

GRUNDY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUYS HISTORIC TRACY CITY BANK

Grundy County Historical Society has finalized the purchase of the two-story First National Bank building at 465 Railroad Avenue in Tracy City, along with a portion of the 1978 addition. This acquisition, through a generous offer from Citizens Tri-County Bank, based in Dunlap, Tennessee with branches in neighboring counties, allows the bank to maintain branch operations via the current drive-through. Plans are immediately under way to restore this wonderful historic structure, erected in 1904, to its original appearance and develop it into a Museum and Heritage Center for the purpose of gathering, preserving and displaying interesting items that connect Grundy Countians to the past. The Heritage Center will further the Historical Society's goal to impart meaning, value, heritage and delight in exploring the rich history of Grundy County's origin and development.

Restoration will include window reinstallation, interior reconditioning to original plaster and wainscoting, and exposing the splendid tin ceilings and moldings still in place. The Historical Society's "Root Cellar" – an extensive library of historic documents, reference books, and genealogical resource materials – will be housed on the first floor of the Heritage Center. There will also be a modern research facility utilizing computers and Internet connections for family history researchers. Other spaces will be devoted to displaying a growing collection of historical artifacts and providing accurate accounts of interesting events in the county's colorful history. An exciting 10 ft. x 40 ft. mural is planned.

Other organizations also have aims and goals for historical and cultural preservation. These include the Swiss Historical Society, Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, Beersheba Springs Historical Society, and the Chikamaka Cultural Preservation Corporation, who will be partnering with Grundy County Historical Society to present different aspects of the area and to support the ongoing upkeep of the Heritage Center.

The Historical Society's objective is to make the Heritage Center one of Grundy County's outstanding assets by preserving and demonstrating the unique history of its founding and development. It is hoped that the Heritage Center will

become a source of pride for our residents and add to tourism efforts by attracting visitors from far and wide to enjoy the museum and genealogical resource center. Guidelines are being prepared for contributions of historical artifacts, and a major fundraising campaign has been launched to support this ambitious project. Donations of any amount are most welcome, and major donations are needed as soon as possible to complete building restoration. For more information, please contact Grundy County Historical Society, P. O. Box 1422, Tracy City, TN 37387, or call the Heritage Center at 931-592-6008.

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Websites of entities listed in this new release:

http://gchs.homestead.com/	Grundy County Historical Society
http://www.grundycountyhistory.org/	Grundy County Historical Society
http://www.ctcbonline.com/	adjunct website
http://www.swisshistoricalsociety.org/	Citizens Tri-County Bank
http://www.monteaeglesundayschoolassembly.org/	Swiss Historical Society
http://www.beershebaspringshistoricalsociety.org/	Monteagle Sunday School Assembly
http://chikamaka.org	Beersheba Springs Historical Society
	Chikamaka Cultural Preservation Corporation

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