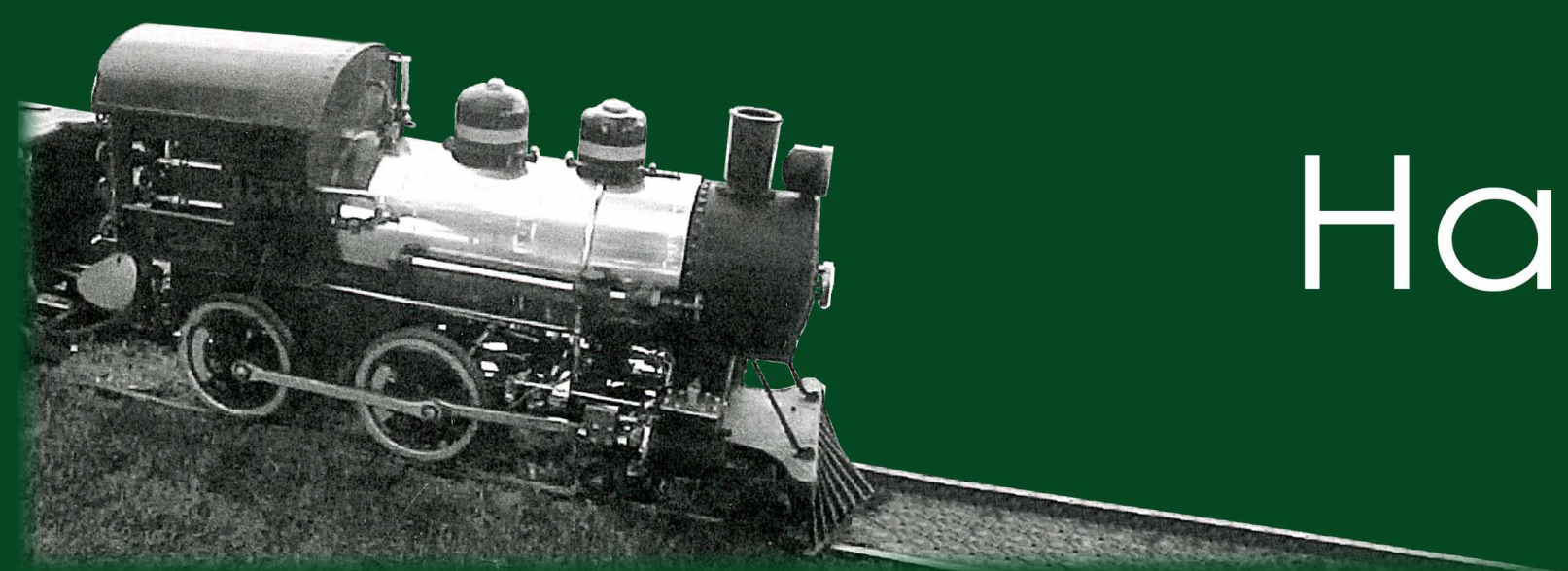




Harrison County Historically Speaking

Missouri Valley, Iowa



WHY PRESERVE THIS BIT OF HISTORY?

This panel "Tells the Tale" of an era gone by... part of Harrison County's treasured past. By appreciating the importance of the past, we can continue working in the present to ensure future generations will respect and preserve the enduring history that is represented here. By working to connect our past with the present, the structures on this panel have been identified as being historically significant by Harrison County Tourism as part of ongoing efforts to preserve local history. It is 1 of 10 in a series of panels throughout Harrison County.

For a complete list of panels and locations, go to: <http://destinationharrisionia.com/historically-speaking.html>



Destination Harrison Interpretive Signage Project made possible by funding from the Dean J. King Family Foundation

Designed by Harrison County GIS & Mapping in conjunction with Harrison County Tourism

NEW DEAL MURAL IN THE MISSOURI VALLEY POST OFFICE



This mural titled "Iowa Fair" was completed in 1938 by Francis Robert White. The content of this mural changed significantly from his initial competition design, possibly due to his selection of the theme "Opening of the Midwest" for the Cedar Rapids federal courthouse. White was sponsored by the Treasury Section of Fine Arts during the New Deal to help artisans recover from the Great Depression.

WATSON STEAM TRAIN MUSEUM



Watson Station is a railroad station with artifacts, an original 1948 Ottaway steamer and a newly-built gas engine with weekend and holiday rides.



Watson Station is a 100-foot long replica of an old-time small town railroad depot. Built in Missouri Valley's City Park in 2009, the complex includes the depot and a 1700-foot miniature 12-gauge park railroad. Housed in the depot are two trains. The first is a restored steam train, originally owned by the Missouri Valley Fire Department and later by John Watson, for whom the station is named. The second is a 2013 Union Pacific diesel replica. Both trains operate during the station's season, May through October. The depot features railroad-related artifacts and displays, including a major collection of miniature (to scale) brass locomotives. The mission of Watson Station is to educate and entertain by bringing back the grand old railroad days of yore.



THE RIALTO THEATER

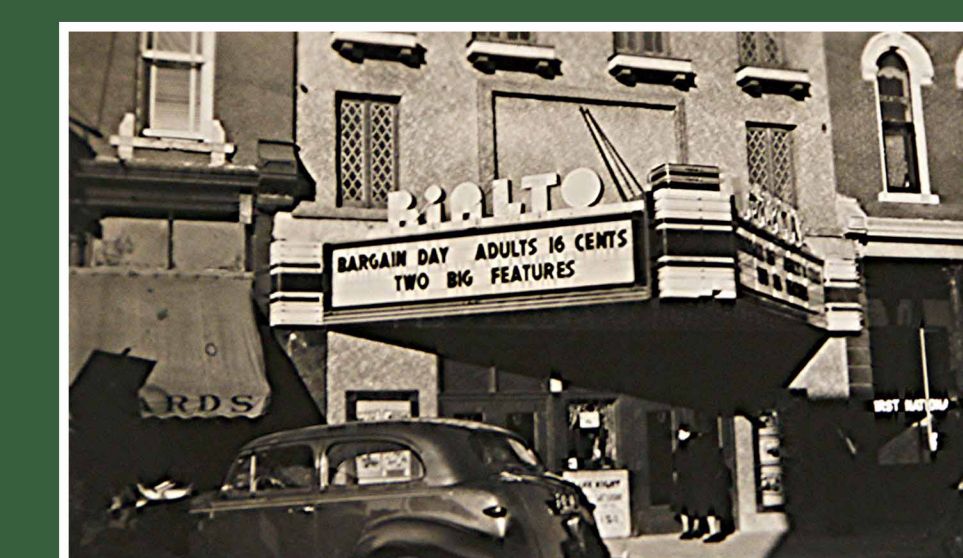
The Rialto has been a theater house since 1908. In total, Missouri Valley had five different theaters operating in two different buildings off and on since 1908: At the 405 E. Erie St. address it was (chronologically) The Palm Theater, The Majestic, and The Rialto. At the 406 E. Erie St. address it was (chronologically) the New Palm Theater and The Valley Theater. Most people attribute the Palm Theater and The Majestic as what the Rialto was known by during the silent movie era. The original piano used during the silent movie era was reunited with the Rialto in 2016 after being discovered in eastern Iowa by family members of a previous theater owner.

By 1984, the Rialto had deteriorated and had to be closed down. After a community-wide effort in 1989, the movie house was renovated and re-opened in 1990. The theater underwent several major renovations between 2014 and 2018, and was brought into the 21st century with the most up-to-date electric reclining seats, digital HD projector, Dolby 7.1 surround sound, new wiring, new glass railings in the balcony, and a restored marquee.

Rialto Theater in the 1940s



Rialto Theater in the 1950s



Rialto Theater in 2017

