

Archives Work Update January 2021

- Kerry Cochran
Archive Manager



Starting in early 2019, work began on creating a new archive workspace on the museum grounds.

Former Missouri Pacific baggage/Maintenance of Way car # 14144 had been selected some time ago to become the location of part of the Arthur Walter Keddie Railroad Library. The car had been sitting out amongst our fleet of railroad cars in the yard for quite some time. This car was donated to the FRRS by the Union Pacific with the help of our then President Rod McClure.

Our Yardmaster, Steve Habeck, was asked to move the car next to the loading dock and take the place of the old WP baggage car that had been sitting in this location for quite a few years.

Once the MP car was relocated, some minor work began to start the process of getting the car ready for work.

Eugene Vicknair then took it from there, becoming our overall manager on the car project.



Over a few years, the car started to be used as a temporary storage for some of the archive materials. During this time, materials for the car's interior work were moved into the car with the archive materials.

On May 29th, Paul Finnegan, Phil Schmierer, Vince Bonfiglio, Ethan Doty and Kerry Cochran spent most of the afternoon moving the old desk partitions, refrigerator and various left over lumber and insulation out of the car.

Using temporary power to the car, work started to bring a better power source to the car.

A new three-phase 208/120 power supply was brought to the loading dock next to the MP car. This work was a continuation of electrical power work started many years ago with conduit paths installed from a current electrical panel on the wall of the engine house at dock level.

Thinking in advance, extra conduit was installed under the ramp to the dock. This conduit work was extended to the location of the MP car.

Work on the MP car consisted of installing all new power supply feed conduit, a new main electrical panel and wiring. Thank you to Eric McKay and Vince Bonfiglio for helping Kerry Cochran in getting all the wire pulled and ready for hook up.

Once this work was completed, it was time for work to begin on the interior of the car.

Several plans were drawn by Eugene Vicknair for the interior layout of the car starting in 2017 and several revisions were made over the next year or so. Once a plan was accepted, the plan was modified as work progressed to best fit all of our requirements into the plan.

All archive materials that were stored in the MP car were then moved to secure storage on the property. Then the task of removing all the excess collection of building materials, unneeded parts and materials were removed. The interior of the car was cleaned up and debris removed.

Next the HVAC ducts were checked and once our HVAC installer, Ed Powell, determined the correct type and style of HVAC unit we needed for the car, it was ordered. Work started on the HVAC unit as soon as it arrived.

This is so the entire car has climate control.

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A new propane gas line was installed from the existing propane tank at the end of the office car.

Interior work consisting of removing all the old wood paneling and old electrical conduit was completed.

Work on installing the new electrical circuits was started by Eric McKay and then work on the new floor, walls and ceiling could be started.

Work on sealing up the windows and installing a new floor were the next order of business, while that was being done materials were brought in to start on finishing the walls and ceiling.

In the accompanying photo, you can see some of the wall work and Eric McKay working on the electrical system.

Moving on in the process, we hired a fire suppression company out of Reno to install an FM200 fire suppression system to protect the entire car. Once the main piping was completed, the walls and ceiling were completed.

A new ADA ramp to the MP car was installed and is ready to be used.



We installed a security system to protect the archive car with notification so we know if someone goes into the car.

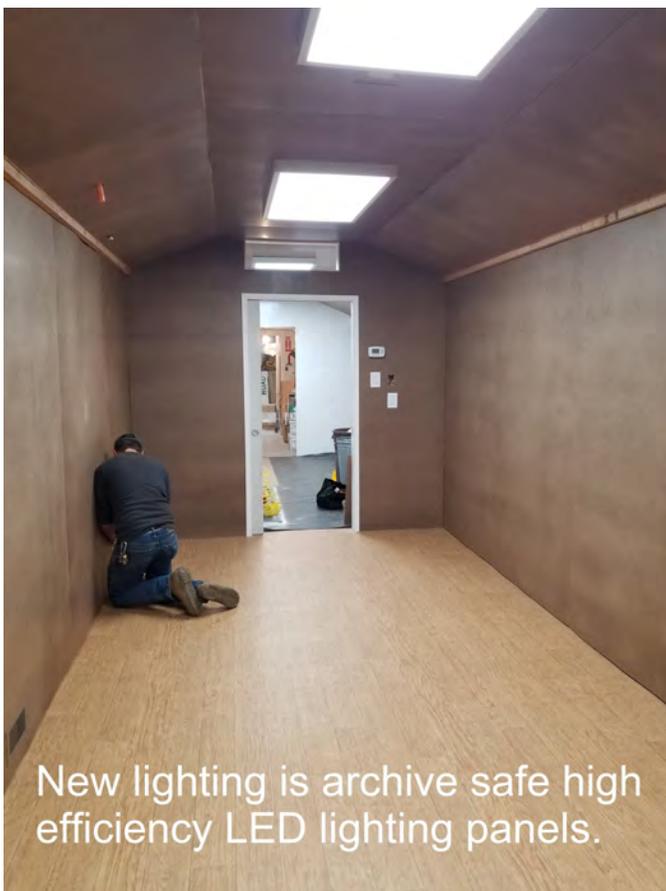
Final cleaning of the new space took place and new shelving were installed and we were ready to move back in to the new archive space.

A lot of hard work was performed by our volunteers to get this work completed. The MP Archives car has desk space to be able to research and write notes, this along with the Cotton Belt car gives us more clean and safe storage of our archives.

Many Thanks go out to our volunteers:

Greg Elems, Steve Habeck, Eugene Vicknair, Tim Steeper, Janet Steeper, Tom Steeper, Eric McKay, David Elems, Ethan Doty, Ed Powell, Dave Wallace, Charlie Spikes, Duane Vander Veen, Loren Ross, Mary Ann Vicknair, Christopher Kaprielian, Frank Brehm, Paul Finnegan, Kerry Cochran.

I am sure that there may be others that I have overlooked, thank you to all who have helped.



New lighting is archive safe high efficiency LED lighting panels.



This the completed secure storage room with earthquake reinforced racking and fire rated security door.