



Claim STAKING

Advancing Opportunities to Operations
at the Black Hills Mining Museum

Official Mining Museum
of South Dakota

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Stories Waiting To Be Told

The museum's collection has accumulated to over 100,000 pieces with additional interesting items coming in all the time. These all bear witness to the area's incredible mining history and play an important role not only in preserving and telling yesteryear's stories but also in enlightening the public about the meaningful contributions mining has had on the betterment of human life.



Bring More Stories to Life

Your participation in helping the museum to construct new facilities will provide the means for more Black Hills mining stories to be told. There are many long-forgotten "ghost mines" that nature herself has now reclaimed. Some of these mines never attained profitability, but they still can yield intriguing accounts that can be brought to life in a new museum. These mining tales are all about the interweaving of dreams and sweat which resulted in either some fortunes being found or fickle fate, as it were, frustrating it all. This it seems was the case with the Oro Hondo Mine.



The Oro Hondo Saga

Today the community's only reminder of the Oro Hondo's existence is the droning whirl of the exhaust fan now situated over its old shaft. Back in 1914, the mine was

the big dream of John T. Milliken. Begun in 1903, it had already been in several hands when he gained control. He extended the shaft to a depth of 2,300 feet and explored for a gold ore body he was convinced was there, but others had missed. However, World War I and other circumstances combined to bring his big dream to an end without ever finding that significant ore body. It would not be until years later when the mine was under the control of Homestake Mining Company that it would be discovered that his drilling came just 100 feet short of the Main Ledge which would have propelled it to becoming a Homestake-level legendary mine of its own.

Your Gift Makes the Difference

One of the direct impacts of your gift for the new facility will be the museum's ability to tell more fascinating mining stories like the Oro Hondo's.



Give Once – Build Twice

Today many of these stories lie in wait. They are hidden in the yellowed pages of old books or tucked away in archive files rather than being seen and enjoyed by the public. Your gift can change that and keep important parts of Black Hills mining history from being missed by the public.

Please consider giving today.



Black Hills Mining Museum
 323 W. Main St.
 Lead, SD 57754

Project Testimonials

For me, this museum and its collection is all about grit. Miners and their families established the collection and amazingly built the experiential displays that are so intriguing and informative. The town of Lead continued to care for the collections, provide educational programming, and serve as a community center for the surrounding area. And now, the staff and volunteers are leading the charge to provide a new building and grounds for their institution. Their vision is essential for the care of the collection. In order for the artifacts, documents, and memorabilia to survive, they must be housed in a proper museum environment, providing security, fire suppression, and stable relative humidity. I salute the staff, board, volunteers, and supporters for giving new, exciting life to a great museum.

Beverly Perkins, *Conservation Assessment Program Assessor, Conservator*

For more information contact:

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MORE THAN JUST A NEW BUILDING

What Moving Means for the Mining Museum

▪ The Protection of our Collection

Most people do not give much thought to what it takes to preserve historic artifacts. Objects from the past within a museum’s collection require a unique environment in the present if they are to survive into the future.

▪ The Enrichment of our Programming

The public will benefit from our ability to keep exhibits fresh by rotating displays and even hosting traveling exhibits. They also will be able to enjoy new features. Those with disabilities will gain full, unhindered access to our programming.

▪ The Strengthening of our Organization

Better highway visibility, lots of dedicated parking with room for cars, buses, and RV’s all at the same time, an interpretative walking trail, and an inviting, historic setting all can work together to make us attractive to more people. Giving comes in all sizes. The museum has need for gifts large, medium, and small. We have donation levels to match any donor’s ability and genuine appreciation for every gift.

+ \$12 Million Project Estimate - Please Donate Today.

Level	Gifts at Least	Up To
Tier One: “Founders”	\$1,000,000	-
Tier Two: “Builders”	\$100,000	\$999,999
Tier Three: “Benefactors”	\$10,000	\$99,999
Tier Four: “Patrons”	\$1,000	\$9,999
Tier Five: “Supporters”	\$100	\$999
Tier Six: “Friends”	\$10	\$99