

Please Support the Clare Railroad Depot Rehabilitation Project



How Can I Help?

There are numerous opportunities for interested community members to get involved in making this project happen.

You can donate time, money, or materials, sponsor a brick or bench, donate historic items or photos related to the depot, or offer ideas for fundraising opportunities.

Monetary donations are tax deductible and can be made to: **City of Clare Depot Project**, 202 W. Fifth St., Clare, MI 48617.

Contact Information

If you'd like to get involved or have ideas for fundraising opportunities, please contact:

Diane Lyon, City Clerk
City of Clare
202 West Fifth Street
Clare MI 48617
dlyon@cityofclare.org
(989) 386-7541 Ext. 106



Clare Railroad Depot Rehabilitation Project

Please make checks payable to City of Clare Depot Project- Your donation is tax deductible.

- \$25 Pledge
 - \$50 Pledge
 - \$100 Pledge
 - \$250 Pledge
 - \$500 Pledge
 - Other: \$ _____ One time gift -or- Per Year for _____ 1 year _____ 2 years _____ 3 years
- I/we give permission to use my/our name for promotional purposes.
- I/we want my contribution to the Clare Railroad Depot Restoration Project to remain anonymous.

Thank you
for your
contribution!

Please Print

Donor's Name: _____ Address: _____

Mail Donations to:

City of Clare
Depot Project
202 W. 5th St.
Clare, MI 48617

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

My signature authorizes this pledge: X _____ Date: _____

History of the Clare Railroad Depot

THE FLINT & PERE MARQUETTE RAILROAD REACHED THE CITY OF CLARE IN 1870 AND THE FIRST RAILROAD DEPOT WAS BUILT ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MCEWAN STREET AND THE RAILROAD.

IN 1887, THE TOLEDO, ANN ARBOR & NORTHERN MICHIGAN RAILWAY REACHED CLARE AND A JOINT DEPOT, THE CLARE UNION DEPOT, WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE JUNCTION POINT OF THE TWO LINES. IN 1894, THAT DEPOT WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE AND WAS REBUILT IN 1895 AT THE JUNCTION OF THE TWO RAIL LINES.

THE CITY OF CLARE PURCHASED THE DEPOT FROM THE TUSCOLA & SAGINAW BAY RAILWAY COMPANY IN 2005 WITH THE SOLE INTENT TO PRESERVE & REHABILITATE THIS HISTORIC BUILDING. HOWEVER, ONE CONDITION OF THE SALE WAS THAT THE DEPOT MUST BE MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL SITE DUE TO ACCESS, LIABILITY, & SAFETY ISSUES.

PROPOSED SITE PLANS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO) IN 2009. SHPO APPROVED THE TRI-R (THOMPSON HOTEL) SITE AS A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT RELOCATION SITE BUT ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE THE SITE BY THE CITY OF CLARE FAILED, SENDING THE COMMITTEE BACK TO THE "DRAWING BOARD."

IN 2010, A NEW PARTNERSHIP FORMED BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLARE, MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, CLARE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL, CLARE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CLARE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, GREAT LAKES CENTRAL RAILROAD, & CLARE DEPOT PRESERVATION, INC. THE DEPOT COMMITTEE FORMED

AND QUICKLY GREW TO MORE THAN 30 ACTIVE MEMBERS.

THE CLARE CITY COMMISSION FORMALLY APPROVED A PARTNERSHIP WITH MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY WHO DONATED TWO PARCELS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE DEPOT LOCATED ADJACENT TO A PARCEL WHICH WAS APPROVED BY SHPO AND PURCHASED BY THE CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE DEPOT

THE DEPOT WAS MOVED TO A NEW SITE IN 2014 WHICH OFFERS THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A NEW DOWNTOWN FOCAL POINT AND AS A TRAIL HEAD FOR PERE MARQUETTE RAIL TRAIL THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC SERVICES OF THE CITY AND CAN PROVIDE CONTINUED USE AS A RAILROAD DEPOT. THE PROPOSED OCCUPANTS AND USES FOR THE DEPOT INCLUDE A CENTERPIECE FOR DISPLAY OF RAILROAD HISTORY IN CLARE & SURROUNDING AREAS, HOME OF THE CLARE AREA VISITORS BUREAU, CLARE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CLARE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL & ART GALLERY, TRAIL HEAD FOR THE PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL, AND AS AN ACTIVE RAILROAD PASSENGER DEPOT.

ON JULY 1, 2018, A SMALL GROUP OF SELECT MEMBERS FROM THE ORIGINAL DEPOT COMMITTEE WERE APPOINTED TO THE CLARE DEPOT GOVERNING BOARD TO OVERSEE THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE PROJECT AND MANAGE THE FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES.

ON OCTOBER 12, 2018, WITH GREAT PRIDE, THE CLARE RAILROAD DEPOT STEERING COMMITTEE, THE DEPOT REIBBON CUTTING TOOK PLACE WITH WELL OVER 100 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS EVENT. THE CLARE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS MOVED IN TO THEIR OFFICES ON THE MAIN LEVEL, BUT THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE! THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE CONTINUES FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TO FINISH THE GIFT SHOP AREA, COMPLETE INSTALLATION OF THE EXTERIOR SIDING, INSTALL REAR DECKING AND AC UNITS, REFINISH A CABOOSE FOR PUBLIC TOURING, COMPLETE LANDSCAPING, BUILD EXTERIOR RESTROOMS FOR THE PUBLIC AND PERE MARQUETTE RAIL TRAIL USERS AND TO EVENTUALLY BUILD A SPUR TO ONCE AGAIN PROVIDE RAIL SERVICE FOR TOURISM.

