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Small Town America



Synopsis

In this, his 19th book on the American scene, David Plowden turns to a part of American culture that was once commonplace but is now in danger of being lost or forever transformed. With his photos and engaging text, Plowden has created a vivid portrait of "small town America" that will be instantly recognized--and mourned. 111 duotone photos.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Though published in 1994 and photographed in small town America I can say that three of the places David Plowden visited are still on the map and thanks to Google's Street View I've been able to see the same shot he saw in Frederick, South Dakota, Janesville, Minnesota and Council Grove, Kansas. The same buildings, railroad tracks and street furniture are still there. It's nice to know that these places still exist though admittedly they might be facing a slow decay. The 111 lovely photos really do capture the feel of towns away from the strip malls, housing sub-divisions, freeways and the rest of visual progress. Plowden has managed to capture a quietness and honesty that seems to exist in these places. I've looked through these photos several times over the years and I always close the book with the feeling that it is just one place. The editorial flow of images is just perfect to suggest Anytown USA. From Main Street with its railroad tracks, exterior and interiors of small shops, a bank, library, pre-1950 housing and inside rooms, small commercial concerns (and sometimes large grain elevators) to the few portrait shots, they all work so wonderfully well. David Plowden has produced twenty or so books, with a constant theme, it seems to me, of capturing the

ruggedness of a slightly past America. 'Small town America' covers this theme brilliantly. If you are just discovering Plowden's work have a look at A Handful of Dust: Disappearing America, published in 2006 and it continues the theme of 'Small town America'.

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