

A story that needs to be told

Valentine McGillicuddy and the McGillicuddy House are great stories, and we love telling them.

As Historic Rapid City Inc., we have undertaken a project to restore Valentine McGillicuddy's once-impressive house and to educate the public about the man's key role in the history of the Black Hills. This quarterly newsletter is one of several ways we hope to get the word out.

In a little more than two decades, from the mid 1870s to the late 1890s, Valentine McGillicuddy was a doctor, surveyor, Indian agent, politician, educator, banker, and a key promoter of electrical power in the Black Hills.

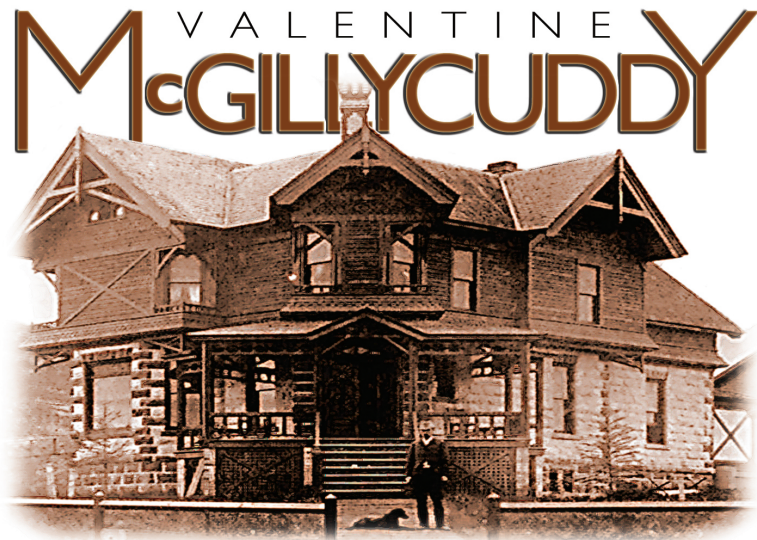
He was part of the Newton-Jenny Party in 1875. He is believed to be the first non-Native American to climb to the top of Harney Peak.

Two years later, he was the Army doctor who treated Crazy Horse as the Lakota leader lay dying at Fort Robinson. McGillicuddy had many friends among the Lakota, and he was an outspoken critic of U.S. policy in the years leading to the Wounded Knee massacre.

When he and his wife Fanny moved to Rapid City, they built an impressive, two-story, stone-and-wood home on the south edge of Rapid City – now the corner of Mount Rushmore Road and South



Street. He was Dean of the School of Mines, Mayor of Rapid City, delegate to the South Dakota State Constitutional Convention and the state's first



The home. The man. The life.

A Restoration Project of Historic Rapid City Inc.

Surgeon General.

After Fanny died in 1898, Valentine McGillicuddy moved on. He died in 1939 at age 90 in California. Today his ashes are atop Harney Peak.

Meanwhile, their impressive South Street house has been ravaged. The top stories were ripped off. Another house was placed in the front yard. Architectural details were changed or removed.

Historic Rapid City Inc. has a mission to restore the McGillicuddy House and turn it into a home for

history and reconciliation. (We'll have more on that in future newsletters.)

With generous help of volunteers and donors, we've accomplished a great deal. But much more hard work and generosity remain.

Someday, you will be able to stand on the same floorboards where Valentine McGillicuddy stood looking out the window at his young city. By restoring his home, we can preserve the memory of the man and continue his vision for Rapid City's next 100 years.



VOLUNTEER MAE SIMMONS ANSWERS QUESTIONS AT THE HISTORIC RAPID CITY BOOTH DURING THE WEST BOULEVARD FESTIVAL.

We need to talk

If you have a book club, service group or even a neighborhood gathering in need of an entertaining 30-minute presentation, please give us a call. The talks are informal and there's always time for questions and answers. We've been meeting with the public every chance we get, and the response has been encouraging. At our West Boulevard Festival booth in June, lots of folks stopped by to ask questions, look at photos, offer encouragement and even drop off a few dollars. We've also had open houses, news interviews and fundraisers.

Through all these encounters, we've discovered that the people of the Black Hills are hungry for history. They want to know about the people who came before us, and the legacy that has been left to us...that direct connection with the past. The kind of connection that comes from saving and preserving historic architecture. **To schedule a speaker, contact Dan Daly at 431-7371.**

VALENTINE McGILLYCUDDY



The home. The man. The life.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

McGillicuddy House endured changes with quiet strength, inspiration

Historic Rapid City Inc.

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Minnilusa Pioneer Collection

The McGillicuddy House Newsletter is published in print and online four times a year by Historic Rapid City Inc. If you have questions, concerns or comments, or if you would like to receive copies of the newsletter, contact Dan Daly at kerouac.y@gmail.com or 605-431-7371.

Historic Rapid City Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Stock donations:

If you would like to give stock or other securities to the project, contact Michelle Sterkel or Sandra Shaw at RBC Wealth Management. They can explain the best way to do that. The telephone number is 605-343-7720.

Learn more online:

historicrapidcity.org

facebook.com/mcgillicuddyhouse

It is my pleasure to serve on the board of Historic Rapid City with others as dedicated to Rapid City's past as they are to its future.

We would not be where we are today on the V.T. McGillicuddy House Project without the support of our friends, sponsors and donors, such as the Clock Shop/Presidential Pawn and Piece of Cake Bakery and Café, nor as far along in reconstruction without the volunteers who unflinchingly appear every Wednesday evening, excited to be there – hardhats and hammers in hand – and eager to get to work.

A special thanks to the professionals from Scull Construction, Mac Construction, West River Masonry, Kurtz Construction and Chris Wells Construction. These companies volunteer their expertise with this phase of rebuilding. Thanks, too, to Warren Windows for its donation of windows, as well as Albertson Engineering for making sure that the house sits atop a stable foundation. And to Kieffer Sanitation for disposal of construction debris.

And people have helped us in other ways as well. Randy and Marcia Taylor hosted our very first McGillicuddy House fundraiser, a party that featured bagna càuda, an Italian dish that is made from garlic, anchovies, olive oil and butter. The event was a hit, and we so much appreciate them opening their home to us.

This house has endured many changes in its 126 years. With a quiet strength, it inspires those who labor here, slowly revealing itself. Even with the construction mess, you can see the second story floor, and it tells us where the walls were, how many rooms there were and where the hallways and doors to those rooms were located.

The floors also tell us where the wires ran when electricity came to Rapid City. In fact if you listen hard enough, the whole house speaks to its beginnings: sandstone quarried at Hot Springs, lumber from the forested Hills, and painted the colors of the prairie and Badlands – all done up in a Stick-style design as unusual to this area as the man himself.

Walking through the McGillicuddy House is a walk through our history. You're walking in the footsteps of a man who not only influenced Rapid City's direction, but that of the nation. This is where he lived, where he loved, where he worked and dreamed. Where he planned for our future, where our present is our past. Thank you for doing your part in retelling his story.

Jean Oleson Kessloff

President

Historic Rapid City Inc.



Historic restoration takes time, money

People often ask, “When will the house be finished?” The quick answer is “When we have raised the money we need.” Restoring historic properties is always expensive, and the V.T. McGillicuddy House is no exception.

The house is located in the West Boulevard Historic District, and we are working closely with the State Historic Preservation Office to restore and recreate the house to state standards, as authentically as possible. The entire second story of the house was lost decades ago, and must be recreated. The required research, the choice of authentic or acceptable materials and the variety of skills necessary to save this house come at a high cost, both financially and in man-hours.

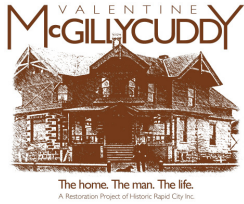
Historic Rapid City Inc., the non-profit organization that is spearheading this project, is a group of ordinary people who believe in the value of preserving important tangible survivors of our historic past. We believe that these buildings help us to understand those who came before us, and the times in which they lived. Understanding the past helps us understand the present, and who we are – together – as a people. This is worthwhile work that we do not for ourselves, but for our community now and into the future.

We have no guaranteed revenue stream from any source. We have to raise the money for this work dollar-by-dollar. The board has spent thousands of volunteer hours on this project, but it’s a big job and we cannot do it alone. Thanks to the generosity of our neighbors and an

outpouring of community support, we are off to a good start. The project is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$675,000. We’ve raised approximately \$200,000 in just the past year and a half.

We’ve received grant funding from the Outside of Deadwood Fund, the Allied Arts Fund and Modern Woodmen. We have several grant applications pending. Numerous individuals and businesses have donated cash, sponsored fundraisers or volunteered their labor.

This is truly the people’s house, the product of the passion of our community and our neighbors. With your help we’ve done a lot, but there is still much left to do. If you have the interest and a few dollars or a little time, please join us. Become a part of history and help us return this distressed lady to her former Victorian glory.



1015 12th St., Rapid City, SD 57701



McGillicuddy House, before restoration

Thanks for your help!

Generous people and companies have contributed more than \$200,000 in cash, materials and in-kind services to Historic Rapid City Inc. This is a partial list; we'll be adding more names in future issues.

Dave Stafford
The Clock Shop
Knechts Home Center
Marci Weasler
Modern Woodmen of America
North Western Warehouse
Ed & Peg Seljeskog
Swans
Warren Window & Supply
West River Masonry
Deadwood Historic Preservation

Advanced Electric
Barb & Dave Schmidt
Gustafson Builders
Kent Brugger
Kurtz Construction
Mac Construction
McGillicuddy Family
Paul Thorstenson
J Scull Construction
Mike Wilson

facebook.com/McGillicuddyHouse

Become a member of Historic Rapid City Inc.

Just tear this out, fill it out and send it in. You can help us in a number of ways, from pulling nails, writing a check or simply letting the community know you support this important project.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT: \$ _____

SEND TO: **Historic Rapid City Inc.**
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