



Journal photo by Don Polovich

Half of the Prairie Edge Building, at the corner of Sixth and Main streets in

downtown Rapid City, is nearly restored as crews continue their work.

Prairie Edge moves back to Main Street building

Downtown Rapid City got its first peek this week at what the Prairie Edge building, at the corner of Sixth and Main streets, will look like when restoration work is finished.

The art gallery, which moved out last November to give the building over to construction crews, moved back in over the Fourth of July weekend, occupying half of the building's first floor.

Prairie Edge has spent the past seven months in a small storefront one block south on St. Joseph Street.

Crews removed the plywood barrier from the sidewalk recently to reveal half of the building's new exterior, highlighted by four huge, 14-foot windows.

Colleen Miller, Prairie Edge spokesman, said the window installation marked a milestone for the project.

"When they came in you knew it was going to be a

beautiful building," Miller said. But cornices, awnings and other decorative touches need to be finished, she added, before the building takes on its original 1887 look.

Inside, the first floor Indian art gallery and studios are mostly finished, and crews should soon have the mezzanine gallery finished, she added.

After that, the second floor art gallery is scheduled to be completed, then the Prairie Edge Trading Post, occupying the other half of the first floor.

"We were hoping first of August, but that will be impossible," Miller said. "Now we're looking at early fall."

Half of the building's second floor, next to the art gallery, will be the offices for Prairie Edge owner Ray Hillenbrand. That area probably will be finished last, Miller said.