

Yankton's Historic Places



The first Dakota Territorial Senate building, seen in this 1862 photograph. (Courtesy Photo)

Dakota Territorial Legislative Chamber: By Any Other Name

This article is third in a series developed by the Questers Dakota Territory Chapter No. 794 in an attempt to commemorate the 125th anniversary of statehood through discovery of those historic locations and edifices which contributed to or were the site of the move to statehood.

In an historic community like Yankton, it is not at all unusual to discover buildings, constructed in the years before Dakota Territory was transformed into states, which have "lived on" in several locations and for several purposes unto today. They've even been known by different names, so that tracing the journeys they've made over these many decades is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

The edifice presently situated just south of the Dakota Territorial Museum and known now as the Max Copper Antique Fishing and Outboard Collection certainly has come there by a circuitous route and bearing a variety of names.

On March 17, 1862, those designated as representatives of the various settlements within the Dakota Territory met in Yankton in a new frame building on the southeast corner of 4th and Broadway and, under the leadership of Governor William Jayne, proceeded to choose a Territorial Capital. It was a lengthy process and did not come to its conclusion until April 8, 1862.

Part of the action during this period of time took place in what was called the Council or Senate Building at first but was quickly re-defined as the Dakota Territorial Legislative Chamber. Prior to the time it was annexed for the purposes of government work, it had emerged as a newly built dwelling (1861-1862) near the southeast corner of Broadway and 4th Street. Once its use as a legislative chamber was in the past, it was used as a law office and in about 1893 it ceased its usefulness, was sold and moved to a farm west of Yankton where for more than 40 years it was used as a granary and storage shed. At that time (1933) an insurance firm in Newark, New Jersey, owned the farm and, having no practical use for it, offered the building to the Yankton Daniel Newcomb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). The Chapter members accepted and formed a committee along with the Chamber of Commerce whose task it was to tear down the original building, move, rebuild and restore it.

The restored building was first located at Riverside Park at Broadway and 1st Street; it was 37 feet long by 23 feet wide with a white exterior and green shutters. A gala celebration was held at the dedication of the building



The Senate building still endures as the Copper Building, located on the grounds of the Dakota Territorial Museum in Yankton.

on June 12, 1936, which was the 75th Anniversary of the Dakota Territory. Participants in the ceremony included Yankton's Mayor E. A. Crockett, the Municipal and Yankton High School Bands, and an original quartet which performed "The Story of the Old Council Building," written for the occasion by Dr. G. Harrison Durand of Yankton College. By the end of that year it was officially known to one and all as Yankton's First Official Historical Museum. During its early life as a museum it was only open "by appointment" but the D.A.R. members and volunteers somehow managed to keep the museum staffed and open to the public for more than 15 years.

In 1952 a movement developed to move the building to West Side Park in Yankton and although the task was daunting and required volunteers from nearly every civic and fraternal organization in town, by May 24, 1953 it was accomplished. Mr. Freeman Otto was chairman of the Historical Committee and secured permission from the City Commission, the D.A.R., the Park Board and the Yankton Board of Education (for the use of school property), to see that the building was painted inside and out and was once again fit to be dedicated as Yankton's Dakota Territorial Museum.

Another celebratory ceremony ensued with the Ladies Auxiliary of V.F.W. Post 792 presenting the colors to the D.A.R. and the Chamber of Commerce and Mrs. Theo Koenig making the presentation on behalf of the Auxiliary to Dr. Evelyn Hohf, regent of Daniel Newcomb Chapter of the D.A.R. At that time the Chapter relinquished its ownership of the building to the Yankton County Historical Society. To "seal the deal,"

the official flag was raised to the top of the staff by Joseph Vinatieri, witnessed by Chamber president Clayton Christopherson as well as Lerna Velig and Lucille Eldridge, all accompanied by the Yankton College Band, directed by J. Leighton Weed. The fundraising was not yet complete so donations of both money and artifacts were solicited and freely given and the newly enlivened Museum proceeded forward.

In June 1961 log cabin siding was added to the building and at that time the Yankton County Historical Society was chartered as a new non-profit corporation. Between that time and 1971 the present building known as the Dakota Territorial Museum was built, dedicated and became debt-free while the Territorial Chamber/Museum building was used as a Boy Scout meeting hall. However, the increasing numbers of historical donations made it necessary to, once again, use it as a storage place and eventually it became the home of the collection of fishing rods and reels accrued through the lifetime of Mr. Max Copper and donated to the Museum at the time of his death.

Now known familiarly as the Max Copper Building, the building has attained an age of over 150 years but through the use of careful conservation and preservation techniques and application of constant care both inside and out, it has remained a vital part of the campus of the Dakota Territorial Museum. It has joined the ring of external historical buildings which surround the main building, all of which are operated, supported and conserved by the Yankton County Historical Society, and provides the first "Welcome" to guests who enter the park from Broadway Avenue.

MEETINGS

YANKTON COMMUNITY FORUM

During July and August, Yankton Community Forum had a wide variety of programs and members enjoyed these featured speakers.

- July 1 — Dave Hosmer spoke about his project to interview South Dakota WWI and WWII veterans and the wonderful stories he documented.
- July 8 — Tara Hoxeng, New Development and Administrative Coordinator for United Way, told about their services and the agencies they help to support.
- July 15 — Diane Nicholson, National Alliance on Mental Illness Co-Leader, and daughter Melissa Adams shared what it was like to live with a mental illness in their family and the types of services which are available in the Yankton area.
- July 22 — Todd Larson, Yankton Parks and Recreation Director, talked about his department and what was happening with the proposed bike trail in Nebraska.
- July 29 — John Clifton, Plant Manager of SAPA industries, explained what products are made in the local plant as well as in the other plants world wide, plans for future expansion, and the SAPA employee benefits and safety programs.

- Aug. 5 — Juan Skorey, Yankton High debate student, entertained the group with his experiences in debate and oral interpretation activities, then performed some funny and moving examples.
- Aug. 12 — Pastor Jon Cooke showed pictures and shared experiences from the missionary trip to Cameroon, Africa, and the work at the Mbingo Hospital there.
- Aug. 19 — Cathy Clatworthy, owner of LilyCrest Cottage, presented what she has done to organize and set up the first downtown Yankton Harvest Halloween Festival and the exciting events which are planned for Oct. 31st and Nov. 1st. Crystal Nelson, director and curator of the Dakota Territorial Museum, gave an update on the Mead building project.
- Aug. 26 — Errol Johnson shared his Army experiences while serving in the Vietnam war as well as his many years of working in the education field.

Yankton Community Forum meets every Tuesday morning at the Hillcrest Country Club. Coffee, rolls, and socializing begins at 8:30 a.m. Then at 9 a.m., there is a speaker presenting an informative topic regarding local or regional issues followed by question and answer session. Anyone over 50 years of age is welcome to come and join

our very friendly group.

If you would like more information about Forum, please contact President Jack Lyons (665-9337) or Secretary Rose Mather (665-4615) or feel free to just come as a guest at any time.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB 6217

Avera Sacred Heart Toastmasters Club 6217 met Sept. 4 at noon in the Benedictine Center with Eileen O'Connor giving the Invocation and Muriel Stach as Toastmaster.

General Evaluator Kary Beltz introduced her team. They were Greg Stach Timer; Jennifer Suing as Evaluator, Sandy Spady "Ah/um" counters; and Chelsi Hames as Grammarian.

Amy William was a guest speaker for the second week in a row, this time giving her second speech titled "Teach." She spoke of getting the girls basketball team to foster the idea of being a great team by using the "we before me" concept.

Williams was evaluated by Suing giving praise for her great topic, her commanding voice that got the audience's attention and held it. She used great eye contact and vocal variety in her speech as well. Her speech could

work well in many situations, at work or at home, not just on the basketball court. Many great phrases and hand gestures kept the audience captivated.

Table Topic Master Fran Kocer had impromptu questions pertaining to animals. Jeff May tried to help Kocer out by explaining to his wife that a great dane may not be the best pet choice for them, that it would just be more work for his wife in the long run. Steve Anderson believes a simple house pet for an elderly couple would be something small, a miniature doxey perhaps, although they will still be a lot of work they become part of the family.

GE Kary gave the meeting overall good points but pointed out that you make sure to find your own replacements rather than relying on the Toastmaster and GE to do it for you.

Toastmaster Stach then turned the meeting over to President Greg Stach for announcements, which were: Dues are due end of Sept., start thinking of a Toastmaster of the year candidate, Area 62 Speech Contest in September in Freeman date TBD, and October speech theme is vacations.

NorthtownUSA.com

PRE-OWNED CARS

- '05 Chevy Malibu LS #3511B1, Tan, 99k Miles \$7,990
- '06 Buick Lucerne CXL #3823A, Crystal Red, 116k miles, clean! leather, chrome wheels, bench seat \$8,990
- '06 Buick Lucerne CXS #4005B, White Diamond, 87k miles, roof and loaded \$10,990
- '08 Buick Lucerne CXL #4163A, White Diamond, 103k miles, new LaCrosse trade JUST IN
- '08 Cadillac CTS AWD #3687A, Crystal Red, 85k miles, 1 owner, we sold new, very nice..... \$16,990
- '08 Pontiac G6 #4189A, Blue, 86k miles, local new Equinox trade \$9,990
- '09 Buick Lucerne CXL #4227A, Brown, 44k 1 owner miles, gorgeous unit! \$16,990
- '11 Buick Regal #3963A, Gray, 31k 1 owner miles \$17,990
- '12 Lincoln MKS AWD #4271A, Black, 34k 1 owner miles, Ecoboost, loaded \$29,990
- '13 Chevy Camaro LT RS #P2388, Red, 18k miles, sun roof, alloy wheels..... \$26,990
- '14 Cadillac ATS Luxury #P2381, Gray, 13k miles, CUE only..... \$32,990
- '14 Chevy Camaro LT #P2385, Black, 13k miles, sunroof and alloys..... \$28,990

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- '05 GMC Envoy SLE XUV #P2364B, Silver, 77k miles, unique retractable roof \$9,490
- '06 Chevy Trailblazer LS #3511B, White, 81k miles..... JUST IN
- '08 GMC Acadia AWD SLT2 #4273A, Maroon, 72k miles, quad seating, NAV \$21,990
- '08 Buick Enclave CXL #3773A, Mocha, 120k miles, chrome wheels, clean! \$14,990
- '08 Chevy Silverado Crew Z71 LT #3976A, Gray, 92k miles, local trade..... \$19,990
- '08 Chevy Silverado Crew Z71 LT #4324B, Gray, 69k 1 owner miles JUST IN
- '09 Chevy Silverado Crew 4x4 LT #3978A, White, 103k 1 owner miles, clean, local trade..... JUST IN
- '09 Chevy Traverse AWD LTZ #4272A, Maroon, 51k 1 owner miles, NAV, roof JUST IN
- '09 GMC Yukon XL Denali #P2390, White Diamond, 73k miles, 1 owner, loaded, NAV, roof, DVD \$35,990
- '10 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT #4295A, Silver, 66k miles..... \$13,490
- '11 Chevy Equinox AWD LT #4244A, Mocha Steel, 33k miles, 1 owner, we sold new..... \$20,990
- '11 Buick Enclave AWD CXL #4130A, Black 74k miles, 1 owner, we sold new, Loaded \$25,990
- '11 GMC Sierra Ext Cab 4x4 SLT #4312A, Gray, 31k 1 owner miles, chrome wheels, loaded \$27,990
- '11 Chevy Silverado 3/4 Ton Crew 4x4 LT #P2408, 34k miles, long box \$33,990
- '11 Ford Explorer Limited #P2047A, White Diamond, 46k miles, loaded, NAV & more..... JUST IN
- '12 GMC Sierra Crew SLE #3906A, New truck trade, leather & nav \$23,990
- '13 Chevy Silverado Ext Cab 4x4 WT #3958A, White, 7,700 miles, 1 owner, 5.3L V8 \$26,990
- '13 Audi Q7 Quattro 3.0T Premium Plus #4344A, Gray, 28k miles, NAV, Cold Weather Pkg, Loaded! \$44,990
- '13 GMC Sierra 3/4 Ton Crew SLT #4317A, White, 25k miles, 1 owner, Diesel very nice! \$48,990
- '13 Ford F-150 SuperCrew Lariat #4281A, black, 41k miles, 1 owner, loaded, new tires \$36,990
- '13 GMC Yukon Denali #4267A, Black, 31k miles, like brand new, DVD, roof, upgraded 22" GM wheels..... \$48,990
- '13 Nissan Xterra PRO-4X #4188B, Gray, 14k 1 owner miles, manual, rare vehicle..... \$26,990

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

- '10 Chevy Equinox AWD LTZ #4200A, Gray, 39k miles, 1 owner, V6, rear DVD, loaded \$24,990
- '10 Buick Enclave AWD CXL2 #4252A, White Diamond, 52k 1 owner miles, roof, NAV, DVD \$27,990
- '11 Buick Lucerne CXL #4186A, White Diamond, 42k miles, 1 owner, we sold new, very nice!..... \$19,990
- '11 Chevy Malibu LS #4169A, White, 54k miles, very nice, trade in..... \$13,990
- '11 Chevy Impala LT #3907C, Maroon, 47k miles, leather, very clean..... \$14,990
- '11 Chevy Equinox AWD LTZ #P2370A, Brown, 46k miles, chrome wheels, very sharp \$24,990
- '11 Chevy Cruze LT #3279A, Black, 25k 1 owner miles, leather, we sold new..... \$17,990
- '12 GMC Yukon XL Denali #4343A, Silver, 24k 1 owner miles, loaded..... \$48,990
- '12 GMC Terrain AWD SLT #3857A, Black beauty with only 34k 1 owner miles, loaded..... \$24,990
- '13 Chevy Malibu LT #4119A, Silver, 3,000 miles, 1 owner, like new! \$19,990
- '13 GMC Yukon XL SLT #P2375, 22k miles, loaded, leather, DVD, sunroof..... \$41,990
- '13 GMC Yukon Denali #P2399, Black, 8,200 miles, 1 owner, we sold new, LOADED! \$49,990
- '13 Chevy Impala LTZ #P2384, White, 25k miles, leather and loaded only..... \$19,990
- '13 Chevy Silverado Crew LTZ #4289A, Maroon, 10k miles, 1 owner, NAV, sharp!..... \$36,990
- '13 GMC Yukon Denali #4267A, Black, 31k miles, like brand new, DVD, roof, upgraded 22" GM wheels \$48,990
- '14 Buick LaCrosse #P2386, White, 10k miles, leather only \$29,990
- '14 GMC Sierra Double Cab SLE #3965A, Stealth Gray, 3k 1 owner miles, V8, like new..... \$33,990
- '14 Chevy Malibu LT's Black, 5-11k miles - starting only \$19,990
- '14 Chevy Malibu 2LT's 10-14k miles, leather - starting only..... \$21,990
- '14 Chevy Captiva LS #P2404, White, 13k miles..... \$19,990
- '14 GMC Acadia AWD SLT1 #P2387, Gray, 13k miles, leather, quad seating \$38,990

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