SIGNIFICANT WALLACE DOW BUILDINGS STANDING TODAY IN SIOUX FALLS (CONTINUED)

Rock Island Depot (10th Street & 1st Avenue)
On October 26, 1886, Sioux Falls received its third rail line, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern. The line was extremely beneficial because it gave Sioux Falls a more direct route to Chicago and St. Louis. The depot was a symbol of strength, growth, and optimism for the city. The city financed the structure and determined the design. It was designed by Dow and was made of granite and quartzite. Dow designed the structure in the Richardsonian Romanesque style with arched windows and round-cut stone. The first floor housed the freight area, passenger waiting room, and ticket office. The agent's quarters were on the second floor. Between 1902 and 1993, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern line was taken over by the Rock Island Company and was used until 1972.

Avery House (105 S. Prairie Avenue): In 1889, Henry and Lucinda Avery constructed their home with distinct features of the Richardsonian Romanesque style including arched windows, rough cut stone, a round side tower and deep-set front porch with twin openings. The Averys owned majority stock in the Sioux Falls Abstract Company, which handled real estate and insurance. Henry was also involved in the YMCA, and was also a longtime fireman and chief for four years.

Tischendorf House (428 N. Dakota Avenue): Known today as the Bishop's house, this house was built in 1890 for John and Jennie Tischendorf. Dow was commissioned to design the house which reflected Mr. Tischendorf’s position as a lumber tycoon. Tischendorf owned 32 lumberyards in the tri-state area and wanted the house constructed with many types of wood. The interior of the house was designed in abundance of exotic wood including oak, Honduras mahogany, maple, cherry, birch, and redwood. The Tischendorf family lived in the house until 1926 and continued to take care of the house for the next 25 years while it was vacant. The family sold the house to the Catholic Diocese in 1952. It was designed in the Queen Anne style and incorporated a blend of wood framing and Queen Anne. The exterior of the house has polished granite pillars, Romanesque arches, stained glass windows, iron porch columns and dentils.

Carpenter House (105 S. Duluth Avenue): With the building design completed by Dow, the house was built in 1890 for Charles and Francis Carpenter. Constructed in the Queen Anne style, the home is considered to be one of Dow's finest residential designs with such features as slate fanlighting hanging on the upper two-thirteens of the building and lance spindle work. Charles worked for the Dakota Bank and was treasurer of the Sioux Falls Stockyard Company. Unfortunately, Charles passed away in 1895, shortly after the home was built.
Walter Loray Dow was born on September 21, 1844 in Corunna, New Hampshire. He grew up around the family trade of woodworking and eventually started a business with his father manufacturing tubs and pails. The company, known as "H. & W. L. Dow", flourished until 1875, when Wallace formed his own company, "W. L. Dow & Company". Wallace continued producing tubs and pails but also designed buildings. Although he had no formal training, he did direct a few projects with architecture under his uncle, Edward Dow, who was a prominent architect in Concord, New Hampshire.

In 1880, Wallace traveled to Dakota Territory with his brother Wilbur. Arriving in Pierre he was unable to find work, so they decided to move to Yankton. They did well there and by July 1881, they started a business, "W. L. Dow, Architect. Wallace's wife and children, still in New Hampshire, joined him in Yankton in the fall of 1881. In 1884, they moved to Sioux Falls. The city was experiencing a period of tremendous growth and prosperity which resulted in the blossoming of Dow's architectural career. He was also well connected to the Republican territorial and state governments which brought him a great deal of institutional work.

Towards the end of his career in 1910, Dow experimented with a machine that created concrete blocks to be used as a building material. In 1904, he received two patents for this machine. By 1905, he and his son Edwards founded the Perfecta Block Machine Company which had offices in Sioux Falls and Minneapolis. Manufacturing plants were established in several towns and concrete blocks were used in construction for apartments and industrial depots in Minneapolis and St. Paul. At the time of Dow's death, his brother Wilbur was marketing the Perfecta Block Machine in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Wallace Dow died in 1913 at the age of 66 from a stroke. His death marked the end of the career of a great pioneer and architect in Dakota Territory.

All Saints School (186th Street & Phillips Avenue): Bishop W.H. Harter negotiated with the City to build the All Saints School in Dakota Territory. In 1883, the first school was constructed, and in 1884, the school was completed. The next year, the school became an all-boys school with 43 students. At some point later, enrollment was opened to both boys and girls. In 1886, the school closed its doors after operating for 102 years. The building was eventually renovated and has since served as a retirement community. The main building, constructed of Sioux quartzite, has a Romanesque Architecture.

Minnehaha County Courthouse (6th Street & Main Avenue): Until 1890, the Minnehaha County offices were housed in downtown buildings owned by Edward A. Shermam. Construction of the first County Courthouse at 6th Street and Main Avenue was approved by the general election in 1888 and, construction began the following year. Designed by Dow, the building was built with stone from the East Sioux Falls quarries and was to be the tallest courthouse between Chicago and Denver. The building served the court until 1962, while the new building was built at 6th Street and Dakota Avenue. The architectural style is Richardsonian Romanesque, featuring a tower clock, a vaulted ceiling, and a large stained-glass window.

Potgutwe House & Museum/Thomas McMartin Home (8th Street & Duluth Avenue): Wallace Dow designed this Queen Anne style home for Thomas and Jenny McMartin. Built in 1889, the McMartins remained there for 20 years. The house was then purchased by the McMartin family in 1911, by 60 Seyret Street. The house now includes a dormer front porch, an asymmetrical floor plan, a tall tower, and use of multiple building materials. Native quartzite was used as well as locally made pressed brick. The interior boasts many decorative features such as woodwork in oak, cherry, and birch-epoxy maple, tiled fireplace and two-story windows.

South Dakota School for the Deaf (1800 E. 10th Street): In 1880, the community of Sioux Falls and the Dakota Territory legislature joined together to establish a school for deaf children. Although Dow did not design all the buildings, his contributions included a boys' dormitory, an administration building, and a stable. Many of the structures designed conveyed solidarity and strength which were commonly associated with Richardsonian Romanesque architecture.

Willey Williams Building (530 N. Main): Designed by Wallace Dow and completed in 1891, the total cost of the Willey Williams building was $17,000. The structure was built for Warren E. Willey and his son-in-law Roy Williams. Both Willey and Williams were mayors of Sioux Falls. The building was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style.