

### **Three NPRHA Preservation Grants Issued for 2018**

Three preservation grants have been issued for Northern Pacific Railway related projects for 2018.

The first grant for \$5,000 was made to the Old Brule Heritage Society, Inc. (OBHS) of Maple, Wisconsin. [www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org). The purpose of this grant is for the relocation of a retired NP depot which served the community of Blueberry, Wisconsin located on the abandoned NP's Wisconsin First Sub-Division (Ashland Branch). The depot now sits on private property and will be relocated to the (OBHS) site where they will restore and preserve the building. It would then be open for public display and interpretative purposes.

This depot was constructed by the NRR in 1900 and replaced a log structure which was used previously at this location. The NP sold the depot to a private party around 1960 and it was moved off of company property. In the ensuing years the building was utilized as an antique shop and in recent years for storage purposes. New owners have purchased the property and wish to dispose of the former depot. Ownership of the building has been transferred to OBHS. Additional plans include the building of track panels and a platform in front of the restored building to display some period track maintenance equipment. *Information and photos provided by Brian Paulson.*



Blueberry Depot 2018



Blueberry Depot 1975

A second grant for \$3,000 was made to the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation at Mandan, North Dakota. [www.fortlincoln.org](http://www.fortlincoln.org) . The grant will be used for exterior restoration and painting of the historic 1929 Northern Pacific depot in Mandan, ND.

In June of 1920, fire destroyed the roof and gutted the second floor of Mandan's ornate 1882 NP Depot, designed by nationally prominent architects McKim, Mead & White. After the fire, a plain utilitarian second floor was rebuilt. A new depot was finally constructed in 1929 using a plan drafted by the Northern Pacific's chief engineer. The new depot was a red brick one story Colonial Revival building with white columned porticos on three sides. The front and rear porticos are topped by a Colonial style balustrade. The center waiting room section has eight 15 over 1 double hung windows with half round fan-lite windows above them. These windows are symmetrically arranged to either side of front and rear entry doors which also sport half round windows above them. The depot was in use from 1930 until 1978 when passenger service on the Hiawatha line ended. The city of Mandan promoted itself as the place "Where the West Begins." The Railroad capitalized on this theme in the 1930s, hiring Lakota from the Standing Rock Reservation to perform traditional Native American dances at the depot to greet arriving travelers. Today the depot is owned by the city of Mandan and is leased by the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation who uses the space for offices and the Five Nations native arts gallery.

The Foundation has signed a lease with a restaurateur who has done extensive interior restoration work in the original waiting room and is now using the space as a German-themed restaurant and bier hall that celebrates the German heritage of early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigration and settlement in the region. The restaurant is attracting a large customer base, and those visitors now have an opportunity to appreciate the history and architecture that sustained passenger rail traffic here for 50 years.

The money from this grant will be used for rust abatement, repair and preservation of the painted steel columns that support the porticos. Additionally, grant money could be used for work repairing and re-glazing in the original Colonial style windows if the project costs come within budget parameters.

*Information and photos provided by John Sakariassen*



Mandan Depot

A third grant of \$2,000 was made to Craig S. Gantner of Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Grant funding will assist with the continued restoration of the original paved passenger and freight loading platform at the site of the Northern Pacific Railroad Depot in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Funding is for additional fencing and paving required by agreement with Otter Trail Valley Railroad who will provide additional funding for the project. Mr. Gantner received a grant from the NPRHA in 2016 for work in 2016-2017. Work on the project was delayed due to issues with the railroad and the city. The grant will help to fund these additional requirements. *Information and photos provided by Craig Gantner*







Each year the NPRHA awards a limited number of grants with a maximum of \$5,000 per grant. Applicants must be public bodies, 501(c)(3) entities, or private individuals, but not for-profit businesses. The Grants Committee of the NPRHA receives and evaluates grants requests for work in the areas of railway history and the preservation of railway heritage including structures, publications, research, outreach and educational projects. Proposed projects must contribute to the preservation of, increase the general knowledge and understanding of, or promote public interest in NPR history. Our overall goal is to fund good projects.

Applications for Grants may be made at any time. Those received on or before March 1 of any year will be evaluated for that year. Those received after March 1 will be evaluated for the following year.

Information on completing and submitting a grant request can be obtained on the NPRHA website at [www.nprha.org](http://www.nprha.org). Click on "About the NPRHA". Scroll down to "NPRHA Preservation Grants" and click on "Preservation Grants Site". Complete information is contained here including the application process and instructions, the application form to be downloaded, grants questions and answers, and the history of grants issued in the past. Questions about NPRHA grants can be submitted via email to [grants@nprha.org](mailto:grants@nprha.org)

By Harold Shannon