

OFFICE OF  
PLANNING, ZONING AND  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
108 Sherman Street  
Telephone (605) 578-2082  
Fax (605) 722-0786



Kevin Kuchenbecker  
Planning, Zoning and  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Telephone (605) 578-2082  
kevin@cityofdeadwood.com

## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** May 15, 2026  
**To:** Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission  
**From:** Kevin Kuchenbecker, Historic Preservation Officer  
**Re:** 2026 Digitization of 8mm Film, Collection 2025.11 Houlette Family Film Archive

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The City Archives is requesting permission to hire Lawrence "Buck" Bitto of Movette Film Transfer of San Francisco, California to clean, condition, and digitize the forty-nine reels of 8mm motion picture films donated to the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission by the Houlette Family in 2025.

The Houlette family once lived at 27 Lincoln Avenue in the 1930s and 1940s. Their daughter, Edith Houlette, graduated from Deadwood High School in 1948. Based on the donor's written notes, this assemblage contains early Days of 76 footage, Deadwood High School Homecoming parade, snow removal in Deadwood, northern Black Hills scenery and sites, including Roughlock Falls and the carving of Mount Rushmore.

The Historic Preservation Commission has hired Movette Film Transfer on three occasions, including 2020, 2023 and 2024. Upon completion, the Historic Preservation Office will incorporate portions of the film on the City's online GIS Historic Media Map located at:

<https://gis.cityofdeadwood.com/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9fc6864908aa4ed48dedeee01e5f5be8>

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed this request at their May 13, 2026 meeting and recommend approval.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Move to hire Movette Film Transfer of San Francisco, California to clean, condition, and digitize the forty-nine reels of 8mm motion picture films from the Houlette Family Film Archive. The cost of this project will not exceed the amount of \$4,800.00 and will come out of the 2026 Archives budget. This project is a 2026 City Archives budgeted project.