

Chicago & North Western Railway Technical Drawing Project Summary

LSRHA is currently cataloging and preserving the more than 20,000 mechanical drawings of C&NW rolling stock and equipment dating from about 1870 to 1950 that were donated to LSRHA in 2008. Included in this project are drawings of Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway and the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western Railway passenger and freight cars. These drawings vary from 4x10-inch to 4x10-foot in size and were obtained as flat sheets and rolls and are India ink drawings on starched linen, paper, and Vellum and include blueprint, Ozalid prints, and photographic reproductions. Also included are over 3,000 drawings from the Copper Range Railroad. Qualified volunteers assisted by interns provide descriptions of the drawings and a contracted, part-time Collections Data Entry Specialist catalogs each drawing in our PastPerfect archival database. The C&NW Drawing Project is funded by grants from the UP Foundation, NRHS, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, and British Petroleum Foundation. To date, more than 10,000 drawings have been cataloged. This project has been ongoing for the past nine months and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

LSRHA is requesting \$1,000 to fund the services of a local website technician to upgrade the website to list all the cataloged collection items, make these items available for searching, and to provide the means to market reproductions as part of our effort to increase public awareness of our preservation efforts. The model LSRHA will be following is that of the Norfolk & Western Historical Society website www.nwhs.org. Enabling authors, researchers, modelers, and the general public access to LSRHA collections is a prime aspect of the Mission Statement of LSRHA and the marketing of photographic and scanned reproductions of our collections is an integral part of our Strategic Business Plan.