

Preserving the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, by Elaine Freed. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1992. xii, 434 pp. Illustrations, map, bibliography, index. \$50.00 cloth, \$30.00 paper.

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Preservation of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains has often been hampered by the region's isolation from the preservation community at large. *Preserving the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains* shows how numerous communities within the region have met the challenges of preservation. Freed first traces the built environment's history from the Native American styles through the different stages and styles of Anglo architecture, which were often influenced by modes of transportation. In this section the author introduces the boom and bust economic cycles in the region that have had considerable impact on its architectural development. This theme is followed throughout the book to demonstrate the continued influence these cycles presently have on preservation efforts.

The second and largest section of the book deals with the organized effort to preserve the area's architectural heritage. In this section Freed presents a series of case studies—including both private and public activities—that cover such areas as ranch, mining town, village, and urban preservation. Freed discusses the successes, failures, and setbacks of such major cities and towns as Denver, Dallas, Santa Fe, San Antonio, Butte, and Omaha. Her investigations range from modest programs such as one in Lincoln, New Mexico (population 65), to elaborate ones represented by Galveston. She also touches on controversial subjects such as questions of stabilization, conservation, restoration, and reconstruction.

Although the book does not cover preservation activities in Iowa, it contains a welath of information on the subject that would apply to areas beyond the book's coverage. Freed has provided the reader with a well-written, extensively researched, and comprehensive survey of the architectural history and efforts to preserve the built environment of the region. Its excellent illustrations complement the narrative. Although the lack of footnotes is somewhat disturbing, there is an extensive bibliography.

Most informed professional preservationists would be aware of the different strategies and approaches dealt with in the publication, but it is a must for every preservation library and should be required reading for every student of historic preservation, and it will serve as an excellent reference source for communities contemplating organizing a preservation effort.

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