

Preserving History, Assets and Artifacts

1904 C & EI (Chicago & Eastern Illinois) Railroad Passenger Depot

102 North Main Street - Clinton, Indiana

Working closely with the city of Clinton and the state of Indiana's Department of Transportation, Little Italy Festival Town, Inc. (LIFT) provided matching funds to grants and saved this important landmark at Main & Vine streets. Built in 1904, the structure replaced a wooden railroad station built around 1870 by the Terre Haute and Evansville Railroad Company.

During the late 1800s and first half of the 20th century, this station was the main connection to long and short distance travel. Most of the immigrants and other visitors to this area first stepped off the train at this location. Local trains ran daily to mining locations just outside the city.

The station's last passenger use came in the late 1960s. After passing through private ownership, the station became dilapidated. With grants and matching funds, renovations began in the mid 1990s and were completed in 1998. LIFT took over ownership in 1997, and with local donations and volunteer labor was able to establish the Coal Town and Railroad Museum in two thirds of the square footage. Currently the Vermillion County Community Foundation office occupies the east portion of the building at 102 North Main Street.

1914 C&EI (Chicago & Eastern Illinois) Railroad Freight Depot

North Water Street in Clinton, Indiana

After nearly 50 years of use and another 50 years of neglect, this architecturally-rare building was restored in 2013. The \$385,000 renovation was funded by \$308,000 in grants from the state of Indiana ITEA and \$77,000 from Little Italy Festival Town, Inc. (LIFT).

The building complements the 1904 passenger depot on Main Street. The freight station handled heavy industrial equipment and supply orders that were loaded and unloaded onto and from the trains.

The unique L-shaped building encompasses 1,890 square feet. Its original wooden plank floors were replaced with concrete. The old asbestos roof shingles were replaced with an asphalt roofing material matching the material used in the passenger depot roof restoration. An entry door was added to the west face. The rest of the building remains as designed in 1914.

Now the freight depot stands proudly as one more community historical asset. LIFT is currently seeking the best use for his historic property.

See photos at www.thelittleitalyfestival.org – "About us"