

Old Log Schoolhouse  
CCHS Heritage Notes  
for 12-17-13

The first permanent school house in Dakota Territory was built in 1864 at the base of the Dakota Street hill in Vermillion. In 1873 the original school ceased being used when Captain Miner donated land atop the bluff and a new school was built. In August 1909, a monument was placed at the original site at the base of Dakota Street hill and it is still there today.

A replica of the original schoolhouse was built in 1939 and placed on the USD Campus east of the current National Music Museum. It was later moved several times on campus before being returned in 1964 to the base of Dakota Street hill.

Continued vandalism caused the replica to be moved back up the hill in 1978 to Captain Miner Lane on the Southwest corner of the Main Street Center parking lot. The school replica has fallen into disrepair and salvageable parts of it will next be moved to the Clay County Historical Society's Austin-Whittemore property at 15 Austin Street in Vermillion. Realistically, it will need to be largely rebuilt with newly milled logs using old time construction techniques.

Hawkins Construction of Vermillion has been hired by the Clay County Historical Society to complete the project by the end of summer 2014, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original building. The concrete slab has been poured on the Southwest corner of 15 Austin Street and construction will proceed as logs are available and weather permits.

A grand celebration and dedication is planned at a lawn party at the Austin-Whittemore property on Wednesday September 3, 2014 from 4pm to 7pm.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE THE PAST!** A financial donation to the Clay County Historical Society, a 501(c)3 organization, will double our ability to properly fund and furnish this project, as an anonymous individual will match donations dollar for dollar!