



Forgotten Places

North Dakota
Volume I

Photographs by Sterling "Rip" Smith

A Creative Journey

One day in early January 2010 I was sitting at the dining table, eating lunch, half watching the noontime cable news, and opening my mail. One of the pieces of mail I received that day was Tillman Crane's 2010 workshop brochure.

With part of my attention on lunch, and part of my attention on the news headlines, I opened the brochure and scanned it to see if there was anything that caught my attention. I didn't have to read far.

The first workshop in the list took all of my attention away from the food and the TV. I read only the title. I didn't read the description, the date, or anything about the cost. My instant reaction was, "I have GOT to do that!"

The title of the workshop was "Abandoned Farms of North Dakota." Thus began a creative journey that continues to this day.

Many photographers are drawn to abandoned places, buildings, and vehicles or other objects. I am no exception. Not only is the visual impact of such things reason enough to want to photograph them, there is poignancy in places and things that were once useful or loved that are now no longer so.

After getting past my immediate excitement, I went to Tillman's web site (www.tillmancrane.com) and read the detailed description. This would not be a trivial undertaking. I thought hard about it for about two days. At various times in your life, I think, you just have to decide to do something you want to do. As the Nike slogan goes, "Just Do It."

So on April 30 I boarded Amtrak's Capitol Limited in Martinsburg and the next day the Empire Builder from Chicago to arrive in Rugby, North Dakota the morning of May 2. Rugby's main claim to fame is that it is at the "geographical center of North America."

For a week six other photographers and I followed the guidance of Tillman and local photographer Dan Smith as we explored locations around Rugby. During those six days I was captivated by the visual feast offered by the old houses, barns, abandoned vehicles, and the wonderful surprising texture of the prairie landscape.

The images in this monograph were captured in Rolette and Pierce Counties during that workshop.

*Sterling "Rip" Smith
March, 2011*

“ ... no matter what the light conditions, the landscape and visual environment in North Dakota is breathtaking. The sky is ever changing and the remains of so many abandoned homes, churches, and businesses is a testament to the isolated harshness of the environment. Still, for those who can learn to live here, it must be the only place to live.”

SterlingImages.Wordpress.com
May 5, 2010





















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List of Images

1. *Abandoned House*
Pierce County, North Dakota

2. *Old Chair and Television*
Rolette County, North Dakota

3. *Abandoned House*
Rolette County, North Dakota

4. *Jacket with Sun's Rays through Roof*
Rolette County, North Dakota

5. *One-Room Schoolhouse*
Rolette County, North Dakota

6. *Abandoned House and Clearing Storm*
Rolette County, North Dakota

7. *Abandoned House and Truck*
Rolette County, North Dakota

8. *Coats Hanging on Wall*
Rolette County, North Dakota

9. *Falling Barn*
Rolette County, North Dakota

10. *Church Piano*
Pierce County, North Dakota

Note about the Captions

I was asked to not be specific about the locations of the photographs. Unfortunately, some people do not respect property and sometimes will go to abandoned places and vandalize what is left. For this reason I have only identified the county where the photograph was taken.

Folio of Fine Prints

Forgotten Places

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The ten images in this monograph are available in a folio of prints packaged in a specially designed folio cover as illustrated here. The folios are sequentially numbered and offered in an open edition.



The ten prints in this folio are printed one at a time in my studio using 100% cotton fine art paper and archival pigment inks on an Epson Stylus Pro 3800 inkjet printer. The images are printed approximately 6x9 inches on 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Each print is carefully evaluated and guaranteed to meet the same standard as my larger exhibit prints.

This folio of prints is available for \$95.

Please use [this direct link to my web site](#) to order using my secure checkout or to see more information about the folio.

Colophon

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by Sterling “Rip” Smith
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