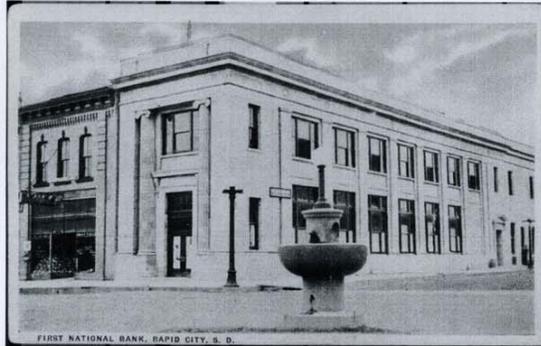


CITY OF RAPID CITY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
2004 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By The
Rapid City Growth Management Department
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

2004 PROJECTS

The following list represents the major projects undertaken by the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission during 2004.

FOUNTAIN RESTORATION PROJECT Lee Vierling, Project Coordinator

During 2004 the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission continued their ongoing efforts to restore the City downtown fountain and return it to Downtown Rapid City. The fountain, a gift to the City in 1911 from the National Humane Alliance of New York, was originally placed at the center of the intersection of 7th and Main Streets to serve not only to beautify the dusty Downtown area but as a watering station for horses and dogs. With the rise of the automobile in the mid-1920's; however, the placement of the fountain was deemed impractical and it was removed from the Downtown area and relocated to a local City park.

The Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission worked with students and faculty at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to refurbish the fountain and to restore it near its original location, at the northwest corner of 7th and Main Streets. Engineering plans for final placement were completed and the project was coordinated with the City of Rapid City. The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology secured the assistance of area artist John Lopez for the fabrication of the original lion-head ornamental water spouts. The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology also secured a replica of the original top lamp post.

The dedication ceremony for the 1911 Lions Head Fountain was held on May 23, 2004 and brought to conclusion the decade long project for the Historic Preservation Commission.

As the fountain project did not fall under the project criteria of the Certified Local Grant program, the Historic Preservation Commission secured grant funding from the Modern Woodmen of America foundation. The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology secured additional funding from the Julianne Creamer memorial fund.



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HISTORIC FOUNTAIN DEDICATED IN DOWNTOWN RAPID CITY

South Dakota Tech students and faculty and local historic preservation officials will dedicate the 1911 Fountain during a ceremony held Sunday, May 23, at the corner of Seventh and Main streets in Rapid City.

This fountain was donated to Rapid City in 1911 by Hermon Lee Ensign, the founder of the National Humane Alliance. The fountain was designed as a horse watering trough, but the fountain base features two small basins for dogs and cats. The fountain originally sat in the middle of the intersection of Seventh and Main streets. When cars became popular, the fountain was moved to the corner, and then it was placed at the city parks department in old Storybook Island.

In 1998, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Committee and South Dakota Tech decided began a project to restore the fountain and place it downtown once again. At Tech, the project began with student involvement from the American Society of Civil Engineers. It evolved into a senior design project to design the pump, subgrade and concrete pad.

The most difficult portion of the project was replacing the lions' heads and plaque. After mentioning the project to artist John Lopez, he decided to take on the task of recreating the lions' heads from a photograph of a similar fountain in Illinois.

With continued and dedicated help from the American Society of Civil Engineers, businesses in the community, and the City of Rapid City, the fountain can finally be dedicated near its original location.