



City of Mineola Landmark Commission

IRON HORSE SQUARE PROJECT

“a historical park downtown”

<https://ironhorsesquare.org>

ITEMS REQUESTED FROM MINEOLA MEREDITH FOUNDATION

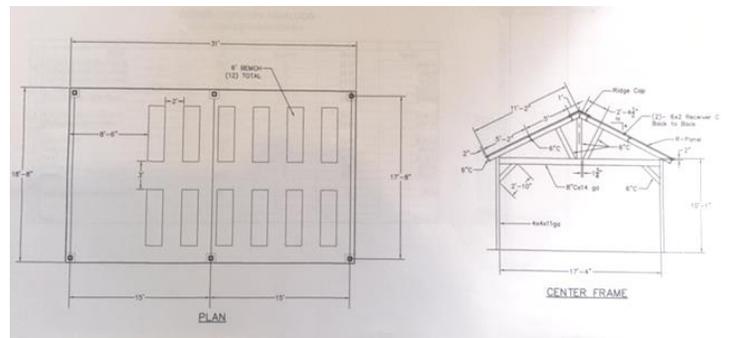
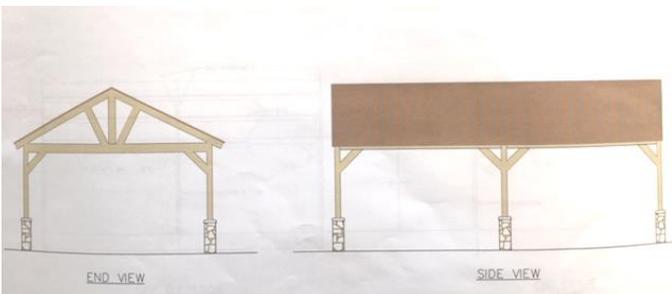
Phase 3 of the Iron Horse Square Project for FY 2018-2019

Playground Area for Children - Phase 3

Playground will consist of train related play equipment and a two bay arched swing set. (The colors of the train will be the colors of Amtrak) Playground cost will include borders, engineered wood fiber safety surfacing, and shipping and installation costs.

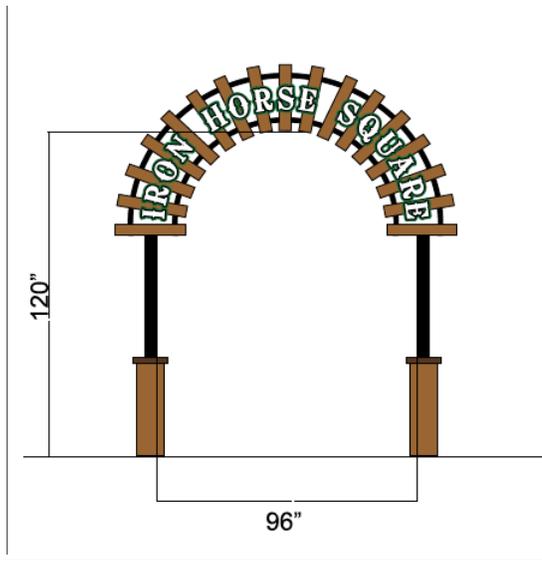


Waiting area pavilion/depot for our Mini Train – The “Harry W. Meredith Special” –Phase 3



Covered open air pavilion with seating for 36. A 3' railing around perimeter with a gate which opens onto a loading dock for convenience of loading passengers onto train. (full set of architect drawings are available)

Iron Horse Square Entry Sign - Phase 3



Sign will be a replica of cross-ties & rails with letters "IRON HORSE SQUARE" . All will be metal except for the brick work at the base of the upright posts.

Benches & trash receptacles & water fountain - Phase 3

Similar to benches and trash receptacles in our downtown



Bench



Trash receptacle



Water fountain

Train Themed Playground & Swings -	\$83,000
Waiting Area/Pavilion for Train Passengers -	\$12,000
Iron Horse Square Entrance Sign -	8,640
Benches (4) -	7,200
Trash receptacles (4) -	2,400
Water Fountain (1) -	2,400

Total Funds requested for 2018 for Iron Horse Square – Phase 3 - \$115,640.00

Structures Already in Place

Depot with Restrooms built through State Grant and MEDC matching funds:

Located to the immediate west of U.S. Highway 69 and between Front & Commerce streets is the old Union Depot which serves as an Amtrak passenger station and as a small railroad history museum. The station has a passenger waiting area, an office area, restroom facilities, a railroad artifact area and a conference room. The depot was remodeled in 2005 and rededicated in 2006 with its exterior having been restored to its original 1906 design.

The multimodal depot is now known as the Mineola Transportation Plaza and won the “Best Building Restoration” award from the Texas Downtown Association in 2006; the city leases the property from the Union Pacific Railroad.



Covered Commons Area built by from local business & donations from public & MEDC

Located approximately 50' west of the depot is a 30x60 open commons area with cement flooring and seating around the perimeter. When not in use this area will serve as an additional waiting area/gathering place for our train passengers.



Structures/Items completed in the past 12 months

15" Gauge Train and Track (1 engine & 3 passenger cars w/seating for 36) - Phase 1

A 15 inch gauge replica of a Union Pacific train (fondly named Meredith Express on one side and Union Pacific on the other side) has been built by Swanee River Railroad Company in Lufkin, Texas. The train will run ¼ mile around the area known as Beverly's Garden (see rendering) . Railroad tracks were laid using the volunteer labor of Mineola area men, women, boys & girls. (Train purchased by Meredith Foundation)



Thanks to Meredith Foundation for their donation of \$120,942.00 for City to purchase the Mini Train and Tracks. Labor for tracks were completed by volunteers, with site program volunteer Joyce Williams and Supervised by area builder Glynn Thurman



PHASE I COMPLETED THANKS TO MEREDITH FOR THE TRAIN & TRACKS, BUILDING FROM ETAS (BRIAN STECK) AND LABOR FROM NUMEROUS AREA VOLUNTEERS!



Train Storage Facility (replica of old roundhouse in Mineola train yard)

Materials donated by Brian Steck – ETAS Building of Roofing Systems of Mineola.



Approx. Materials and Labor donated over \$100K

Glory Days of Iron Horse Documentary - Phase 2

Photos of trains and trainmen in Mineola, playable remotely on a large TV inside the Depot Museum. Over 100 photos have been collected to date. Some are “never before seen photos” of trains and trainmen in Mineola. **COMPLETED THANKS TO MEREDITH FOUNDATION! PHASE 2**

MINEOLA
GLORY DAYS OF THE IRON HORSE



Model Train Display - 1930s Replica of Downtown Mineola and Railroads.

Wall Display of Photos of Trains in Mineola & Mineola Trainmen - Phase 2



(Thanks to Meredith Foundation Donation to do this project inside the Depot)

Sign Above Model Train Display

MINEOLA *AND ITS* RAILROADS
1930s

Thanks to donation for Phase 2 by
Meredith Foundation of \$35,000.00
for the Mini Train Replica of Mineola
in 1930's & Photo Display and
Documentary. **COMPLETED**

Boundary Fence & Plaques (4' high x Total 884' long) – Built by selling sections of fence & Donations from the Public & Businesses

An additional 552' has been added to the existing 4' x 332' pipe tubing fence. Name plaques were sold for a \$500 donation to Iron Horse Square to raise money to purchase the fence. Additional fenced areas will possibly be around the playground, around the tin pump house and alongside the loading ramp for the train. We will be able to sell additional 20 more plaques to complete our fence area.



Landmark Commission plaque



New fence with Meredith Foundation Plaque

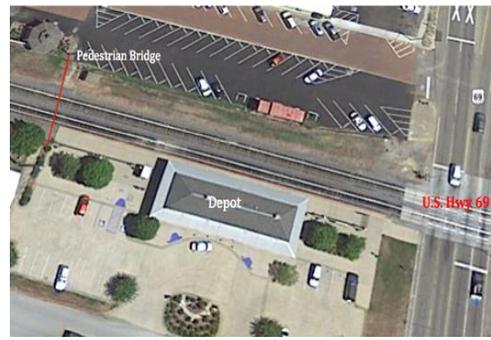
Donor Board with name plates of donors to Iron Horse Square - will be placed inside the Depot



Projected Future Facility & Program Construction

Pedestrian Bridge over Union Pacific Railroad (12'x75')

A foot bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad connecting Commerce Street parking with the Railroad Park will be added to allow foot traffic and bicycle traffic safe access to the depot and the railroad park. This foot bridge will also benefit Amtrak passengers waiting for their train. It will allow them to safely cross over the railroad tracks to dine and/or shop in Mineola and to return to the depot in time to board their train. Access to the bridge will be switch-back ramps leading to the main bridge. The foot bridge will be a truss design. The only means at present for foot traffic to cross from Union Depot and Iron Horse Square is to walk over the Hwy 69 crossing (a major U.S. highway with heavy traffic).



Our truss design will be similar to this.

Pedestrian crossing (gazebo to depot)

Historical Walking Trail (one-half mile in distance)

A ½ mile long foot path providing wheel chair accessibility will be constructed through Iron Horse Square. Along the foot path will be historical signage depicting the story of Mineola’s railroad heritage. The path will begin near the covered common’s area, track west to Stone Street, with parts of it on the actual abandoned railbed of the M&KT (Katy) Railroad, and back to the entrance.



Replica of Interlocking Tower #62 (13'x13')

A replica of Mineola Interlocker #62, possibly built in 1887 and authorized by the Texas Railroad Commission in 1905, and quite probably one of the first interlockers constructed in the state of Texas, will be built by a local builder.

Procurement of switch levers, switches, pipes and rollers to bring the inside of the tower to true historical replication will be a top priority.



Mineola Interlocking Tower (Date on Earl Alredge's painting of the tower located in Mineola Memorial Library is Dec. 9, 1887) The above photo was found in the basement of the Chamber of Commerce in May 2015.

Railroad Car

A railroad car will be purchased and remodeled to accommodate the sale of souvenirs, concessions & a display of railroad related items.



Hideout of Bonnie & Clyde (12'x12')

The Bonnie & Clyde story in Mineola is very closely related to the railroad. The building near the railroad where Bonnie & Clyde used to hide when they came to Mineola has been located and will be replicated in our railroad park. (TO BE REVEALED AT A LATER DATE!)

This is a "One of a kind find" about evidence of Bonnie and Clyde in Mineola. We have located two books, an autobiography by Floyd Hamilton and a biography by Sid Underwood about Raymond Hamilton which proves Bonnie & Clyde & at a later date, Floyd & Clyde were indeed in the First National Bank of Mineola with intent to rob, but backed out due to an abundance of tellers.

Historical Signage (interactive signage is a must)

Historical signs will be posted alongside the entire walking path telling the story of Mineola's railroad heritage. The story will include the International and Great Northern Railroad, the Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad, and the Texas and Pacific, Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad companies. These signs will explain the history and impact of the railroad in Mineola & East Texas and how the Union Pacific Railroad Company is helping to ensure our railroading heritage will live on for many years to come.



Photo Op Areas

These will provide park goers areas to take pictures



The City of Mineola and Landmark Commission realizes that by preserving our railroad history through Heritage Tourism we create a destination to bring in tourist and produce a sense of pride within our Citizens while providing economic development through unique travel spending opportunities.