



**BENNET AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**P O BOX 173**

**BENNET NEBRASKA 68317**

The Bennet area Historical Society is a 501-(c)(3) organization with 7 board members. We are four years old and we have a membership of sixty members. The nature of our business is to collect, preserve, research and interpret objects, artifacts, documents, published materials and sights relative to the heritage and cultural environment of people and events in the village of Bennet and the area surrounding the village of Bennet, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Our goal is to preserve the history of the area remembering the families that came here as pioneers. We want to house and display artifacts of the history and growth of Bennet area. We have collected many pieces of history and need a home for them. The home will be a museum and research center. The museum will have pieces of history and the research center will contain documentation and pictures of how the area developed over the years. We want to make this available to the youth for learning and adults to reminisce. We plan for this to be educational for the youth and adults. It will be a place to learn by reading and seeing history develop.

We feel the Bennet County Maintenance Shop would be an ideal building for our home. We would work to preserve its original design. The Bennet Area Historical Society wants guests to come from other areas to compare the development of our area to theirs. We want them to enjoy the artifacts, pictures and stories that created this history. Most of all we want to preserve this history so it does not get lost for the lack of a home to display them to the public, young and old alike. Many pioneer families still have generations living in the area today. These families want to share and preserve their pioneer family stories and artifacts. If we have a home for these stories and artifacts and make them available to the public, this history will never be lost.

The Bennet Area Historical Society is working toward providing the younger generation a facility to see, learn and research the history of the Bennet area and the people who developed it. These are people, many of whom are their ancestors, whose families played a big part in the changes. We want to enable

the youth with interest in the Bennet area to understand what the people, as pioneers, did to get it where it is today, feeling the importance of their families as the area developed and understanding how day to day life has changed, and knowing their families played a big part in this change. For the youth to make contact with their pioneer ancestors through research will enable them to continue on with this knowledge into the generations to come.

Our goal to establish this museum and research center will not be completed overnight but is a project that the people in the community can take part in. Members and volunteers will always have a place to help with cleaning, painting or organizing. For our special days of opening the people of the community and their guests can join us to celebrate an open house, coffee and cookie time, genealogy research day or just a leisurely stroll backwards through time. For the Village special days (Fourth of July, community garage sale days, Village 150 year birthday and etc.) this would be a great place to stop for lunch, take a tour, buy a bake sale snack, play a game or two of bingo or just sit and visit with a friend or neighbor.

As a home for our museum the County Maintenance Shop located at 300 Tyler St. in Bennet Nebraska would give us parking space, a place to locate old farm equipment, room for a veteran's memorial, and a house for our pioneer artifacts and research center. It could also be a possible location for Bennet's old train depot.

The building is one story with an entrance at ground level to make access for the elderly and handicap very easy. Organizing and project growth can be completed as time and financing allows. Campaigns can be organized as fund raisers to develop a home instead of just an idea. The Bennet Area Historical Society wants to show off the building and tell the story of its history for years to come. It will always be known as the County Maintenance Shop but will have a new purpose in life. Built in 1930 it can be registered with the National and State Historical Societies. We plan to retain its original design as built.

We hope you will consider Bennet Area Historical Society and their need for a home. Help us preserve the building, develop our project and save the area's history.