Downtown to have new major structure

By the fall of 1982, Prairie States Life Insurance Co. of Rapid City will be moving into its new headquarters on the corner of Main and 8th Streets downtown.

Construction is set to begin later this month on the $3.2 million, six-story project that will be built by Corner Construction Co. of Rapid City. Architecture, Inc. of Sioux Falls and TSP West of Rapid City designed the brick-faced structure that will include several energy-saving features.

Prairie States Insurance, headed by Arnold Snortland, will use approximately half of the building for its 30 local staff members. Insurance business will be conducted on floors 1 and 6, with the sixth floor for Company executive offices. The remainder of the building will be available for rent.

Prairie States has been located on St. Joe St., in a former retail space the Company is outgrowing. The Company has an annual payroll of $800,000 and is licensed to operate in 31 states. Three hundred agents serve 60,000 policy holders with annual premiums totalling $8 million.

The project will fill another block of the downtown area that has been vacant in recent years since the start of urban renewal for the city center following the June 1972 flood.

Workers from Corner Construction Co. are set to begin later this month on building this $3.2 million home office for Prairie States Life Insurance Co.