

Historic Homes Of Yankton

Yankton's Territorial Homes, Revisited — A Sesquicentennial Series

"The sesquicentennial series titled "Historic Homes of Yankton" prepared by members of Yankton Questers Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794."

With today's issue, Dakota Territory Questers Chapter 794 brings to a close its summer sesquicentennial series "Yankton's Territorial Homes—Revisited." Since May 13, a committee of four has featured 13 historic homes, all built in Yankton before 1889, when South Dakota became a state. Today a composite of nine additional homes appears, arbitrarily selected from both those in Yankton's historic homes district and others about town.

Late historian Dorothy Jencks photographed and briefly described more than 90 dwellings in "Some Historic Homes of Yankton," published in 1976. Not included in her booklet but very much a part of Yankton's pioneer history remains a surprising number of other historic homes, some well-preserved, some endangered. Who will tell their stories?

Research has been pleasurable and educational for Dee Horacek and Maysel Goltz (who worked as a team), Marilyn Nyberg, and Maxine Kinsley, committee chair and photos. Each has written her own stories. Chapter President Jane Henderson has been a quiet facilitator and cheerleader, and Dr. James Nyberg contributed backup editorial and photographic assistance. We are grateful to both P&D editor Kelly Hertz for encouragement and P&D staff member Shauna Marlette for professional expertise.

Please look around as you travel in the core historical district of early Yankton which loosely encompasses Second through Sixth Streets and Summit Street through Ferdig Ave. You will be impressed by the foresightedness, durability and skill of Yankton's pioneer builders.



THE BRUCE-DONALDSON HOUSE
Built By James E. Bruce (1879)
313 Pine Street



THE COULSON HOUSE
Built By Sanford B. Coulson (1878)
417 Mulberry Street



THE FARM HOUSE
Builder Unknown (1885)
900 Peninah



THE NYBERG HOUSE
Built By August Nyberg (1885)
400 E. 6th Street



THE PENNINGTON HOUSE
Built By John L. Pennington
416 East 3rd Street



THE SHANNON-OHLMAN HOUSE
Built By Peter C. Shannon (1874)
205 Green Street



THE TODD STORE HOUSE
Built By J.B.S. Todd (1859)
117 Walnut Street



THE WARD HOUSE
Built By Reverend Joseph & Sarah Ward (1873)
512 Mulberry Street



THE WILCOX HOUSE
Built By Edward P. House (1871)
516 Mulberry Street



Well-Placed Gray-Leafed Plants Offer Landscape Zeal

BY NORMAN WINTER
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In a gardening world dominated by a sea of green, well-placed pockets of plants with silver and gray foliage can be ever so striking. Whether you are looking for perennials, herbs or even shrubs there is a choice gray-leafed plant that will show out if you give it a chance.

While most of us grow these plants for their contrasting foliage, some do give showy blooms. In my area of the country, the first that comes to mind is the Cenizo or purple sage. Known botanically as *Leucophyllum frutescens*, it finds itself in the same family as snapdragons of all things. But instead of spiky flowers it's a large gray-leafed shrub that blooms after rains hence another common name, Texas barometer bush.

There is nothing that quite compares to an 8-foot shrub loaded with hundreds of violet flowers. They are more cold-hardy than many realize able to tolerate temperatures down to 5 degrees. As with almost all gray-leafed plants, they must have good soil drainage.

Though the gray foliage stands

out in dramatic fashion next to green-leafed plants, you can also create some incredible displays with their violet blossoms. One extraordinary combination I saw this summer played the violet against the boldly yellow-colored blossoms of the esperanza. This is a partnership more need to try.

In the perennial garden, the most popular group of gray plants are artemesias. Though herbs, they are definitely at home in the perennial garden. If you are trying artemesia in the perennial garden, choose plants that can tolerate the dryness that artemesia prefer. The trailing purple lantana montevendensis is a good choice. In the herb garden, santolina, thyme, oregano and rosemary are nice companions.

I have seen some very nice beds where tall artemesia are grown with pink-flowered shrub roses like The Fairy, a polyantha, and as a lower level plant in front of Pink Simplicity.

For the best success at growing artemesia, choose a site in full sun to partial shade. They are tolerant of poor soils but good drainage is an absolute must. If drainage is less than perfect, incorporate 3 to 4 inches of organic matter to help

loosen the soil and provide aeration. While you are preparing the bed, apply one pound of a slow release 5-10-5 fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed space. Set nursery grown transplants out at the same depth they were growing in the container.

Artemesia fertilizer requirements are low. Prune to shape and watch for unwanted spreading. They may need to be dug and divided every three or four years. The aromatic foliage can be harvested in early morning and used in a number of ways, from repelling moths in the closet to making pot-pourris, sachets and wreaths.

For the landscape, the hybrid

Powis Castle is known for its endurance in heat and humidity. Silver King has striking lacy foliage making it ideal for arrangements. Another variety of the same species, Silver Queen, is not as large but has finer cut foliage and is breathtakingly beautiful.

Catmints are another group of gray to gray-green much-overlooked plants. The catmints much loved by neighborhood felines produce flowers as pretty as salvias along with their delightful foliage. If you've got more gray on your head than in the garden, you are definitely a candidate for some of these terrific plants.



NORMAN WINTER/MCT
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