



Above is historical photo of the Crouch Line Depot and Warehouse building. Middle photo shows The Seventh Street Warehouse as it is today. At far right is architectural drawing showing how facade could be restored.



# Group strives to save city's past

■ Commission keen to preserve key local architectural and cultural icons.

By Dan Daly  
Journal Staff Writer

Nearly every neighborhood in Rapid City has a piece of the city's history that is worth saving, according to the chairman of the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission.

In an update on the group's preservation efforts, Chairman Paul Swedlund noted that Skyline Drive, West Boulevard, Wilson Park and downtown buildings in Rapid City are the current fronts in the battle against neglect and modernization.

"We don't want to lock Rapid City into a time warp from the frontier days," he said. The group's goal is to identify key examples of local archi-

tectural and cultural history and preserve them. Here are some:

## Skyline Drive

Historic preservationists say Skyline Drive is threatened by both decay and development.

Rock walls, built by the Work Projects Administration during the Depression, are falling apart in many areas. The commission secured a federal ISTE (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) grant to help rebuild the walls.

"A more comprehensive approach to preservation and conservation is needed, however, to maintain the scenic value of Skyline Drive," Swedlund said.

From setting aside key pieces of property to special zoning ordinances, the city needs to act before residential development changes the character of Skyline Drive forever,

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## Grant sought to restore 9 storefronts

If a pending \$250,000 ISTE (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) grant is approved, nine downtown Rapid City storefronts will undergo \$357,000 in restoration.

The list of buildings, and comments from the grant application:

■ **1891 Crouch Line Depot and Warehouse, 321 Seventh St. (Seventh Street Warehouse.)**

"This facade represents a 'modernization' effort typical of the 1960s." Second-floor windows were covered, and the whole building was stuccoed.

■ **1886 Italianate Commercial Building, 608 and 610 St. Joseph St. (Wedding Boutique and Alex Johnson Mercantile.)**

"... among the earliest brick structures to appear in the vicinity."

■ **1920 Rapid City Fruit and Produce Warehouse, 320 Seventh St.**

"It is the first cold storage building in Rapid

City ... (and) is located in the original warehouse district of the city."

■ **1911 Rapid City Garage, 510 Ninth St. (Murphy's Bar.)**

"The Rapid City Garage is significant for its role in the commercial history of Rapid City. ... When (it) opened in September 1911, its owners boasted that it was the first fireproof garage ... for their cars."

■ **1899 Duhamel Building Annex, 516 and 520 Sixth St. (Sixth Street Deli and Storyteller Book Shop.)**

"... interesting because they evidence a transition from the frontier Italianate Commercial architecture to the new International style of the early 20th Century."

■ **1905 Swander Grocery Store, 517-519 Seventh St. (Arrow Pawn.)**

"Originally it housed the Swander's Grocery Store in the northern portion of the building and

the Security Savings Bank in the southern portion. By 1914, it housed Rapid City's first business college."

■ **1887 storefront, 613 Main St. (First Photo.)**  
"Although appearances would lead a person to conclude otherwise, this structure, constructed in 1887, is among the oldest in the downtown."

■ **1932 North Western Transportation Warehouse, 413 Sixth St.**

"This majestic warehouse facility, built for the then-astonishing sum of \$250,000, provided Rapid City with a sophisticated transportation warehouse when it was constructed in 1932 by the Chicago & North Western Railway Co. ..."

■ **1881 Buell Building Annex, 624, 626 and 628 St. Joseph St. (Brass Rail Bar, the Village Collection and the Perfect Hanging Gallery.)**

"This building represents one of the worst efforts at 'modernization' in the downtown ... original buildings and facade structural elements are intact behind the false facades."

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