

AIASD Continuing Education Course: July 19, 2018

Course Title: Rural Renewal: Pacer Spar Plant Industrial Site Revitalization tour: 1 LU/HSW

Course Location: Custer, SD

Course Presenter: Site tour by Julie Oswald, former PACER CORP owner

Course Format: Instructor-led face-to-face; Location tour; Interactive

Course Description:

The PACER Spar Plant is a feldspar processing plant that is about 80 years old. It was built to take advantage of the railroad (now the Mickelson Trail) to ship the famous "Custer Spar" throughout the country to be used in pottery, glazes, ceramic coatings and Sanitaryware. The plant is planned to be decommissioned and demolished in the near future. The property is at the southern gateway to the City of Custer in an industrial area and is sandwiched between Hwy 385 south and the Mickelson Trail, a 100 mile bike path that stretches the length of the Black Hills.

The DITH group will tour and photograph the exterior of the site and investigate design solutions in groups the following day. The group will be presented with the history of the building, a description of the manufacturing process, and a guided tour of the site features and structures for possible adaptive reuse.

Learning Objectives:

By completing this course the design professional will be able to:

1. (Materials and Methods; Environmental topics) Participants will explore the feldspar mining process and how feldspar is used in building and everyday products.
2. (Safety; Legal; Materials topics) Participants will analyze the various aspects of decommissioning the physical plant, with emphasis on safety, materials handling and possible re-use of construction materials.
3. (Pre-Design topic) Participants will evaluate the existing site features that enhance re-use potential for the Custer community.
4. (Preservation; Sustainability topics) Participants will discuss the historic role of the Feldspar plant, the unique construction and architectural features of the plant, and explore adaptation of the site for reuse and possible adaptive reuse of the structures.