

I think we can!
I think we can!

Save the Historic Saluda Train Depot



For More Information

Website: HistoricSaluda.org
Email: savesaludadepot@gmail.com
Facebook: Save Saluda Depot
YouTube: [HistoricSaludaNC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1)
Twitter: [@savesaludadepot](https://twitter.com/savesaludadepot)
[#savesaludadepot](https://twitter.com/savesaludadepot)

PRIMARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Through a capital campaign, spearheaded by the Saluda Historic Depot, funds will be raised to purchase and preserve the historic Saluda depot, engaging Saluda's citizens, both full-time and part-time, and visitors to donate to the campaign.
- Through a collaborative process, will create and develop a sustainable historical museum and visitors center by working in tandem with the goals of the Historic Saluda Committee, the Saluda Business Association, and the Saluda Downtown Foundation.
- Through this collaborative process, will develop a marketing and promotional plan to draw tourists to Saluda using the depot and the appeal of the train history as a primary focus.
- The Saluda history museum will open to the public and become operational.

PROJECT BUDGET

The first 12 months of this project will focus on raising \$275,000 that will be needed to purchase the depot. An additional \$60,000 will be needed for interior design and development, and marketing. Once the museum is opened in the second year, approximately \$30,000 will be needed to cover operating expenses with a projected annual income of \$37,000. Anticipated revenue may come from grants, donations, gift shop retail, and annual memberships.

HISTORY

When the first passenger train of the Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad chugged up the Saluda Grade on July 4, 1878, Pace's Gap was forever changed. In 1877, Capt. Charles Pearson, former Confederate Army officer, was assigned chief engineer to construct the railroad. Pearson rejected the

route of old trading paths and instead selected a route which followed the Pacolet River up the steep gorge, an almost vertical wall.

This route began at the bottom of the Melrose Mountain at 1,081 feet and climbed to the top at present day Saluda, cresting at an elevation of 2,097 feet. Capt. Pearson's selected route proved to be challenging! In 1878, due to the depletion of financial resources and manual labor, the North Carolina legislature ratified a bill to provide financial support and to allow convicts to work on the construction of the line. The price paid by all workers, free or otherwise, to complete the Saluda Grade was steep due to the high death rate from sickness and accidents. Despite this adversity, the tracks reached the top of the grade three months after the convicts began work on the project, resulting in the completion of the steepest mainline standard gauge railroad in the United States. By February, 1881, the growth and prosperity of Pace's Gap had escalated to the point that it was chartered as the town of Saluda, NC.

PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL COMMITMENT

- Once the depot is purchased, through a legal binding agreement, the historical integrity of the building will be protected in perpetuity.
- The museum will follow true museum standards and best practices.
- The primary focus of the museum will be the railroad and the Saluda Grade, but since Saluda has a rich and fascinating history, other subjects will also be featured, including an audio and video showcase of oral histories.



For the first time in decades the historic Saluda depot is for sale. The depot is vulnerable because anyone can purchase it, change it or even destroy it. Once it's gone it's gone! The citizens of Saluda should own it!

SUMMARY

This is a rare opportunity for the citizens and friends of Saluda along with railroad history buffs everywhere to unite in saving one of its more treasured historical landmarks. The historic depot is a modern icon of Saluda's beginning and subsequent prosperity with the coming of the train bringing passengers up the Saluda Grade, the steepest mainline standard gauge grade railroad in the country. Because brave men built a railroad up a steep mountain, the small mountain village of Saluda is a thriving community with a historic downtown district with prospering shops and restaurants. The town is surrounded by mountains and deep valleys in the Green River Gorge. These natural resources have drawn outdoor adventurers to bicycle, fish, zip line, kayak and hike mountain trails. These enthusiasts eat, stay, and shop in Saluda's businesses. Every Saluda citizen, whether born here or those who got here as fast as they could, will be asked to support this project.

SAVE THE HISTORIC SALUDA TRAIN

KEY POINTS

- Many community leaders and citizens desire to secure the purchase of the train depot and make it a historical museum and visitors center.
- The Saluda Historic Depot, a non-profit organization, will take ownership of the building once funds are raised and will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the property.
- Grants and other funding resources will be identified in addition to private donor fund raising.
- During this time, planning of the museum and visitors center will begin working jointly with the Historic Saluda Committee and other organizations to design the museum and build a collection of photos and artifacts.
- A Saluda Historic Museum will give Saluda children a real-life experience of Saluda's heritage.
- A marketing and promotional team consisting of members from Saluda Historic Depot, collaborating with other Saluda organizations will design signage and develop a marketing and promotional plan to draw visitors to Saluda that will have an economic impact on the businesses in Saluda.
- The Saluda Community Land Trust will be consulted to provide information about Saluda's natural resources, ecology, and geology.
- A gift shop, admission fee, museum membership and other ideas will be determined so that a reoccurring revenue stream is established for ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and management.

MISSION

To unite the citizens and visitors of Saluda to acquire and preserve the historic Saluda train depot for future generations and to develop it into and operate it as a heritage museum and visitors center, emphasizing the railroad history and the Saluda Grade.

VISION

To create and sustain a landmark tourist destination at the historic Saluda train depot that reaches a broad audience that preserves and promotes Saluda's heritage, celebrates its culture, and showcases its natural resources.

Climb on board! To help us get on track and preserve the depot, please donate or pledge your contribution by returning the attached coupon by May 5, 2015.



All contributions are tax deductible. Pledges will be invoiced within 6 months of the pledge.

"You have to make up your mind what it's worth to the community and to you individually. You have an opportunity to participate in it you'll never regret it and as you develop it you will all be proud. I hope you all respond, readily," says Dr. George Jones, oldest living native of Saluda, Historian, and founder of the Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Society.

Donation

Pledge

Any Amount Passenger _____ \$100 Fireman _____ \$2,500 Second Conductor _____ \$1,000

Brakeman _____ \$250

Engineer _____ \$5,000

Station Manager _____ \$500
Chief Engineer _____ \$5,000+

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to the **Saluda Historic Depot**, Mail to: Saluda Historic Depot, PO Box 990, Saluda, NC 28773
All donations and pledges are tax deductible. Pledges will be invoiced within 6 months of pledge.

*I think we can! I think we can!
Help us stay on track for the future by preserving the past! Please give!*