



DEPOT HISTORY

The Depot, completed in 1903 by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) Railroad, replaced an earlier wooden structure. In the 1990s, a group of citizens formed Save Our Depot, Inc. (SOD) to avert demolition of the Depot by the Burlington Northern. SOD restored and preserved the Depot by securing numerous grants and in-kind donations. The restored Depot was rededicated as a museum in December 2003 to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

The Depot building is architecturally significant due to its Richardson Romanesque Revival Style, which influenced the first Chicago School of Architecture and prominent architects such as Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Key design elements preserved in the Depot include recessed window arches, polychromatic use of two colors of stone, hip roof, arches that sit on the columns and stone stringer courses. For this reason, the Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

RED OAK'S RAILROAD HISTORY

After Iowa became a state in 1846, railway investors competed to identify the most advantageous routes across the state. A survey in 1854 laid out a rail line from Burlington, IA, to Plattsmouth, NE, including a stop in Red Oak. By 1869, trains were rolling, and Montgomery County boomed with new businesses and settlers. The original rail center in Red Oak was just south of Market Street. Due to steep grades and seasonal floods, the railway moved the main line four blocks south to a 35-foot bermed "high line" and added double tracks. Even with several ownership changes - CB&Q to Burlington Northern (BN) to Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) - Red Oak's line carries hundreds of rail cars daily, including Amtrak.

TRAIN BULLETIN									
NORTH BRANCH					SOUTH BRANCH				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ROLE IN WORLD WAR II



34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, embarked and disembarked at the Depots in Red Oak (Company M) and Villisca (Company F).

In a 1946 *Saturday Evening Post* article, writer Milton Lehman stated, "Fifty men of Red Oak died in World War II, making it one the highest mortalities any town in America has suffered." *Life* magazine also reported on the great loss Red Oak suffered in North Africa. The Depot Museum exhibits are dedicated to honoring all who served by telling their stories and preserving artifacts related to their sacrifices.

THE KASSERINE PASS BATTLE

Companies F and M were ordered into federal service February 1941 and participated in campaigns in the European-African-Mediterranean Theater, including Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and the Po Valley.

The Kasserine Pass Battle put Companies F and M in the eye of the conflict with General Rommel's Nazi troops. Company F found themselves surrounded behind enemy lines; under the command of Major Robert Moore, about half managed to get through to American lines. During the battle, in one day Red Oak received 27 telegrams informing families of loved ones either "killed in action" or "missing in action" with many becoming German prisoners of war.



"THE HOMECOMING"

In this Pulitzer Prize winning photo captured by Earle "Buddy" Bunker of the Omaha World-Herald, Lt. Col. Robert R. Moore greets his wife and daughter Nancy at the train depot in Villisca, IA. Waiting his turn is nephew, Michael Bruce Croxdale.

THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT



The hottest, most affordable event space going! Book the Depot for your next community or private event - business meeting, reception, party, reunion, shower, luncheon and more.

The Depot space offers:

- ◆ Large main lobby - easily seats 70 at tables or 100 auditorium style. Kitchen seats 12.
 - ◆ Free table & chair set up prior to your event. Self-decoration of the space permitted.
 - ◆ Renovated lunchroom and kitchen with oven, microwave and refrigerator. Use of kitchen is included in the rental fee.
 - ◆ Self-catered and potluck food service is permitted; BYOB beverage service.
 - ◆ Theater room with 30+ seats and big screen TV to show videos or keep kids busy watching movies & cable TV.
 - ◆ If you are a train fan, 1-2 trains may pass - right next to the Depot - during your event!
- Rental fee:** \$100 plus \$25 deposit which is refunded when the venue is left in same clean, neat condition as prior to your event.
- For more information or to book an event, call Jolene Crawford at 712-621-9099.**



WHAT THE MUSEUM OFFERS

- ◆ Fully restored 1903 train depot listed in the National Registry of Historic Places
- ◆ Rail history and artifacts
- ◆ World War II history and artifacts
- ◆ Docent-led and self-guided tours; private tours available upon request
- ◆ Rail and World War II research/reading library
- ◆ Thos D. Murphy Calendar Co. history
- ◆ "Peoples Art" Display
- ◆ Theater
- ◆ Restored depot kitchen for use during events
- ◆ Affordable venue for hosting private and community events



OUR MISSION IS THREE-FOLD

- ◆ Celebrate Red Oak's railroad heritage by preserving the Burlington Northern (BN, now BNSF) historic depot, which was foundational to Red Oak's growth and prominence in Southwest Iowa, maintaining documents and artifacts related to Red Oak's and Southwest Iowa's railroad history and offering first-hand interaction with railroad history for visitors.
- ◆ Honor veterans and Montgomery County's long and deep commitment to serving our county by telling the story of Montgomery County's unique sacrifice by soldiers, families and residents during the Second World War and preserving documents and artifacts related to this story.
- ◆ Provide an affordable, historic and versatile event venue for the community and Southwest Iowa.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Hours:

March 1 - December 15
Monday thru Friday: 10AM - Noon
December 16 - February 28
OPEN by appointment only

All other times - Open by appointment
Call Jolene Crawford to schedule a visit or book an appointment. 712-621-9099

Accessibility and Parking

The Museum has two handicap parking spaces with an ADA-compliant ramp and automatic door located on the southwest side.

ALL PARKING IS FREE. Museum campus parking is limited due to the Depot's historic, high-line location. Fall 2022, expanded parking is available on a street-level, gravel parking lot on the Depot's north side. Additional street parking is available adjacent to the Museum.

Address/Contact Information

305 South Second Street
Red Oak, IA 51566
712-623-6048

info@redoakdepotmuseum.com
www.redoakdepotmuseum.com
@RestoredBNDepotWWIIMuseum

Directions: From U.S. Hwy 34 and State Hwy 48 intersection: Go south on Hwy 48 1.5 miles to Short Street. Turn left/east on Short Street. *Go two blocks to Second Street. Turn right/south on Second Street; go one long block to the Museum driveway on your right.

From State Hwy 48 south of Red Oak: Heading north on Hwy 48, pass under the railroad overpass entering town to Short Street. Follow directions above after the *.



IOWA ARTS COUNCIL
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS
arts.gov

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Photo by Drue Powers

RESTORED BURLINGTON NORTHERN DEPOT & WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

