

Renovations continue on Durant's historic train depot

By Sharron Cauthen
Durant Historic Preservation Commission
Mingo Tingle and Meredith Massey, representatives with Mississippi Department of Archives and History, came to Durant September 4, to see the completed renovation spaces at Durant Depot North Building and to survey room 119, where Durant CLG (Certified Local Government) Grant work will be done. Renovation in 14 rooms has been partially funded by a Community Heritage Preservation Grant with MDAH.

Attending were Ricky Fletcher and Linda McDonald, Durant Alderpersons, and Geraldine Sturgis and Sharron Cauthen, both with the Durant Historic Preservation Commission. Travel guidelines for MDAH required a small tour group. Before the meeting time of 9:30 a.m., Forise Minor, construction site observer for DHPC, opened the building and had the air-conditioners running. Mr. Minor will be helping DHPC review the architect's drawings for the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ramp at the

North Building. After touring the first 14 rooms, Mingo and Meredith spent time looking at the unfloored room no. 119, which was the historical telegraph room for Illinois Central Railroad. The old telegraph wall unit is still sitting in this room. It will have to be moved to storage space in the south warehouse before the cleanup begins. Mingo plans to send a summary of recommendations to DHPC. We explained that MDAH funds were used to purchase the plywood, vinyl tile, paint, plaster mix and plaster

screen for use in room 119. A large portion of the CLG work will consist of removing the lowered ceiling, detaching the wallboard material that is over the original plaster and bead board on the walls. Cleanup and repair of these original wall coverings has already been done in the first 14 rooms and compartments. To lower the total cost of this CLG project, the original lathe and plaster on the ceiling will be removed and replaced with sheet rock. Another benefit of this modification will be moisture protection.

After leaving the depot, the tour group went to the Durant Library to view the repair work done in the large meeting room, staff office and foyer, as reference for the type and quality of work done by our city maintenance staff. The clean and new appearance of these rooms is very much appreciated by library patrons. Now we have the added advantage of using this sample of Durant team work as a guide for historic preservation work in the Durant Depot. The last stop on the tour was the (former) city hall, on

the corner of Mulberry and Jackson Streets, which is our historic municipal building in a very dangerous state of dilapidation. Miss. Dept. of Archives and History will be furnishing advice about options in the stabilization and rescue of this building. We only looked at the ground floor rooms. So much water has penetrated through the rotten roof that the upper story floor looks to be near the point of collapse. DHPC will be sending frequent reports on the progress of the ADA ramp work and the CLG project.



Pictured above left, Durant officials and members of the preservation commission met with representatives from Mississippi Department of Archives and History to check the renovation progress at Durant's historical train depot. The group also toured the former city hall on the corner of Mulberry and Jackson Streets. The former city hall is in danger of collapse from water damage. Picture from left, Ricky Fletcher, Linda McDonald, both Durant Alderpersons; Geraldine Sturgis, with the Durant Historic Preservation Commission; Meredith Massey and Mingo Tingle, both with MDAH. Pictured above right, renovation work on the building include new windows, paint and a stabilized roof. (Photos by Sharron Cauthen)



Pictured above, the inside of the depot has been renovated to reflect a more historically accurate design. At left, the depot foyer, at right, the depot ticket area. (Photos by Sharron Cauthen)



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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As just about everyone who has lived with a child for more than two years knows, the most potentially dangerous thing one can say to a toddler is "no." That single syllable strikes deep into the core of the reptilian portion of the toddler brain, arousing a reaction that dwarfs Godzilla's most destructive rampage. "Should I simply ignore my

two-year-old's tantrums?" a young mother asks. "Can you?" She ponders that for a moment or two. "Not really." Ignoring is about as over-rated as it gets, especially when it comes to toddler tantrums. Nothing brings out a toddler's inner Godzilla like being ignored. That same mother, for example, reported that when she ignored a tantrum, it

quickly escalated into hitting, biting, and head-banging. If she began walking away, her live-in maniac would wrap himself around her leg, shrieking like a banshee. "What do I do then?" she asked. "Either stand there until he lets go or drag him around with you." "I tried that once and sprained my leg." A perfect illustration of the fact that there is no perfectly reliable form of discipline with a toddler. Most important, regardless, is that he fails to get what he wants.

Not even one teensy-weensy smidgeon of it. If he thinks he can wear you down in increments, the tantrums will escalate in intensity and increase in frequency. When my daughter began her toddlerhood, albeit belatedly, I came up with a solution for her tantrums that has provided many a parent with significant relief. It begins with buying a 4' x 6' (or thereabouts) rug from your local box store. Spread it out in a relatively out of the way place in that part of the house that most of said tantrums occur (we put

our daughter's tantrum rug in the downstairs bathroom). Tell your toddler something along these lines: "The doctor says you need a special place for your tantrums because they are so many and so big! So, this is your new special tantrum place! When you want to throw a tantrum, just come here, lie down and begin screaming and rolling around until you feel better. If you need help getting here, Mommy will help you." Needless to say, your little one will need "help" getting to his new tantrum place, at least initially. When the next

screaming episode begins, simply say, "Oh my! That's a big tantrum! You need to be in your new tantrum place, so let's go!" Carry or drag as necessary. If after you deposit him he gets right up and runs after you, just put him back. The important thing is that you keep your cool in the process. At first, said process may last up to thirty minutes. In the meantime, be calm, be purposeful, and be happy. This, too, will pass. *Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.*