

Governor Daugaard Gives Green Light On Mead

On July 11, 2012, Governor Daugaard and Lt. Governor Michels visited Yankton to learn about plans the Dakota Territorial Museum has to turn the Mead Building, on the South Dakota Human Services Center historic campus, into a new home for their Museum. Governor Daugaard gave his vote of support to the Dakota Territorial Museum by offering a 20 year lease during rehabilitation phases with the option to buy the Mead Building once restoration is complete. The 20 year lease, which included goals that must be met in order to keep the lease, was signed on July 23, 2012.

Work on the roof of the 103-year-old building is scheduled to begin Monday, July 30. A "Raise the Roof" Groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Monday, July 30, at 10am at the Mead Building. Special thanks to Larry Ness and First Dakota National Bank of Yankton for their significant contribution to the roof restoration project. The roof restoration is also funded in part by the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission and the South Dakota State Historical Society Deadwood Funds.

Since 2008, the local historical society has been working closely with the Human Services Center, the state, and local officials to make this dream a reality. With the signed go-ahead, the Yankton County Historical Society's Mead Building Committee has officially kicked off their Capital Campaign to continue to raise the funds needed for next phases of the project. If you would like to donate or learn more about the project you can contact Crystal Nelson, Director of Dakota Territorial Museum at 665-3898.

The Dakota Territorial Museum and the Mead Building Committee are very grateful to the State of South Dakota staff that assisted in making the long term lease a reality. With the confidence of the Governor's office and the support of area residents, the Dakota Territorial Museum is confident that they will succeed with their dream to not only preserve a significant State structure like the Mead Building for the public to enjoy for generations but also to preserve the historical collection of the Dakota Territory.