



the building as restaurant and office space, without much success. The Boone and Crockett Club purchased the vacant Old Milwaukee Depot in 1992 to serve as its national headquarters. B&C's intent was to preserve the historical essence of the Depot as a significant architectural element of the Missoula downtown, while using it as functional office space. Prior to this purchase, the Depot was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Montana Historical Society. Since purchasing the building, B&C has performed three major renovation phases. The first phase in 1992-1993 retrofitted the interior of the passenger building and the baggage/express rooms on the main floor—which had been used as a restaurant throughout the 1980s—into functional office and conference room space. Five years later the second phase of renovations took place on the second floor of the passenger building, which had previously been divided into leased office space. Upon completion the newly remodeled modern office space was leased to the University of Montana, Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

The final, and most extensive restoration of the Old Milwaukee Depot began in 2003 and took a year to complete. All measures were taken to restore as many elements of its grand 1910 architectural style. This final phase of restoration included the installation of custom-made, original-style windows and replicas of the doors that had been removed when the buildings were used by the railroad for trucking freight and later by the restaurants, which had both altered the buildings without much thought for historic preservation.

Coffered ceilings and milled-wood beams were restored wherever they had been altered and, along with reconstruction of the wainscot and molded trim throughout the buildings, a replica of the original staircase accessing the second floor in the passenger building was rebuilt. Original bricks and new concrete lintels restored areas where bricks were removed to create a fireplace for the restaurants and the installation of garage doors for the railroad. Concrete walls damaged by the retrofitting of the buildings by the previous owners were also restored.

A library with custom-shelving designed to accommodate Boone and Crockett Club's Permanent Collection Library and an executive office were constructed within the passenger building. Both were developed following the architectural styling of the original building's interior design including the relief paneled wainscoting and molded trim. Additionally the coffered ceilings and wood beams

in this area of the building were reconstructed.

The vacant space of the three-story tower was restored for use as a small meeting area with the addition of a new kitchenette for B&C staff. The original ceiling paneling and plastered walls were incorporated into this section of the building.

The restored baggage building is now home to B&C's warehouse. Extensive work was completed in this area including the removal of a false floor and ceiling and the restoration of the interior brick that had been damaged decades earlier. Original-style transom windows were replaced where they had previously been removed or damaged. A new concrete floor was poured and entrance/egress were enhanced with new doors.

A gallery space connecting the two historic buildings, which is architecturally sympathetic to the original train station was designed by OZ Architects. The new space is now home to B&C's Visitors Gallery, which was fully complete in 2010. This welcoming entrance to the Old Milwaukee Depot now greets visitors with engaging and in-depth exhibits about B&C's history along with the history of wildlife conservation, big game records keeping, and an in-depth look at our hunting heritage—along with a section dedicated to the history of the Milwaukee Railroad and the historic depot.

**ABOVE:** *Passengers wait to board the Hiawatha in Missoula, 1953.*

**BELOW:** *Now visitors to Missoula will find the 9.8 mile Kim Williams Nature Trail in front of the Old Milwaukee Depot where the train tracks once ran along the banks of the Clark Fork River.*

**INSET:** *A new exhibit space greets visitors to the Old Milwaukee Depot.*

