

Imagine a place where imagination takes flight.

- Passions ignite

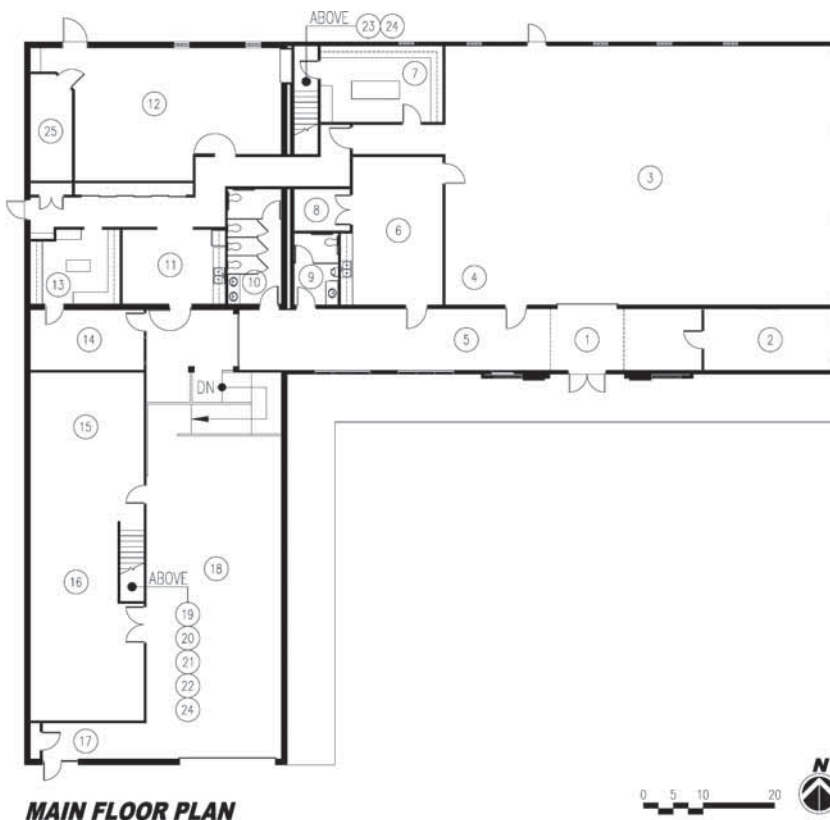
- Children explore in wide-eyed wonder

Fifty years ago, James E. and Cordelia Parker imagined a museum dedicated to the preservation of Clay County's unique history and the education of its future generations, to be achieved by collecting and exhibiting the county's most treasured objects and igniting young minds through education and outreach. A place where encounters with our past would make us better people and promote good citizenship—especially important as young people prepare to be tomorrow's leaders. Not only did they imagine, they acted by gifting their 1916 Arts and Crafts style home to the Parker Historical Society to be used as the museum.

In October 2006, The I. J. and Ruby Dvergsten Charitable Foundation, challenged the Parker Historical Society Board of Directors to imagine and act. Realizing the current space on the Parker Museum campus limits the ability to fulfill the society's mission "to collect, preserve and interpret Clay County history for the education and enjoyment of the public", the Board studied several options. They seized the Grand Opportunity of placing Clay County history at the gateway of Spencer's downtown historic district by purchasing the Johnston Automotive property.

Parker Historical Society will transform the building into the Clay County Heritage Center. We will now have two venues for sharing Clay County history: a historic home that invites visitors to experience how people lived and a handicap accessible heritage center with multiple galleries to showcase the museum collection in interpretive exhibits.

In addition, the heritage center will include a Clay County visitor's center, a place to share information about the wide array of tourism options available in Clay County. These visitors will learn about the natural resources, cultural and shopping opportunities, allowing them to linger a while and enjoy what our great area has to offer.



ROOM LEGEND

- 1) Main Entry
- 2) Visitor Center
- 3) Main Gallery
- 4) Reception/Sales
- 5) Gallery Arcade
- 6) Meeting Room
- 7) Research Room
- 8) Storage
- 9) Mens Restroom
- 10) Womens Restroom
- 11) Break Area
- 12) Archives
- 13) Office Machines
- 14) Director's Office
- 15) Exhibit Workroom
- 16) Artifact Storage
- 17) Back Entry
- 18) South Gallery
- 19) Assistant Director
- 20) Collections Processing
- 21) Exhibit Prep
- 22) Artifact Storage
- 23) Archive Storage
- 24) Mechanical
- 25) Electrical/I. T.

Now we need you.

You can be a direct contributor to the legacy of Clay County's cultural history by contributing to the Clay County Heritage Center. Pledge today and discover the difference you can make. It's a Grand Opportunity for you to be a part of making some history of your own. The \$400,000 grant from the Dvergsten Charitable Foundation has been used to purchase the Grand Avenue property. In addition, permanent traveling exhibits and other pre-construction expenses were funded through a portion of this grant.

The Grand Opportunity Challenge amount is \$750,000

The goal is high, but the mission worthy...

...its a Grand Opportunity!

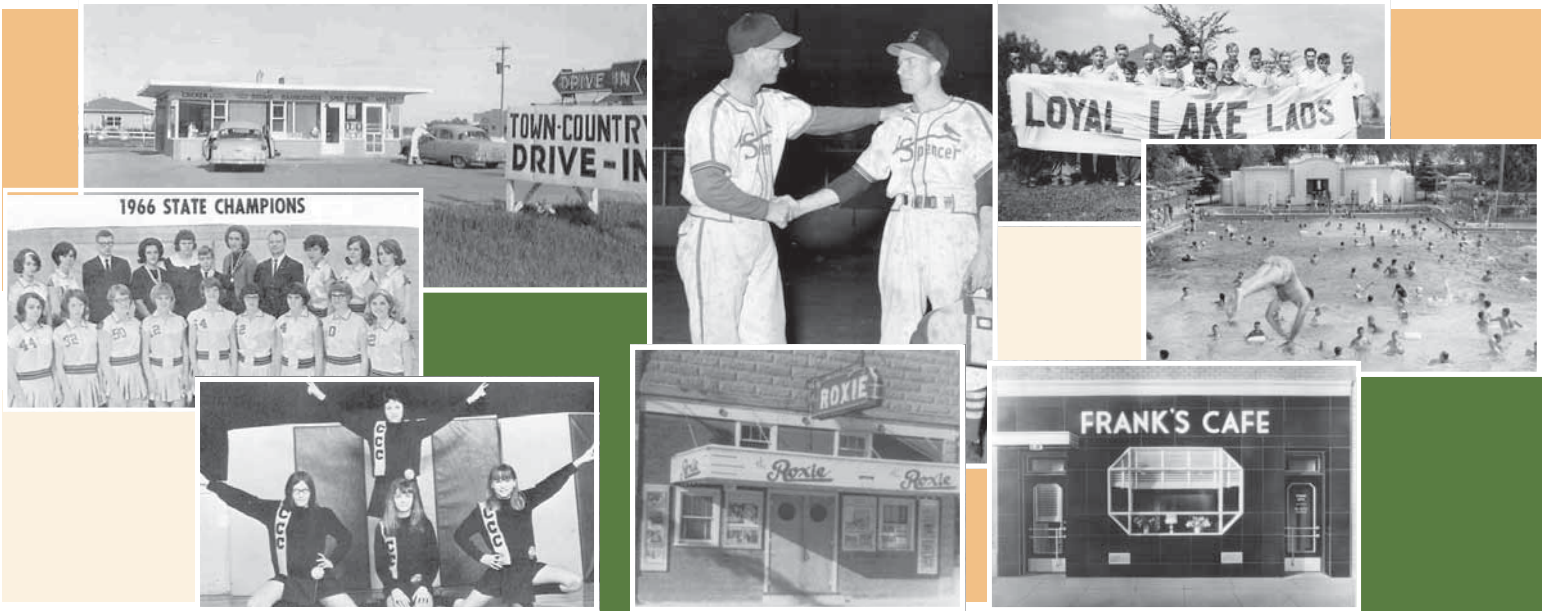


**Parker Historical Society of Clay County, PO Box 91,
300 East Third Street, Spencer, Iowa. 712-262-3304.
parkermuseum@smunet.net.**



Grand Features of the Clay County Heritage Center include:

- ❖ Handicap accessibility—all public spaces located on ground level
- ❖ Grand Avenue location with convenient parking
- ❖ Interpretive exhibits in two galleries totaling 3,750 sq. ft.
- ❖ Interactive learning stations
- ❖ Visitors Center—Clay County attractions information station for tourists
- ❖ Sales Gallery
- ❖ Public meeting room
- ❖ Climate controlled artifact storage
- ❖ Research Room - Genealogy & local history
- ❖ Green space for outdoor programs
- ❖ Public art piece



7 Grand Ave.
Spencer, Iowa

The Clay County Heritage Center

