



East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections

Mission, Purpose, Vision, Values, and Goals



Executive Summary

Established to protect, preserve, and provide access to the history, memory, and legacy of the East Broad Top Railroad National Historic Landmark, the East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections (The Archives) is a joint project of the EBT Foundation, Inc., and Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc.

The Archives will be known for its robust, nearly complete collections of records, documents, correspondence, reports, ledgers, maps, blueprints, photos, ephemera, and historic artifacts.

The collections represent:

- The EBT Common Carrier Railroad Era and its operational relations with other companies and organizations (1856-1956);
- The EBT Kovalchick Tourist Railroad Era and its other operational relations with other companies and organizations, under the stewardship of the Kovalchick Family (1956-2020);
- The EBT Foundation Tourist Railroad Era (2020-future);
- The FEBT Collections, which capture content from each of the above eras, are also included and considered an integral part of the entire catalog of the EBT documentation.

The Archives will not only contribute to the larger historical record of American railroad and transportation history but also to the study and understanding of the impact of transportation on industry and society, economic and labor history, genealogy, and historic and heritage preservation.

The Archives will protect, preserve, and provide appropriate access to the collections for the benefit of the EBT's operations, public knowledge, educational outreach, community engagement, research and scholarship, and public relations and marketing activities.

Access includes but is not limited to exhibiting archival records and museum collection objects onsite at Rockhill Furnace, the Robertsdale Museum operated by the FEBT, and other local, regional, and state venues. Online access includes digital collections, exhibitions, and social media, with a long-term goal to provide a searchable online collections database and linked data. Access to some materials may be restricted to abide by the intentions and requests of donors and the EBT stakeholders.