

Clock update December 2015:

Hello. I am hoping many of you have been wanting an update on the clock to find out what has been going on and where we stand.

The very first thing I would like to do is THANK all those people who have donated whether it's a cash or pledge donation toward the Clock project! The people who have donated freebees toward the clock. To the young lady who did the CAD blueprint drawings for us out of Indianapolis, and Columbus Indiana for the Clock model we have to the students at Pioneer Tech Center for their help producing the 3D model of the clock tower we needed. To the young Ball State college student who produced 2 Clock videos for us and those who videotaped the clock being loaded and moved to safe haven. Your contributions are very much appreciated. To the committee for their help in getting this thing off the ground and running. Most of all to Don Graham who has done everything in his power to promote and help people see the Vision. Without his Vision we wouldn't be as far as we are.

Historical restoration projects are very special opportunities to revive and bring back the glory of a fragile or old structure. The historical restoration process is one that requires in-depth planning, knowledge, coordination and care. Here we are actually rebuilding a clock tower and using salvaged parts off the original clock itself. I never started this to save the whole downtown area but just save the one thing I thought could and will be a symbol of Willard for future generations to come. My way of saying thanks to a community that gave me the values I still use today. It has become much more than that now as some of the leaders want it to be a start of a whole plan to revitalize the downtown area to bring more people, industry and quality of life to our hometown.

Much of 2015 has been in two areas. Finalizing the clock plans (which is ongoing up to the day we sit the new tower) from the tower itself to the small plaza it will sit in. We are there. Clock blueprints are done, a rendering of what the clock will look like is done, a plaza rendering is coming. We also secure the set price for the steel that will be needed for the tower legs and structure before prices go back up. Once oil rises again the cost of steel will go up. Fundraising has started in the summer of 2014 and continues. We have hit a milestone in fundraising as well. But we are far from done. We need everyone's help.

There is a big push to restore historical properties all across the country and by all means it is not a fast overnight process. I have never been known for patience because of my radio and fundraising background. But I am learning and I know many of you want this done quickly as well. It takes time and for those who say I'm waiting until something is being done before I donate your time is here. Would you buy a new car with put having the money to pay for it? Please consider donating to the project and help us finish this for you, your children and grandkids down the road.

This has been a different animal. So here is what we started with in January 2015. Because of the high rate of metal thief going on all across the country and also in northern Ohio and Willard we decided from the get go to find storage for what we have left of the clock tower. Much of it was stored outside on the ground where anyone could take it. We found a location with the company we have chosen to do the rebuild and restoration on the metal parts we have left. They were kind enough to offer warehouse space inside and safe for all the parts including the dome section (roof). So with a full day of loading securing and another day of travel the clock parts made it safely to the warehouse. Once inside the company took inventory of what we have. They also determined the wood structure of the dome was too far gone to rebuild. But it will stay intact to mimic the exact design of the clock once rebuilding starts.