

FOR RELEASE ON JULY 15, 2015

FROM: Rogers Historical Museum

ABOUT: *MUSEUM ACQUIRES HISTORIC BUILDING FOR EXPANSION*

WHEN: July 14, 2015

WHERE: 313 South Second, corner of Second and Cherry in the Rogers Historic District

The Rogers Historical Museum announced that it will expand into the former Rogers Morning News building located at 313 South Second Street in downtown Rogers. The Rogers City Council approved the purchase of the historic building and its designation to be as part of the Museum's expansion during their July 14th meeting. Museum staff and city officials are excited about this opportunity to secure much needed space for the Museum's growing collection and increasing programming needs all while reusing an existing and well-known historic downtown building.

The building, built in 1947, originally served as the Newt Hailey Ford Dealership. During preliminary inspection, it was discovered that the original curved glass façade that gave the building its distinctive appearance still exists under the newer stucco exterior. Restoring the building back to its original streamline, modern style will both help the Museum to stand out as a landmark and also compliment the architecture of other downtown buildings.

The expanded Rogers Historical Museum will exist as a campus and will be housed in three separate buildings. The main building and exhibit galleries will be located in the old Hailey Ford building. At 14,230 square feet, the Hailey Ford building will easily accommodate the full plans for expanded exhibits, a research library, a special use gallery, administration offices, an exhibit workshop, and storage space. The current Museum building at 322 South Second Street will be renovated and designated for classroom space. 120 or more students will be easily hosted in the education building for field trips, and the space can also be used for large group meetings. The Hawkins House and current Attic will continue to be available for tours and remain important parts of the visitor experience at the RHM. The Museum's permanent collection will find home in the former County Office building at Third and Poplar Streets. Many long time residents will remember this historic building as the Masonic Lodge and DeMolay Youth Center originally built in 1950. The 8,400 square feet of this building as a collections management facility will provide ample room for the collection to grow well into the future.

The Museum has had a capital campaign underway since 2012 to raise money for expansion. The original expansion concept called for new construction of a 27,000 square foot facility. When the old Hailey Ford building became available in 2015, however, it was recognized as an ideal solution to allow for the Museum to expand its galleries and programming as originally planned all while doing so at half the cost. The updated plans for expansion using three existing downtown buildings will provide over 29,000 square feet of space for the people of Rogers and the entire region to enjoy, learn and explore our wonderful history. The original expansion project had a price tag of \$11 million, and this updated concept will cost around \$5.5 million.

