



A WALKING TOUR

THROUGH THE PROPOSED SAN JOSE RAILROAD PARK

Sponsored by the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation.

Introduction:

The San Jose Railroad Park is intended to provide a unique experience. With a theme devoted to telling the story of the railroad’s historical role in the San Jose community, the facility’s purpose will not only be to discover the past but to hopefully inspire an appreciation for railroads. The park will include relocated railroad structures complemented by artifacts and historic equipment from our community.

The following walking tour of the proposed park will illustrate what visitors will experience in exploring San Jose’s railroad heritage.

Location:

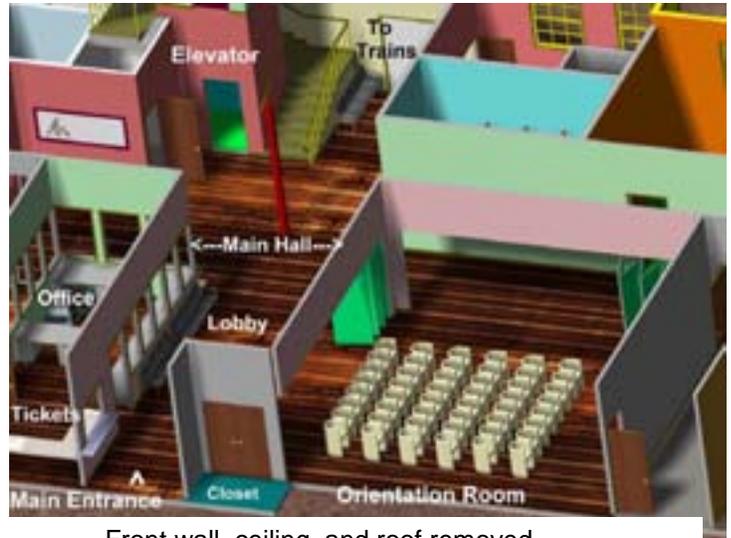
The complex will be located on a public accessible site to be determined.

The complex can be physically described in two sections: the depot building and railroad museum.

Depot Building.

The depot building will be replica of the downtown San Jose railroad depot. Originally built in 1883, this building was located at Basset and Market Streets. An outdoor garden will greet our visitors as they enter the structure.

Waiting Room (Complex entrance)



Front wall, ceiling, and roof removed

As visitors make their way into the 370 square



foot entry lobby, they will be greeted on their left by the museum docent at the ticket window. Adjacent to the window is the museum office of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation. To the right of the entry lobby will be an orientation room for 50 visitors. After paying a nominal entrance fee with the docent at the ticket window, our visitors will enter the 836 square foot display lobby/main hallway of the building. Displays in this lobby will be rotated frequently to coincide with annual seasons and current museum functions. Access to the second floor and to the building's main rest rooms will be located to the rear of the display lobby.

East Wing (Railroad Exhibits)



This 2,255 square foot room will include railroad artifacts, photographs, maps, and related documents.

Among the topics on exhibit will be:

-  The History of railroading in Santa Clara Valley.
-  South Pacific Coast Railroad (narrow gauge.)
-  Southern Pacific Railroad and its predecessors.
-  Western Pacific Railroad.
-  The affect of the railroads on the

local economy - primarily agriculture business.

-  History of the Market Street Depot.
-  History of Cahill/Diridon Station and the 1935 track realignment from 4th street to Willow Glen.
-  Development of the San Francisco Peninsula commute corridor.
-  History of the San Jose Roundhouse
-  Relationship to commute operations.
-  Relationship to the Bayshore Shops in San Francisco.
-  History of College Park Tower

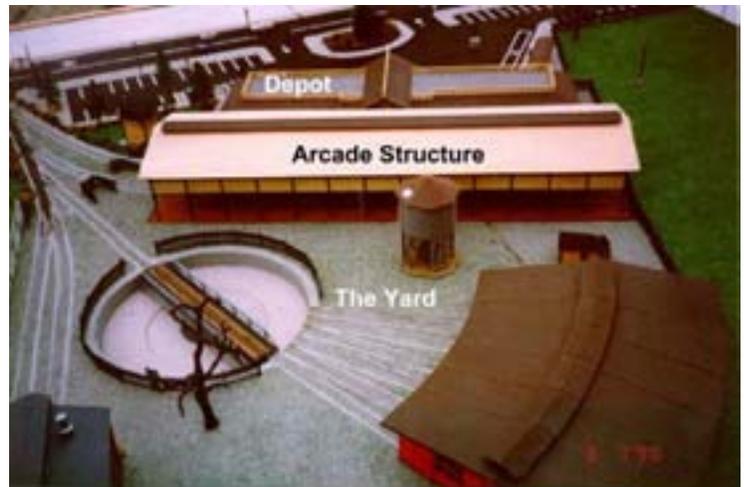
West Wing (Multi-purpose room)

Located off the entry and display lobbies of the archives building, this 1,842 square foot room is set aside as a meeting/orientation room for the Museum. This space will be made available for such after-hours special events as guest lectures, film and slide presentations, meetings and receptions.

Railroad Museum

Elements of the railroad museum will be laid out in a park-like setting with walkways and landscaping to provide a pleasant environment for all visitors.

Arcade Structure



Immediately adjacent to the depot structure, this 296 foot long wooden awning provides cover for two railroad tracks. On track 1, a large steam locomotive will lead two passenger cars to represent a San Francisco peninsula commute train. On track 2, an older steam locomotive will be coupled to a short freight train very similar to those which served the county's vast agriculture businesses

The Yard

The yard will recreate a small railroad switching yard.

College Park Tower:



Like a sentinel, the two-story tower replica will guard the yard's northern railroad entrance. Originally built in 1923 by the Southern Pacific and located north of Taylor Street, this tower controlled railroad operations in the downtown San Jose area. The upper story of the tower retains the equipment once required to control the busy railroad activity.

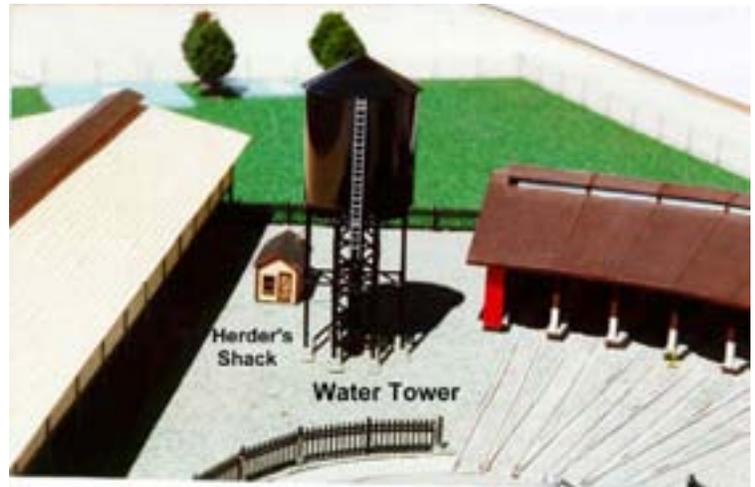
Herder's shack:

Although this small structure appears to be

out of place, this herder's shack was actually used at the Cahill/Diridon Station in San Jose. The shack provided shelter to the railroad employees responsible for aligning the station's entrance switches.

Water Tower:

The 50 foot high water tower provides water used in the operation of steam locomotives.



Turntable:

Centerpiece for the railroad yard, this 80 foot table enables railroad equipment to be completely rotated. Only a handful of turntables remain in active railroad operation in the state of California.





San Jose Roundhouse:

This structure was the last intact roundhouse on the vast Southern Pacific Railroad system in California. Originally built in 1899 and located at nearby Lenzen Avenue, the brick roundhouse was moved to the site for inclusion of our museum. The six stalls are all that remain of the structure that originally included fifteen stalls. The roundhouse was built to provide shelter as employees performed required maintenance to the locomotives. The unique “Roundhouse” sign maybe seen on an outer wall of this structure.



The Equipment:

The collection currently includes locomotives 2479, a Southern Pacific Railroad steam locomotive and two former commute passenger cars. Recently acquired is locomotive 1215, a smaller Southern Pacific steam locomotive representative of the many engines that served local industry. Other equipment has been identified and will be added to the collection. The site will adjoin an active railroad line to periodically enable the display of visiting railroad equipment.



Dynamic Presentations:

Will be a key feature of the displays. Unlike many other “static” railroad museums, most of our equipment will be restored and maintained in operating condition. In fact, some equipment may be used periodically in excursion service on the adjacent Caltrain commute line to San Francisco. Consequently, the equipment and structures will provide a sense of the “nitty gritty” atmosphere of an operating railroad.

Model Displays:



Included will be an operating railroad layout depicting railroads in the Santa Clara Valley during the 1920’s. The diorama setting will augment the museum’s main exhibits.

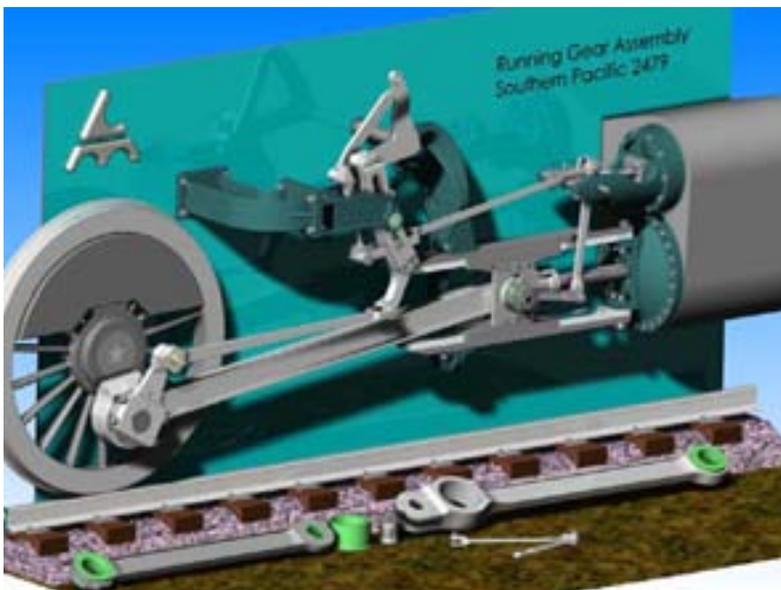
Interactive Hands-On Displays:

Another unique feature to be incorporated into the Museum will be exhibits featuring hands-on and interactive displays, similar to those used at the children’s Discovery Museum and Technology Museum of San Jose. The Museum will explain railroad operation in a manner that cannot be achieved by static methods. Exhibits will be set up that can be safely operated by hand or activated by the touch of a button to answer such questions as:

- How a steam locomotive works
- How a diesel locomotive works
- The importance of railroad track construction
- How difficult it is to stop a train (in-conjunction with the Operation Lifesaver program)
- How to control the signals and switches of a railroad (College Park Tower)
- Comparison of standard and narrow gauges

In cooperation with our high tech community, the Museum will offer our visitors unique “virtual reality” tours of the Santa Clara valley’s railroad heritage:

- The bustle of Market Street Station in the 1920s
- The busy San Jose Roundhouse in the late 1940s
- The narrow gauge South Pacific Coast Railroad



Multi Media Presentations:

With the aid of television monitors stationed near major exhibits and in the orientation room, the story of railroading in the Santa Clara Valley will also be told in graphic, moving terms. Utilizing state of the art video and laser disc technology, historic motion picture film footage will be woven into concise documentary film presentations. These will be designed to further educate visitors of this area’s railroad heritage.

The Restoration Shop:



While many museums hardly ever display how railroad equipment is restored and prepared for display, the Museum views the restoration of railroad equipment as a 'work of art in progress' that should be incorporated in the overall visual experience. In the workshop area, visitors should be able to see the museum's latest acquisitions, from 'basket case' to final assembly, take shape before them.

The Gift Shop:



The shop occupies approximately 405 square feet and provides a well-stocked gift shop and bookstore.

The Railroad Museum Library:

Our Museum will present material documenting railroad history. This material will be available for aficionados and future historians alike. A library of 252 square feet, (see page 3) with reference material on railroad topics, along with full photo copying services will be a feature of the museum. It is planned to extend the library through the Internet to the rest of the railroading world.

Parking



There is room for cars and passenger buses. Additional parking will be available nearby.

About CTRC:

Established in 1982, the California Trolley and Railroad corporation is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization whose mission is to preserve and reflect the rich historical legacy of rail transportation in the Santa Clara Valley for the educational and recreational benefit of current and future generations.

