

PRELIMINARY PROJECT OVERVIEW

# **WHITMAN DISPLAY and EVENT BUILDING**

Western Pacific Railroad Museum - Portola, California

layouts, ground plans and descriptions of configuration  
revision August 2020

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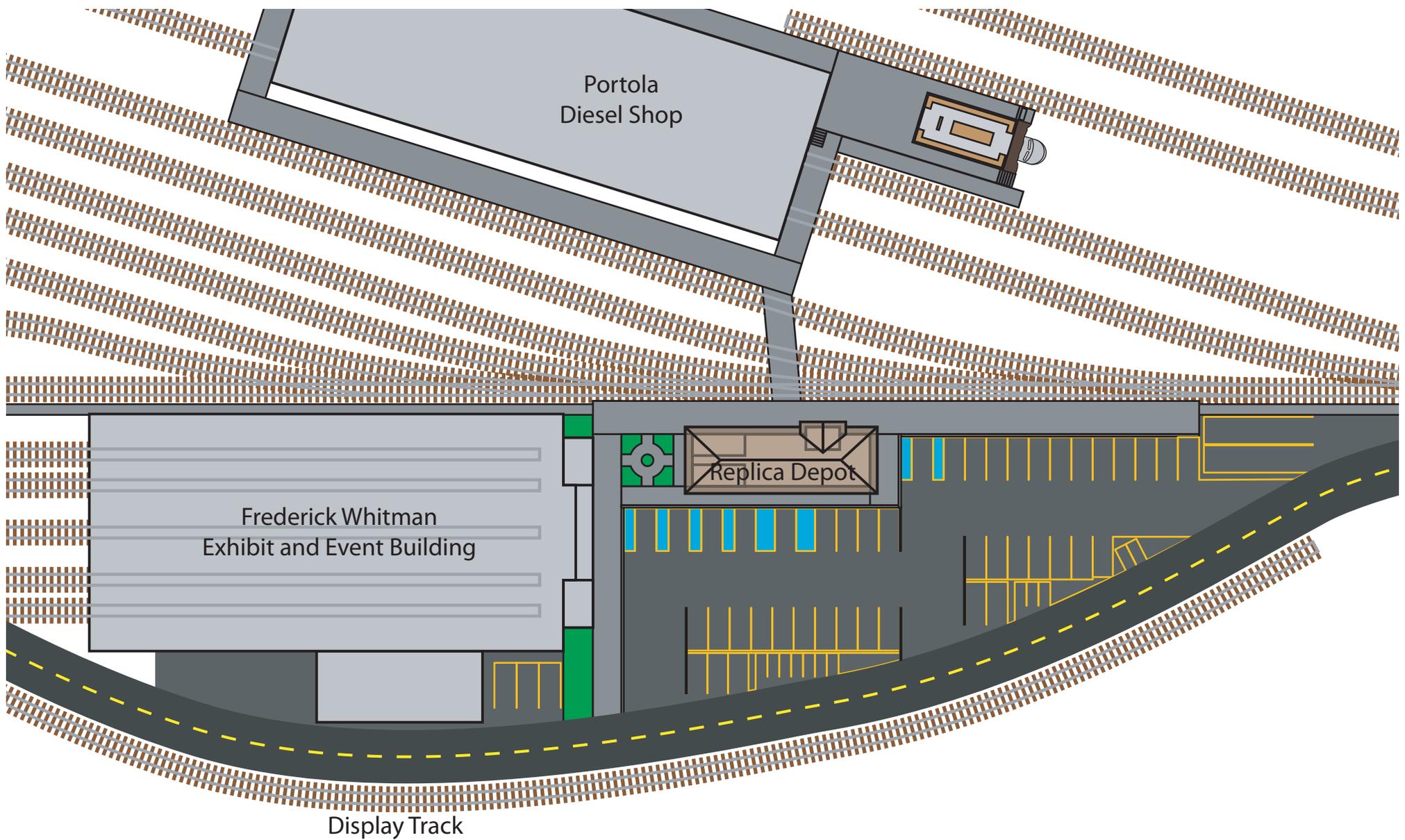


The Whitman Building is a multi-purpose display and event center proposed for the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California. When fully complete, it will be a climate controlled building capable of exhibiting 10-16 pieces of historic rail equipment, as well as capable of hosting community events and even functioning as a disaster evacuation center. The building is named in honor of Frederick Whitman, who was president of the Western Pacific during its most successful years.



The proposed facade of the Whitman Building is based on the former ferry mole (terminal) the Western Pacific built in Oakland, CA. This facility even included a large red neon sign spelling out the railroad name on the roof.

The Whitman Building will not only be a much needed addition to the WPRM, its clean floor design and 20,000 square feet of open space will allow it to be a community event center capable of holding larger events than any other space in the eastern part of Plumas County. This building will be a major benefit to the community as well as the museum.



Map showing relative location of the proposed Whitman Display Building compared to other existing and proposed infrastructure. Proposed facade will face east, toward visitors entering the parking lot area.

Parking lot will accommodate 38 trucks and cars in regular and compact spaces, plus 6 ADA spaces (2 van accessible), 10 motorcycle spaces and 2 RV spaces.

main running track

diesel shop

Double walk door

Double walk door

8'

10' walk aisle

30'W door opening

5' walk aisle

4'

16'W door opening

10' walk aisle

20'W X 18'H opening centered

Entry

4'

Large door openings 18' high

10' walk aisle

30'W door opening

5' walk aisle

8'

10' walk aisle

Double walk door

Double walk door

walk doors within 30' of ends walls

parking lot

Ground layout. The five (5) tracks have an effective length of 180 feet. This will allow for 2-4 pieces of equipment depending on length.

Examples: two 85' passenger cars - 170 feet four 40' freight cars - 160 feet  
one 65' locomotive, two 40' freight cars and one 34' caboose - 179 feet

Front facade area (shown in light grey) will contain restroom areas. Wide aisle allow for large groups and easy viewing. Wall space will be used for exhibits. Floor is smooth to allow for full area use for community and special events when equipment is removed.

Building front (East Face) without facade



0 ft 10 ft 20 ft 30 ft 40 ft 50 ft 60 ft 70 ft 80 ft 90 ft 100 ft

30 ft Building rear (West Face) with track doors

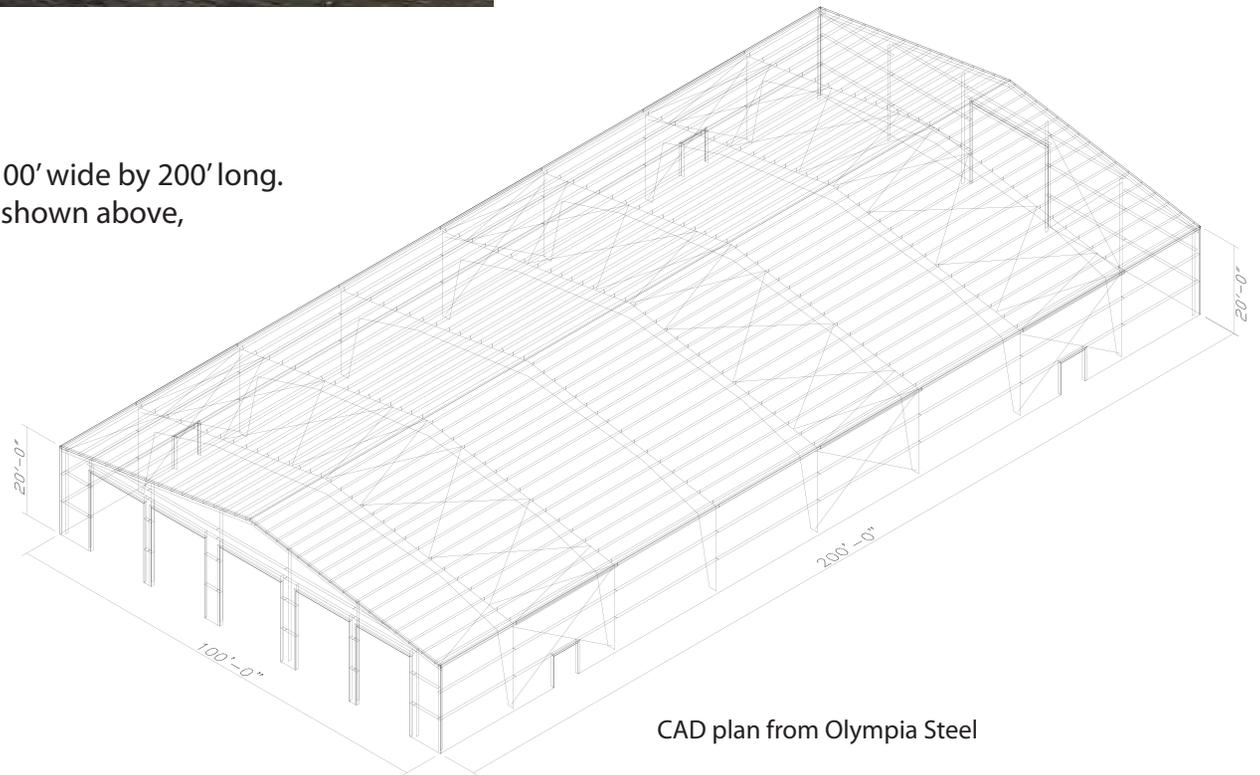




Example of building style being acquired.

Building is built by Olympia Steel and measures 100' wide by 200' long. Eaves are 20' high. Building is clear span style, as shown above, meaning there are no posts in building interior.

First payments have already been made.



CAD plan from Olympia Steel

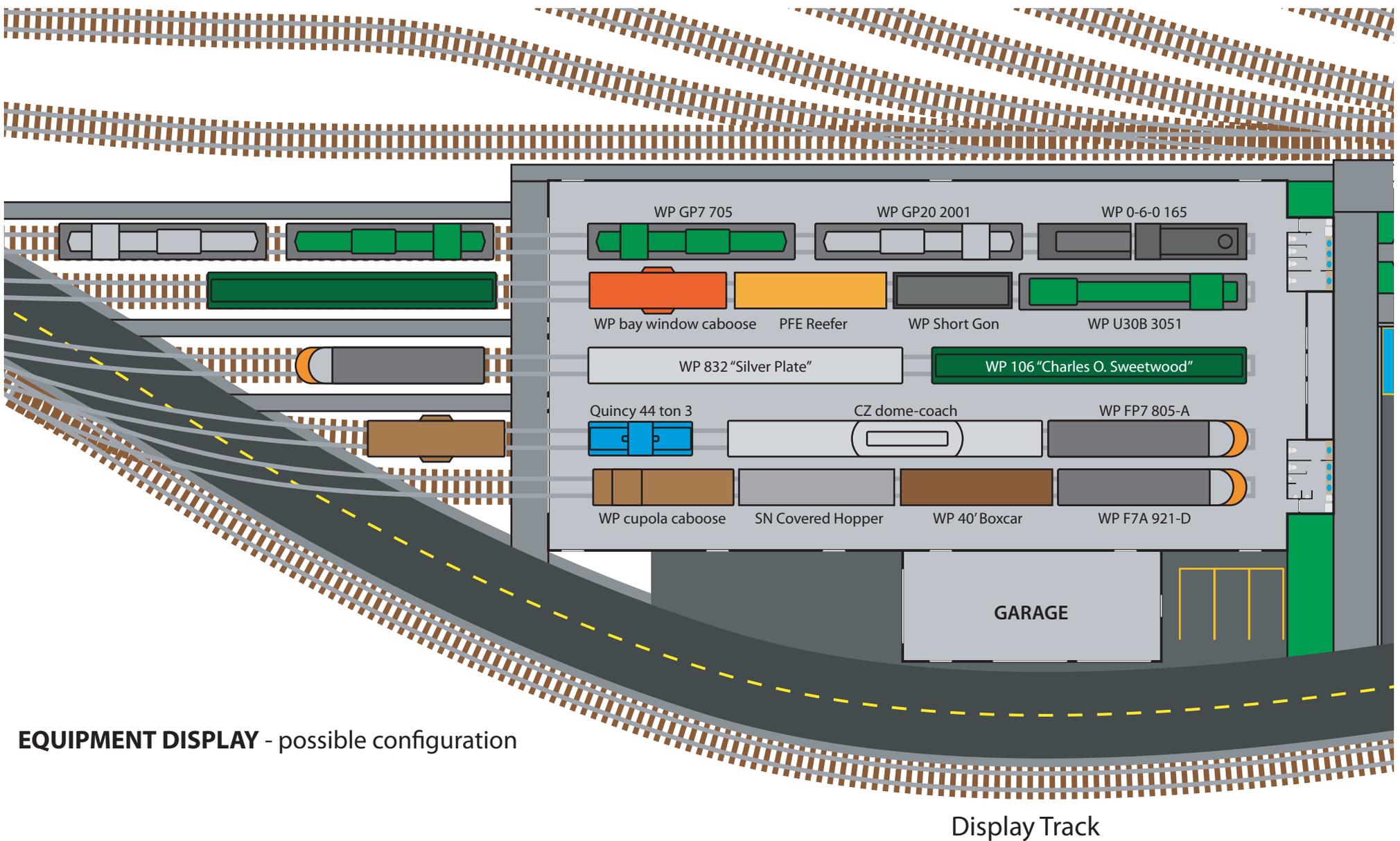
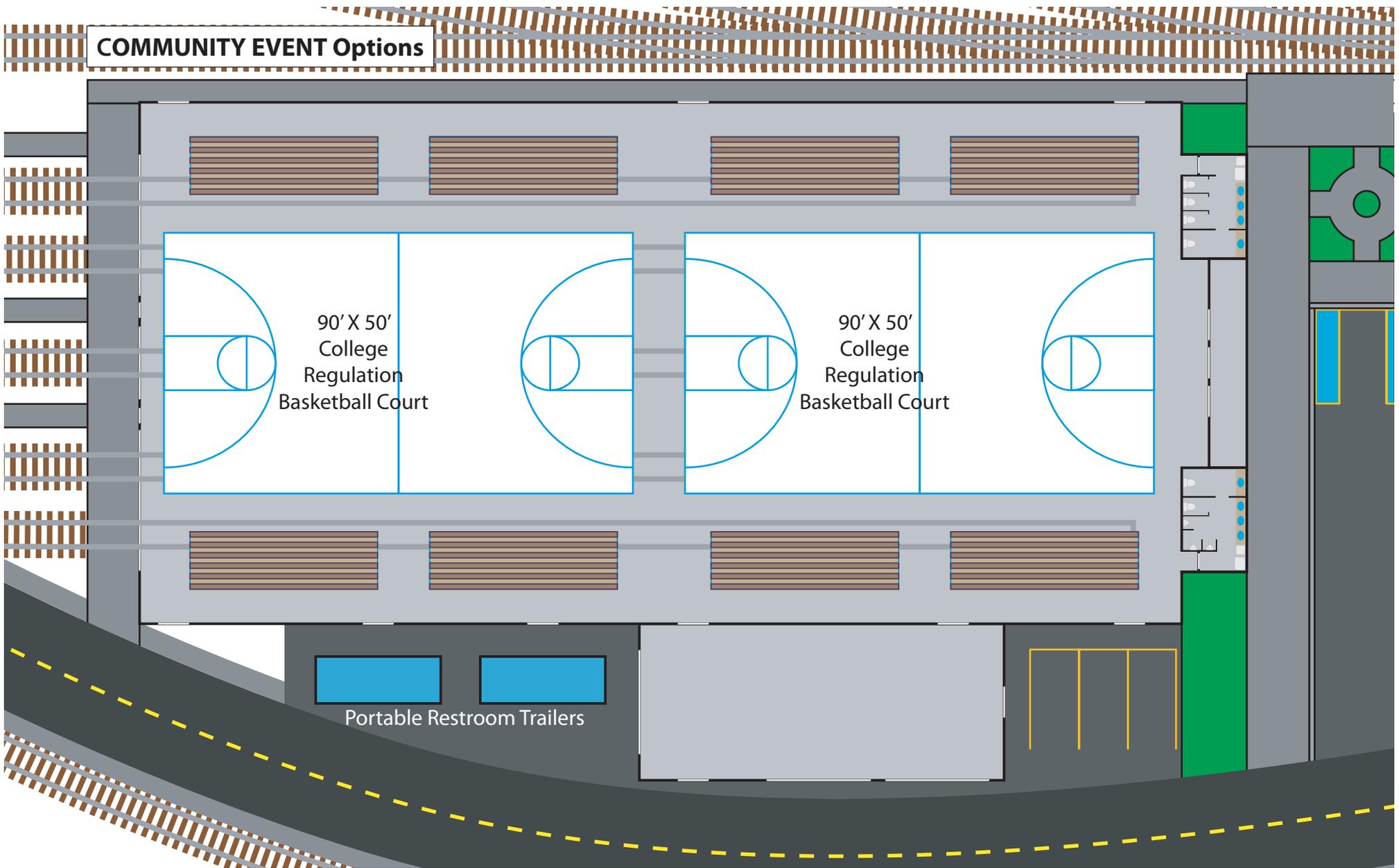


Diagram showing rail equipment on display in the Whitman Building, as well as on the lead tracks to the west of the building.

The add-on building located just to the south of the main building is a storage and service garage for the museum's rubber tire support vehicles, including forklifts, road cranes, backhoe, etc.

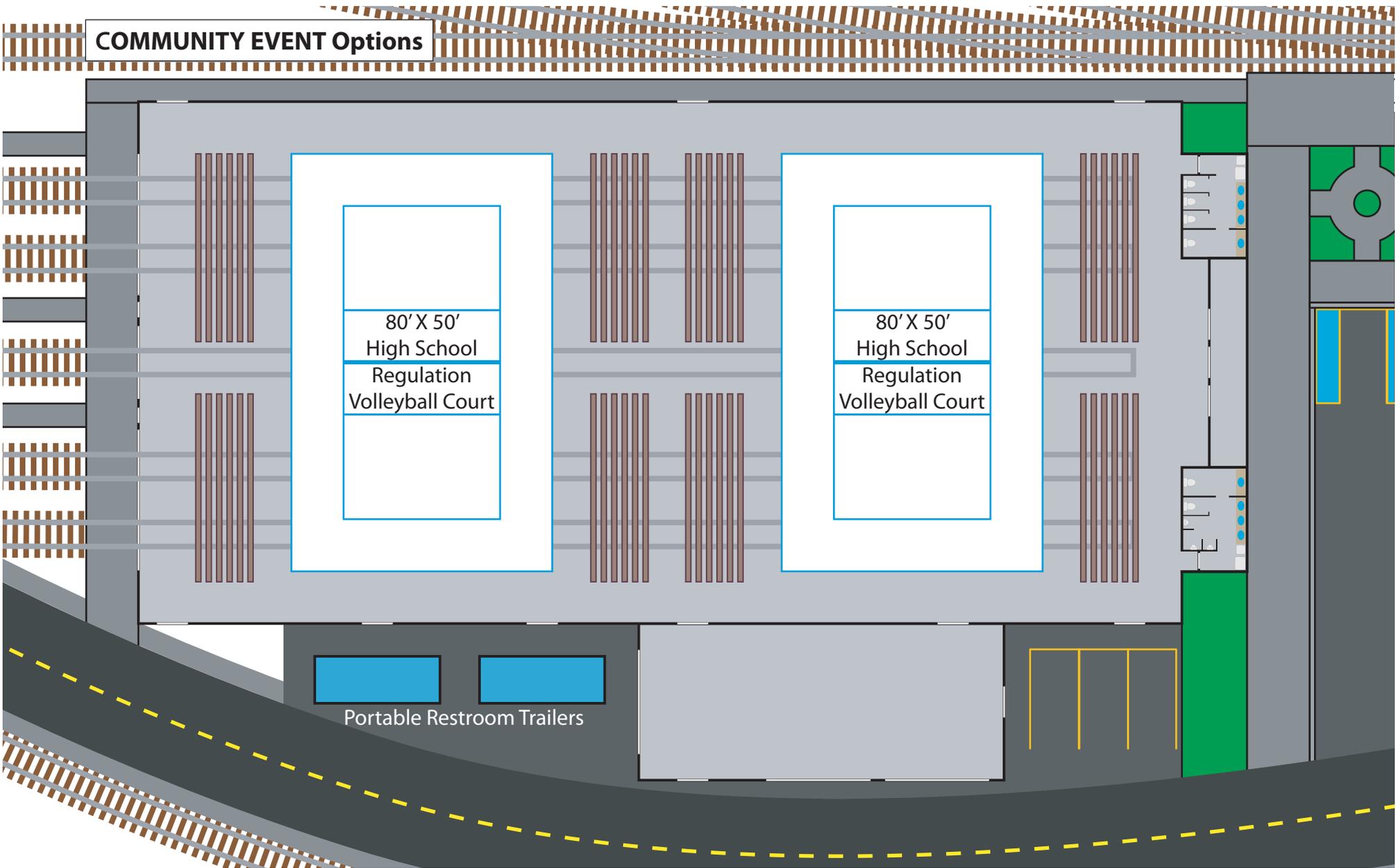
## COMMUNITY EVENT Options



The open space layout allows variations of configurations. Shown above is a 2 court arrangement using college regulation basketball courts in an in-line arrangement.

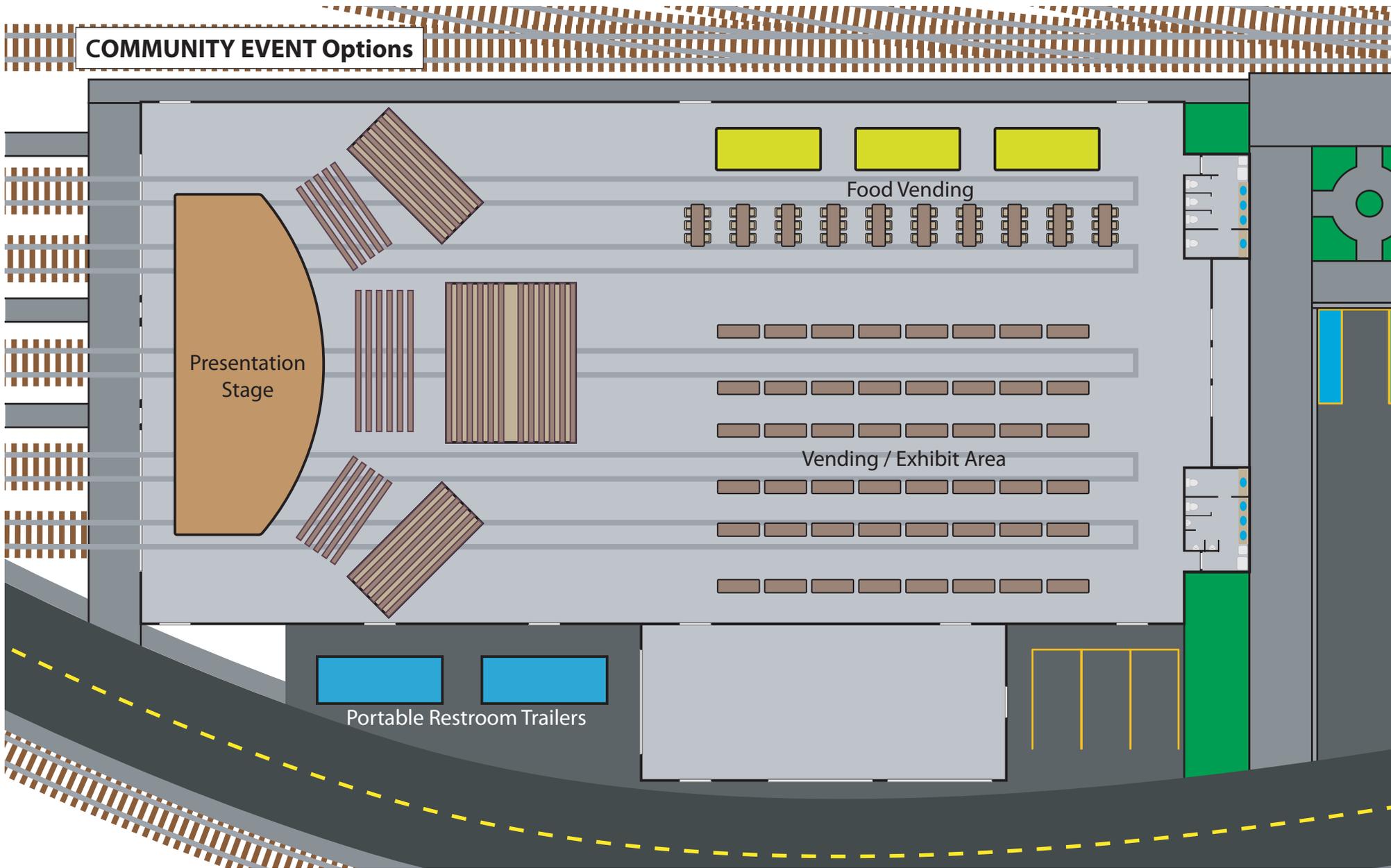
Portable bleacher seats are shown. Also note the portable restroom trailers to supplement the in-place restrooms for large volume events.

## COMMUNITY EVENT Options



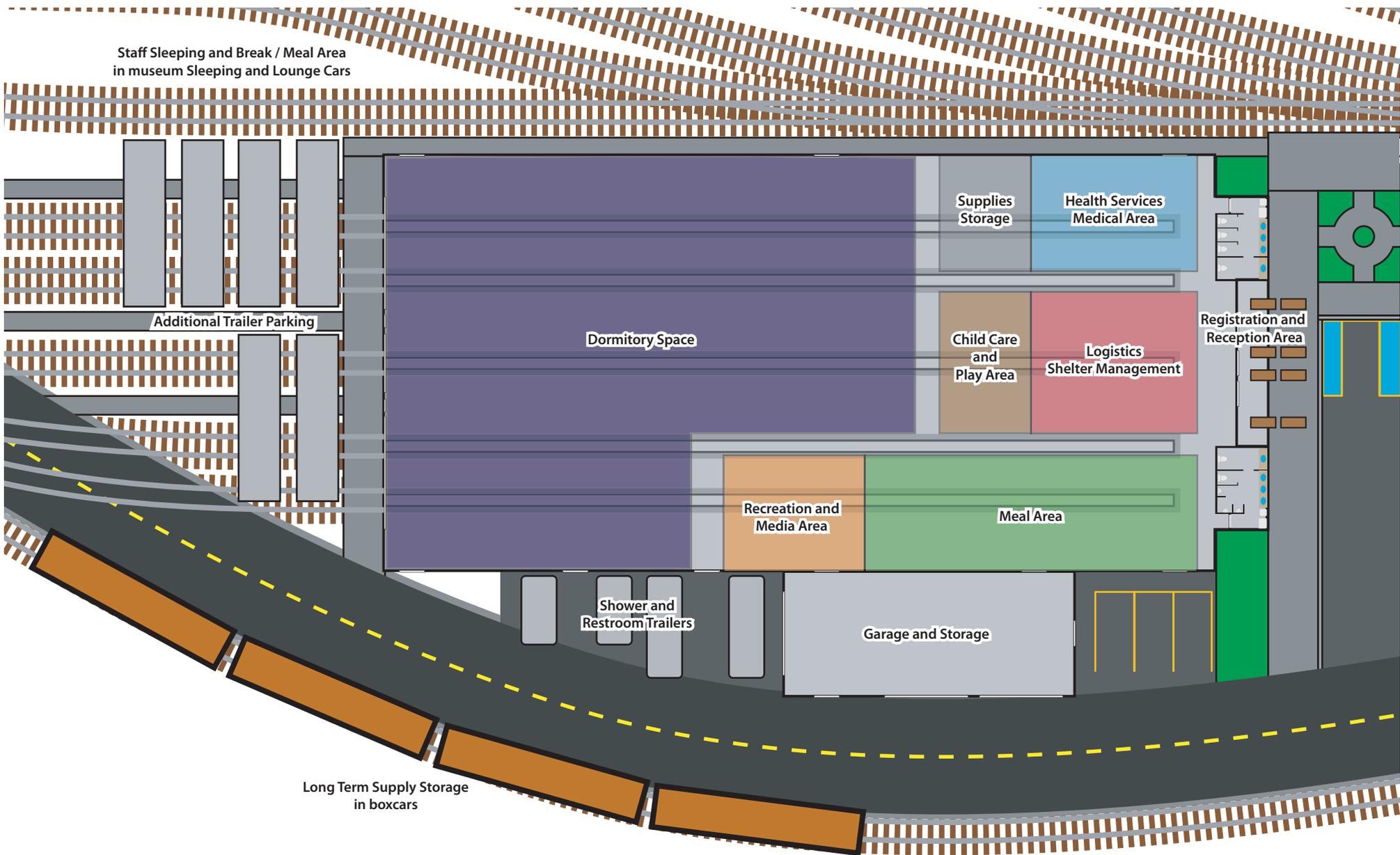
The floor of the Whitman Building will be a solid concrete surface, with inlaid rails for equipment display.

The flangeways for the rails will have a special rubber insert that flexes to allow for the wheel flanges on the rail equipment, but will return to flat shape when the equipment is removed. This will create a flat surface with no trip hazards or large irregularities. This will allow the building to be used as a multi-purpose event center. One example, a set-up for a volleyball event, is shown above.



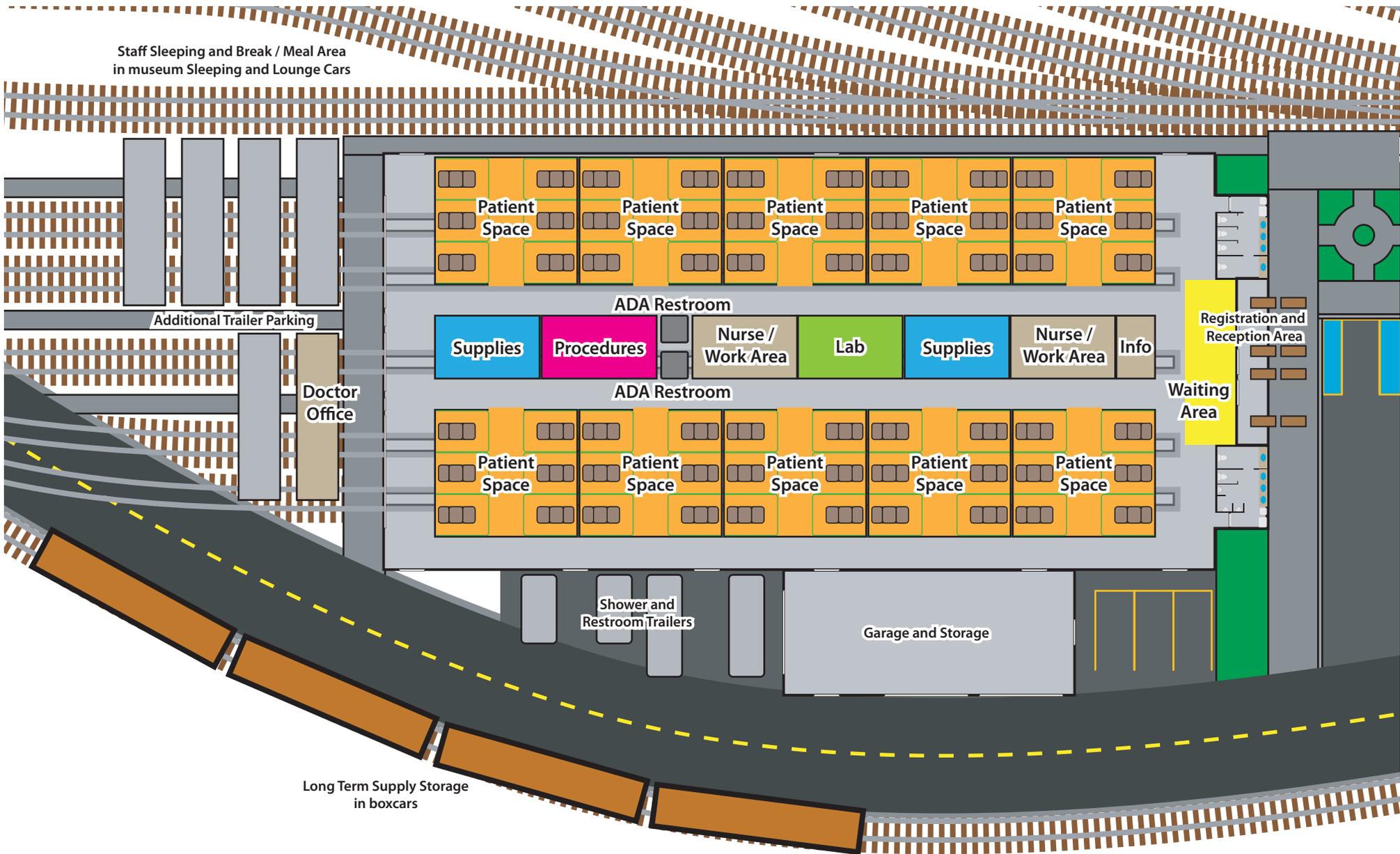
Example configuration showing a convention or exhibition, including a food vending area with food trucks / trailers, tables for exhibition or sales, and a presentation area with flat and raised portable bleacher seating. Event curtains would be used to partition the space as required by event set up.

Additional parking is available in the "Ballfield" area at the museum entrance. A tram would provide transport from remote parking, with a stop in the parking area right in front of the building. The Old Town Extension would allow museum trains to carry passengers from Old Town Portola to the Depot and Whitman Building complex.



## EMERGENCY EVACUATION CENTER - possible configuration

In the event of a mass evacuation event, such as a wildfire, the Whitman Building could be used as an evacuation center. With 20,000 square feet and temperature control, this steel frame structure would provide space for hundreds of people. In addition, easy access designed for large vehicles would make placement of support trailers rapid and straightforward. Emergency supplies could easily be stored on site in museum boxcars which double as displays. Other museum facilities would work in concert to create a highly functional disaster center. Animals could be cared for in the Diesel Shop and in corrals made with portable fencing in the Balloon Track area.



## MASS CASUALTY and QUARANTINE SUPPORT CENTER - possible configuration

In the event of a mass casualty or infectious disease event, the Whitman Building could be used as a supplemental medical care center. The space could quickly be divided up into care areas with support and lab testing sections for handling up to 60 patients. With the Whitman Building able to handle non-critical or non-infectious patients still requiring hospital care, this would free space and resources at the Plumas County Hospital to handle more serious patients or allow the hospital to operate under strict quarantine procedures.