



**Romeo Historical Society**  
Romeo, Michigan 48065  
[www.romeohistoricalsoociety.org](http://www.romeohistoricalsoociety.org)

## **FOUR HERITAGE MARKERS INSTALLED IN DOWNTOWN ROMEO** **Downtown historic Romeo, Michigan**

**MAY 2010**  
**PRESS RELEASE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**  
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**The Romeo Historical Society proudly announces the addition of four heritage markers in downtown honoring Romeo's contributions to the transportation industry so important to the state of Michigan.**

As part of the Fifth Annual Romeo Victorian Festival presented by the Romeo Historical Society (RHS), four new historical markers were unveiled and presented in a dedication ceremony in Village Park, Saturday May 15th. MotorCities National Heritage Area and MDOT presented these markers to the Village of Romeo in honor of Romeo's business contribution to the carriage, auto and vehicle repair business in this area. "It is quite an honor", said Village President Paul Reiz, "We are so pleased to place these heritage markers in our village as further acknowledgement of the important history right here."

The markers are part of the statewide MotorCities Wayside Exhibit Program showcasing transportation heritage sites in Michigan. The RHS championed the effort to document and identify important information and worked with MotorCities to create the graphic markers. Funding was provided by the Society and the Romeo DDA.

The first marker is located in front of the Romeo Arts and Archives Building on 290 N. Main Street and celebrates the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop nearby. This circa 1864 building is a preserved and usable forge for metal working, complete with collections of related historic artifacts of the era. Visiting this shop is a step back in time where hand forged iron and wooden wheels drove transportation over a century ago.

The second marker is installed in Village Park and celebrates Romeo's electric street cars. As part of the Detroit Urban Railway, Romeo was connected to southern Michigan with streetcars that ran up Main Street and west on St. Clair Street. From 1899 to 1934 passengers and freight rode the rails. Romeo Historical Society offers railroad rail sections for sale as mementos of this era. The actual track rails are marked and documented.

The third marker will decorate the Village Office exterior west wall soon. This marker celebrates the Romeo carriage industry so prevalent before the automotive arrived on the scene. Our Village Offices were once a carriage shop, furniture store and more. The Historical Society has a Brabb cart, made in Romeo as part of the carriage industry.

The fourth marker is located at the corner of S. Rawles and W. Lafayette and marks the location of the Ford Foundry that stood right in downtown Romeo. Romeo's foundry made engine blocks for the Ford Model T. The Historical Society has a sample 1926 engine block at the RAAC on N. Main Street. In fact, the RHS conducts tours of these transportation heritage sites in Romeo connecting the development of our local story. RHS members would love to tell you all about it and show you the related collections.

For more information please call the Romeo Historical Society at 586-752-4111 or visit our website at [romeohistoricalsociety.org](http://romeohistoricalsociety.org).

The Annual May Romeo Victorian Festival is hosted by the Romeo Historical Society, a non-profit, 501 c3 organization dedicated to the preservation of Romeo's exceptional heritage.  
[www.romeovictorianfestival.org](http://www.romeovictorianfestival.org)

The Society is a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historical Society of Michigan and the Macomb County Historical Alliance.

The Society operates three museums in downtown Romeo, the Bancroft Stranahan House at 132 Church Street, the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Museum at 301 N. Bailey and the Romeo Arts and Archives Museum at 290 N. Main Street. Each is a unique experience showcasing Romeo history. All three locations are walking distance from historic downtown Romeo, and are open for events and by appointment.

The Romeo Arts and Archives Museum (RAAC), a former State Police Post building, also is open every Tuesday evening from 7pm - 9pm, with research archives and gift shop available. On current display is *The Secret Railroad*, an exhibit that looks into Romeo's role in the Underground Railroad during the 19th century.

The Bancroft Stranahan House at 132 Church St. a short distance away, also is open every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 9pm.

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Please contact Sue Kane, President of the Romeo Historical Society, at 586-752-4111.