pipe	LF	3,000	150,000
Lagoon Liner	SF	65,340	392,000
6' Chain link Fencing	LF	2,000	54,000
Sanitary Dump Station	Each	1	50,000
Gravel Road	Mile	0.3	120,000
<b>Utilities - Water System</b>			
Well at Harney Springs	LF	100	7,500
6" Ductile Iron Pipe	LF	3,000	102,000
Connection to Water Pipeline	LS	1	20,000
6" Fire Hydrant	Each	3	7,500
Chlorinator Building	Each	1	50,000
30,000 gal. Underground Concrete Water Storage Tank	Each	1	58,000
<b>Utilities-Electric/Telephone</b>			
3-Phase Underground Electric	LF	33,000	990,000
Underground Telephone	LF	33,000	660,000
Pull Boxes	Each	3	1,500
<b>Utilities-Heat</b>			
2,000 gal. Propane Tank, fencing, piping to building	Each	1	14,000
<b>Campground</b>			
comfort stations, loop road, parking, w/utilities	Unit	50	375,000
<b>Maintenance Area</b>			
Building	SF	4,000	540,000
6' Chain link Fence	LF	1,000	27,000
<b>Housing</b>			
Duplexes, 2 bedroom units	Each	4	1,000,000
<b>Auto Service Station</b>			
auto service/pumps/parking	Each	1	350,000
<b>Road</b>			
Asphalt road, 2 lane	Mile	1	825,000
<b>Construction cost, material, and labor</b>			<b>9,614,500</b>
<b>Facilitating Administrative Services/Project Planning</b>			<b>1,442,000</b>
<b>Construction Supervision</b>			<b>961,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12,017,000</b>

**TABLE 2**  
Site F - ESTIMATED COSTS

Item Description	Unit	# of Units	Costs
<b>HeritageCenter Development</b>			
HeritageCenter	SF	7,500	1,800,000
Office Space	SF	2,500	387,500
Furnishings	LS		270,000
Landscaping/Lighting	LS		360,000
Interpretation/AV/Exhibits	LS		450,000
Parking/Cars	Space	200	240,000
Parking/Buses	Space	3	13,500
<b>Utilities-Wastewater Disposal System</b>			
Wastewater Lagoons	Acre	3	300,000
8" Ductile Iron Sewer Pipe	LF	3,000	150,000
Lagoon Liner	SF	65,340	392,000
6' Chain link Fencing	LF	2,000	54,000
Sanitary Dump Station	Each	1	50,000
Gravel Road	Mile	0.3	120,000
<b>Utilities - Water System (hookup to Mniwicohi Project)</b>			
6" Ductile Iron Pipe	LF	3,000	102,000
Connection to Water Pipeline	LS	1	20,000
6" Fire Hydrant	Each	3	7,500
Chlorinator Building	Each	1	50,000
30,000 gal. Underground Concrete Water Storage Tank	Each	1	58,000
<b>Utilities-Electric/Telephone</b>			
3-Phase Underground Electric	LF	5,000	150,000
Underground Telephone	LF	5,000	100,000
Pull Boxes	Each	3	1,500
<b>Utilities-Heat</b>			
2,000 gal. Propane Tank, fencing, piping to building	Each	1	14,000
<b>Campground</b>			
comfort stations, loop road, parking, w/utilities	Unit	50	375,000
<b>Maintenance Area</b>			
Building	SF	4,000	540,000
6' Chain link Fence	LF	1,000	27,000
<b>Housing</b>			
Duplexes, 2 bedroom units	Each	4	1,000,000
<b>Auto Service Station</b>			
auto service/pumps/parking	Each	1	350,000
<b>Road</b>			
Asphalt road, 2 lane	Mile	1	825,000
<b>Construction cost, material, and labor</b>			<b>8,207,000</b>
<b>Facilitating Administrative Services/Project Planning</b>			<b>1,231,000</b>
<b>Construction Supervision</b>			<b>821,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10,259,000</b>

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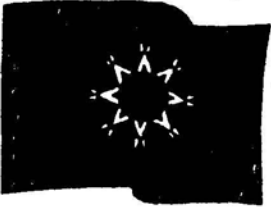
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1971 *Soil Survey*, Shannon County, South Dakota.

**APPENDIX A**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**





# Oglala Lakota Nation

Box H  
Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770  
(605) 867-5821  
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Office of the President  
Wilbur Between Lodges  
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Secretary

Crystal R. Eagle Elk  
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Phillip Under Baggage  
Fifth Member

September 12, 1994

Chairman  
Oglala Sioux Parks & Recreation Authority  
PO Box 570  
Kyle, SD 57752  
Attn: Edgar Fire Thunder


Dear Chairman;

Reference is made to your request for a letter of support regarding your proposal to erect a Visitor's Center in the South Unit or in the general proximity of the National Monument.

In the interest of creating economic opportunity and employment for our Tribal membership, we submit herewith this "Letter of Support" to your Organization's effort to locate such a Visitor's Facility on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In recognition that we are the largest Lakota Reservation in the nation, it is only fitting that we should possess a facility that we could be proud of and to tell our history from our perspective, the Lakota perspective.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at (605) 867-5821, ext. 220,

Sincerely,

  
Wilbur Between Lodges  
President  
OGLALA LAKOTA NATION

WBL/mw

xc: OST Parks & Recreation Authority  
file



# STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

WALTER D. MILLER  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
57501-5070  
(605) 773-3212

September 2, 1994

Secretary of the Interior  
Main Interior Building  
18 "C" Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20245

Dear Secretary Babbitt:

The Oglala Sioux Tribe is currently working together with the National Park Service to locate a Visitor's Center/Museum on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

A visitor's center at the South Unit of the Badlands National Park will educate the members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and visitors to the area preserving the rich heritage of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The center/museum will create much needed employment for tribal members.

I support their efforts and ask that you take into consideration the importance and need of a Visitor's Center in this area.

Sincerely,

WALTER D. MILLER



## APPENDIX B

### RESOURCE INFORMATION

#### Natural Resources

The area lies on the unglaciated Missouri Plateau section of the Great Plains physiographic province. It is characterized by flat to gently sloping grasslands cut by wide, shallow, terraced valleys of the White River and its tributaries. This is a particularly scenic part of the White River Badlands whose gentle slopes are dramatically dissected by steep gullies, ridges, flat-topped buttes, spires, and pinnacles. Most of these had significance to the Lakota and landmarks are specially referenced by name. Topographic relief varies considerably and can often exceed 295 feet. Local rock strata are largely variegated clay paleosols (fossil soils), that are easily eroded and produce spectacular visual effects.

Mixed grass prairie species such as western wheatgrass, blue grama, buffalo grass, and green needlegrass dominate the rolling uplands and gently sloping south- and west-facing slopes. Woody draws containing green ash, skunkbush sumac, American plum, chokecherry, currant, woods rose, and snowberry are common in the drainages, and on moderate to steep north- and east-facing slopes. Rather dense stands of Rocky Mountain juniper are often found on steep north- and northeast-facing slopes. All of the evaluated sites lie mostly in prairie.

The climate of the area is typically continental and semi-arid. The average high temperature is 93 degrees in July

and 36 degrees in January; corresponding lows are 63 degrees and 12 degrees. Precipitation averages about 16 inches a year, mostly as rain in April through July. Winter precipitation is mostly snow, but because of gusty winds, large areas are blown clear and sizable snowdrifts can accumulate at windbreaks, in road cuts, and gullies.

Fossils of the Cretaceous Period, and the Eocene and Oligocene Epochs are exposed by erosion in the area. Numerous mammal fossils of the Eocene and Oligocene are of special interest. They mark the time when mammals had achieved the size and species diversity necessary for dominance of the ecological niches left vacant by the demise of the dinosaurs at the close of the Cretaceous. The area, mostly within Badlands National Park, is known worldwide for its wealth of mammalian fossils and their significance in evolutionary history.

Wildlife in the park includes mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, bison, black-tailed prairie dogs, coyote, bobcats, and small rodents. More than 200 species of birds and about 25 species of reptiles and amphibians have been recorded.

Despite the presence of numerous species of plants and animals, the park is not a complete ecological unit; its relatively small size and elongated configuration will not support the restoration of large carnivores, such as the prairie wolf or the grizzly bear. Still, reintroduction of animals once native to the South Dakota prairie has been under way for over three decades. Bison were

brought back in 1963. Twenty-two Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep were reintroduced in 1964. This band has increased tenfold and is colonizing as far south as the Stronghold District of Badlands National Park.

Tower and Jewel Cave National Monuments, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and Wind Cave and Badlands National Parks. In 1991 these NPS units attracted over 5.8 million visitors.

### **Cultural Resources**

No sites within Badlands National Park have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, though several may qualify. The Fog Creek area is a likely candidate site.

Nominations will be made and the sites protected in accordance with the Act of March 4, 1929 (45 Stat. 1553).

Vertebrate fossils are protected under the park's 1929 legislation, and cultural resources are covered by the Archeological Resources Protection Act.

### **LAND USES AND TRENDS**

Businesses serving travelers may be found along the wayside as one approaches the park via I-90, and in the nearby towns of Philip, Interior, Kadoka, and Wall, whose summer economies depend largely on tourism. Seventy percent of Badlands National Park is in the Cedar Pass area.

Regional recreational opportunities include the myriad private and public water-oriented facilities concentrated along the Missouri River reservoirs to the east, and in the 1.2 million-acre Black Hills National Forest to the west. Other Black Hills attractions are found around Sheridan Lake, and Pactola and Deerfield Reservoirs. The National Park Service administers five units in the Black Hills and adjacent prairies: Devils

## **VISITOR USE ANALYSIS**

### **Badlands National Park**

Approximately two-thirds of the vehicles entering the park come in through the northeast entrance, follow the Badlands Loop Road, and exit through the Pinnacles entrance. Almost all of these bring visitors from states east of the park with Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois predominating. Less than 3% of park visitors are international.

Since 1962 (excepting 1979, 1980, and 1985) recreational visits have exceeded one million each year. In 1973 a then-record 1,400,000 visitors were counted when U.S. 16 traffic was detoured through the park during the construction of I-90. In 1991 a new record was established with 1,530,496 recreational visits to the park.

Few visitors stay overnight in the park. Most enjoy the scenery as they drive through, stopping occasionally for a wayside exhibit at an overlook or to take photos. Others walk the self-guided trails; perhaps one-fourth tour the Ben Reifel Visitor Center, which is open daily except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Peak season is June 1st through Labor Day, during which the Ben Reifel Visitor Center is open from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M. The Cedar Pass Lodge is open from mid-April through late December, and the White River Visitor Center operates early-June through early-September.

Shoulder season visitation is substantial and growing. Winter visitation is very much weather-dependent.

### **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation**

Although more than a million travelers visit Badlands National Park each year, the economic benefits are realized primarily in Kadoka, Wall, Rapid City, and other locations along Interstate 90 in the form of lodging, food, fuel and miscellaneous expenditures. A very small portion of the "tourist dollars" are spent in the South Unit of Badlands National Park or on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Up until this point, the Pine Ridge Reservation has neither sought nor received recreation visitation or use. A connection extending south and west from the park could be developed into an efficient link with the Black Hills. Further, a recent proposal sponsored by the states of South Dakota and Nebraska to construct the "Heartland Express" connecting Interstate 90 in South Dakota with Interstate 80 to the south in Nebraska is a significant undertaking that could positively impact population flows into the western Black Hills and adjacent areas. If a loop was developed connecting this undertaking with the Badlands to the north and Buffalo Gap/Hot Springs to the east, increased tourist traffic may be realized.

**NPS D-65**