

## Vicksburg Historic Village

# BUILDING PROJECTS

*This building project will showcase the evolution of transportation from the 1800s to 1920s in Vicksburg. And also focus on grass roots government through acquisition of the Brady Township Hall and moving it to the Historic Village.*

*The next step for expanding the Historic Village offerings includes the addition of a building representing the evolution of transportation from horse and buggy to the car, and the Town Hall in a typical village of the 20th Century. The transportation building will feature a blacksmith shop, a wagon shed and a filling station, built to replicate the changing sequence of events from the 1800s to 1920. The "government building" is the actual Brady Township Hall that existed in Vicksburg in the early 1900s and used for meetings, a polling place and record keeping.*

**Building the Past for the Future**

**In conjunction with the**

**Vicksburg Historical Society**

300 N. Richardson Street  
P.O. Box 103  
Vicksburg, MI 49097

April 2009  
www.VicksburgHistory.org  
E-mail: vixmus1@yahoo.com

## *Brady Township Hall Renovation Drive*

The aim is to preserve one of our community's oldest municipal buildings. We are fortunate to find this vintage 1900 township hall in such good condition and available to be moved to the Historic Village. The intent is to demonstrate the workings of local government as it was practiced in the early 1900s when the building was occupied. It will be placed on a new foundation and located on the village green in the center of town, where the government buildings stood in days gone by.



The photo above shows the actual building as it is today. The photo below is of the interior with Ken Even- sen, Jack Fryling and Dick Deitz (the building mover) and clearly depicts the remodeling project necessary to bring it back to the representation on the left below. At the front table you can see Treasurer Harold Hayward, Supervisor Merritt Harper, Clerk Harlow Kott, and

Lyle Brockway as they listen to constituents who are in attendance during a session in the 1950s. A voting machine can be seen at left in the background.



# Specs for building the Blacksmith Shop/Wagon Shed/Filling Station

**Size: 34' x 40', two-story**

**Construction:**

Wood on concrete slab

Post & beam/mortise and tenon construction

Lapboard and board & batten siding

Raised seam (standing seam) metal roof

**Building and equipping costs include:**

Site preparation costs

Foundation and flooring costs

Cost of lumber

Cost of labor to frame the building

Mechanicals

Roofing and siding

10% contingency

Total estimated cost: **\$40,000**

Labor to finish the interior will be donated.

**Donation levels for Filling Station:**

Grease Monkey - \$1-\$99

Gas Pumpers \$100-\$499

Blacksmith \$500-\$999

Wagon teamster \$1,000-\$4,999

Wagon master \$5,000 and up

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Estimated cost to complete the Brady Township Hall

is \$25,000. **Donation levels for this building:**

Trustee Township Hall donation \$100-499

Constable Township Hall donation \$500-999

Supervisor Township Hall donation \$1000-up

The Historic Village Committee and the Vicksburg Historical Society are asking for your help to support the newest addition to the Vicksburg Historic Village. We have planned a combination blacksmith shop/wagon shed/and early filling station to be erected on the northeast section of the Historic Village. It will illustrate the evolution of early transportation and conveyance from the horse to the horseless carriage.

The **Blacksmith Shop** will illustrate the forging of hot iron for horse shoes, wagon parts and tools, right up to the needs for the early horseless carriages that came "FOB" Detroit.

The **Wagon Shed and Livery** will display horse drawn conveyances and exhibits of the original Fulton mail wagon, a winter cutter, a summer hay wagon and a 1931 Model A. The displays and local interpreters will show how the wagon master maintained and repaired the local rolling stock.

The **Filling Station** will be the third element of the transportation history explored in the transition to early gas powered vehicles. The highlight will be two original, fully restored artifacts, a 1931 Model A two-door sedan— "The people's car" and a Sinclair "visible" gas pump out in the front.. Filling the interior of the buildings will be hundreds of related early automotive items. The display will show how early vehicles were repaired and maintained.

As a practical matter, the building will also include in a non-public area, a much needed workshop for our resident carpenters for the maintenance, repair and construction of Historic Village and Historical Society artifacts. There has never been an area dedicated to this purpose.



The Historic Village Committee is asking for your financial pledge to help us realize this dream. Your donation, no matter the size, will be critical in helping us toward our goal of \$65,000 to build an historic replica of the horse and buggy era to the gasoline powered engine, along with the renovation of the building which formerly housed the Brady Township Hall. Both of these buildings are key to making room for the many artifacts and donations the Depot Museum has received throughout the past twenty years.



Historic Village Committee members seated left to right include: Kristina Powers Aubry (chair), Bonnie Holmes and Helen McCrumb. Standing: Ron Smith, Jim Bird, Tom Miller, Mike Hardy, Ken Evensen and Warren Lawrence. Not pictured: Tim Moore, J.R. Fulton, Sue Moore, Bob Merrill and Gerald Smith.



## My donation:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Pledge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:  
 Vicksburg Historic Village  
 300 N. Richardson St., P.O. Box 103  
 Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-1733  
 All donations will be recognized with an Honor Roll of giving. Pledges may be made over a three year period of time and are tax deductible.