



For immediate release

Sept. 14, 2023

Media Contact: Patrick Brower, 970-531-0632

Historic Dumont Depot coming to Moffat Road Railroad Museum in Granby

GRANBY, CO — The Moffat Road Railroad Museum is moving the historic 1902 Dumont Depot to the museum grounds in Granby next week.

The move is set to take place Sept. 19 and 20, with the depot traveling west on I-70 to Highway 9, north to Kremmling and east on Highway 40 to Granby. The move is planned to take place in two trips, with the roof coming over Sept. 19 and the building coming over Sept. 20.

The historic Dumont Depot, once renovated to its original appearance at the Granby site, will serve as a community events center, ticket office for the soon-to-arrive Family Train Ride, and a rotating exhibit space at the museum.

The custom-built train for the new Family Train Ride, is expected to arrive in Granby sometime in October.

The Dumont Depot is a 1902 train depot that served as an important stop on the Colorado and Southern Railroad, which was part of the Georgetown Loop. The train operated extensively in the second half of the 19th Century, serving the once-exuberant mining economy along Clear Creek Canyon.

But the decline of the mining industry in that region prompted less demand for the railway by the 1950s. The construction of Interstate 70 necessitated the removal of the old rails and the relocation of the depot out of the highway's right-of-way.

David Moffat, who founded the Moffat Road Railroad, which became the railroad that went over Rollins Pass and then through the Moffat Tunnel, had brief ownership of the Colorado and Southern Railroad.

The depot is typical of train depots used during the heyday of the Moffat Road Railroad, and despite being more than 100 years old, is in remarkably good condition.

The depot is being donated to the Moffat Road Railroad Museum by the owners of MAD Adventures rafting, which used the building as a storage facility for its operations near the banks of Clear Creek.

The building was the post office and depot for Mill Valley, which was the area of Lawson and Dumont. It originally sat at a location along the old train line that is where the eastbound lane of I-70 now sits at Dumont.

The building now sits at the site of MAD Adventures rafting located adjacent to I-70 at Dumont. It's been used as a storage facility for the business. The building is 46 feet long by 20 feet wide.

It's being relocated to Granby by Elite Movers and Terry's Crane Service.

"We will restore the building to its original condition and appearance and will use it as a community center and ticket office for the soon arriving Family Train Ride," said Dave Naples, Executive Director of the Moffat Road Railroad Museum. "The community center aspect of this facility is really important to both our community and as a destination attraction."

The museum in Granby has seen twice as many visitors this summer compared to last, highlighting the importance of the museum as a destination and attraction for the increasing numbers of visitors coming to Granby and Grand County.

"We expect to see even more visitors and activity in the coming years with the addition of the depot and the new family train ride, which we plan to have in operation next summer," Naples said.

The Moffat Road Railroad Museum is currently raising funds for the restoration process. To make a donation, visit <https://moffatroadrailroadmuseum.org/project/Dumont-depot/>.

The cost of the move has been supported by generous private donors and other funding from the Gates Family Foundation, the El Pomar Foundation, Union Pacific, Mountain Parks Electric, Inc., the Boettcher Foundation and the Milanovich Trust.

The Moffat Road Railroad Museum, a non-profit, celebrates and documents the accomplishments of David Moffat and the railroad he built that linked Denver with the Western Slope, first by climbing over the Continental Divide near what is now Winter Park and second by building the Moffat Tunnel railroad bore.

The rail line he built operates as the Union Pacific line that passes through Grand County today, ferrying freight and passengers between the Eastern Slope and the Western Slope of the Rockies.