

# Retail building slated for Sweeney site

■ Site owners hope for building to be up by October.

By Dan Daly  
Journal Staff Writer

Mark and Larry Blote plan to construct a one-story building on the site of the Sweeney Building, leveled by fire May 8.

By October, the owners hope, the building will be up and occupied by six retail businesses.

Mark Blote, owner of First Stop Gun Shop, and his father, Larry Blote, were partners in the Sweeney Building, an aging three-story struc-

ture. The top two floors were vacant, but six businesses shared retail space on the first floor.

According to floor plans being drawn by Galyardt Associates Inc., a Rapid City architecture firm, the new building will also have room for six shops as well.

Three small, 1,500-square-foot shops will face Seventh Street.

Two long, deep 3,800-foot shops will stretch from Main Street to the alley.

The 3,700-square-foot corner spot will be home to First Stop Gun. It will have an angled front entrance similar to that of the Sweeney Building.

Vertical columns, large windows and double doors are designed to fit

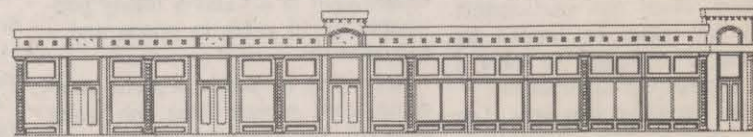
in with the surrounding architecture of the Downtown Historic District.

Larry Blote said he and his son considered a number of options, including a two-story structure and even a parking garage atop the retail shops.

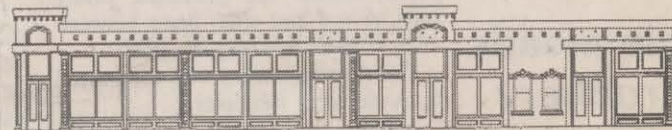
But this plan was the most feasible for now. Blote said the architects plan to make the foundation strong enough to support a second floor addition if it becomes feasible.

Galyardt architects are working on final plans, and Blote hopes to take bids in February and start pouring the foundation in March.

Next week, for-lease signs will go up, and Blote hopes the tenants can move in by October.



Seventh Street view



Main Street view

Drawing courtesy of Galyardt Associates Inc.

Although some details may change by the time final plans are completed, these preliminary elevation drawings show what Mark and Larry Blote want to build at the corner of Seventh and Main streets.