



Concept Drawing of Collections Center by LRM Architect

BUILDING A FUTURE TO PROTECT OUR PAST

Making a case for a new
Collections Care
&
Research Center

607-746-3849
dchadelhi@gmail.com
www.dcha-ny.org
46546 State Hwy 10, Delhi, NY 13753

Historic artifacts
in DCHA's
collections are
at risk of
deteriorating
and being lost.

Who We Are



The Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) was founded in 1945 with the goal of preserving and promoting the history of Delaware County. In the early 1960s DCHA purchased a 60-acre site with the 1797 Frisbee house and barn. Since then five other historic buildings from around the county have been moved to the site. We received a permanent Charter from the Board of Regents of NYS as a non-profit Educational and Historical Association in 1967. DCHA is a 501(c)3 non-profit museum governed by a volunteer board of directors with a professional staff of four employees. Over 600 members support DCHA with their annual dues. DCHA is open to the public year round, serving thousands annually.

The Need for a Collections Care & Research Center

DCHA has been collecting historic objects since our inception in 1945. The current 1978 main building houses exhibit galleries, gift shop, archives, offices and, on the second story, collections. DCHA's collections represent a depth of material not often found in local historical agencies.

The collections storage space is well over capacity with more than 10,000 historic (3D) artifacts stored in 1,512 sq. ft. along with 1,300 boxes of archival material (papers, photos, ledgers, etc.) stored in a space that should only hold 1,000 boxes. The current storage conditions are damaging the historic artifacts, causing them to deteriorate faster than if they were stored as per the recommended museum standard. To rehouse the current collections to meet recognized museum standards we need a minimum of 4,000 sq. ft. To allow for growth over the next 50 years it is recommended that we plan for an additional 4,000 sq. ft. of space to house anticipated future donations. That is 8,000 sq. ft. total. **Each year DCHA is offered hundreds of objects for our collections. In recent years we have been forced to decline the offers of larger items because of restricted storage capacity.**

In addition, the current building was not constructed to hold the amount of weight currently housed on the second floor where the majority of our collections are stored. In 2024 we obtained a Structural Assessment and Floor Load Evaluation from a local company, Herrmann Engineering, PLLC. Their report stated that DCHA's second story does not have adequate capacity to serve as a collections storage area: "The current facility is highly over-stressed for a light-storage use. We recommend the Delaware County Historical Association review the possibility of relocating the storage to an alternative building that is capable of supporting the load."

Our Vision For a New Collections Care & Research Center

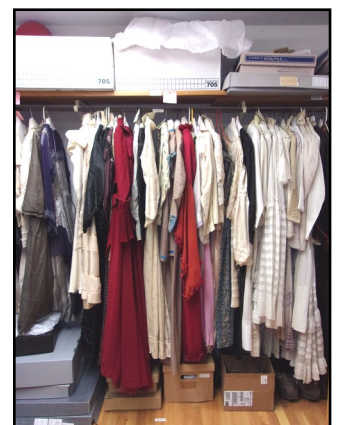
The construction of a purpose-built 8,760 sq. ft. Collections Care & Research Center will enable DCHA to continue as the main repository of our county's cultural heritage for future generations. Creation of a new space with state-of-the-art environmental control systems (HVAC) to protect our growing collections will allow us to present a wider, richer and more inclusive history and culture of Delaware County through the use of our historic objects and documents.



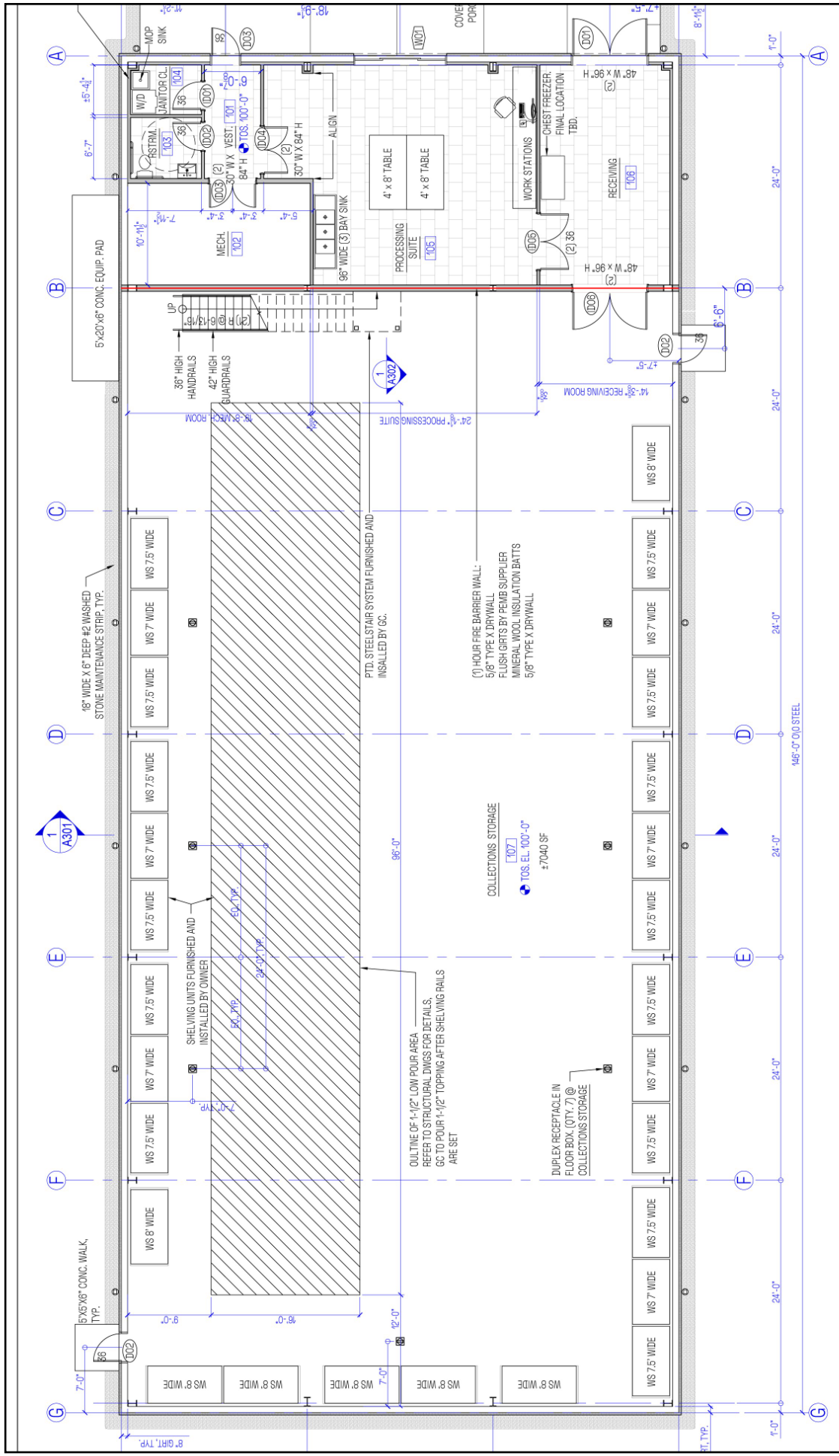
Current Framed Artwork
Collections Space
Shows frames stacked against
one another.



Proposed Framed Artwork Collections Space



Current Clothing Collections Space
Shows clothing packed too
tightly together.



Proposed Collections Care & Research Center Floor Plan

Designed by LRM Architect.

The cross hatched section indicates the location of mobile shelving that will increase the storage capacity allowing this building to receive potential incoming donations over the next 50 or more years.

The Cost

Basics

Concrete (foundation) -	\$553,901
Pre-engineered building (including structure, canopy, standing seam metal roofing and insulated metal wall panel façade) -	\$809,282
HVAC system -	\$540,132
Interior finishes (plumbing, electric, other)	\$917,037
Total -	\$2,820,352

A more detailed budget is available upon request.

Currently DCHA has \$1 million dollars designated for this essential project. (A third of the way there!) We are also applying to local foundations along with state and federal grants to help fund this project.

Ways to Help Build DCHA's Collections Care & Research Center

Matching gifts: Many employers will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Please contact your human resources office for eligibility information and to obtain a matching gift form.

Bequests: Including a bequest in your will enables you to give any amount you choose free of estate tax without restrictions.

Charitable Gift Annuities or Trusts: These can provide income for you or a family member while benefiting DCHA.

Beneficiary Designations: Naming DCHA as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy can also create income for you or your family while supporting DCHA.

Tax-exempt Status: DCHA is an accredited 501(c)3 not-for-profit. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information on this project please contact us:

607-746-3849 ~ dchadelhi@gmail.com

Or visit our website: <https://www.dcha-ny.org/buildinghistory.html>
to read project updates, become a member and donate online.



Current Collections Furniture Space
Shows objects on top of objects.



Proposed Furniture Collections Space
Allows each object its own space.