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Home Sweet Home

New KHS museum set to open in late spring

Dorothy had her ruby slippers to take her to her home sweet home.

And members of the Kent Historical Society have their ruby anniversary to take them to theirs.

This spring, 40 years after its incorporation, KHS will move into its new permanent home at 237 E. Main St., the Clapp-Woodward House.

The group, which kicked off a campaign in November to raise funds to purchase the magnificent structure, closed on the sale of the home in late December. The purchase price was \$275,000.

During the last two months, volunteers have been packing up artifacts and documents to move to the new home. In addition, estimates are being gathered for initial renovation work, including refinishing some of the hardwood floors and painting.

The home, which was built in 1883 on land deeded to Harriet Kent Clapp by her father, Zenas Kent, is one of the many Victorian houses that stand along the north side of East Main Street. The home was built for Harriet Clapp, who was Marvin Kent's sister, and Clapp's son, Charles.



The Kent Historical Society purchased the Clapp-Woodward House at 237 E. Main St. in Kent in December. The group will move to the new, permanent location in March and plans to open to the public in May.

Boasting more than 4,000 square feet and obtaining much of its original integrity, the home will allow the historical society to expand upon its mission of preservation and education.

"We began in the Depot but moved to Water Street so we could understand how to better serve our community," said Board President Sandra Halem. "In our new home, we are saving and preserving an important part of Kent's history, while ensuring our mission."

The society was formed in 1971 by a group of residents determined to save the historic Erie Depot from the wrecking ball. After a 23-year museum presence in the North Tower on the upper floor of the Depot, the board moved to the Water Street location in 2005

because the museum had outgrown its space.

In just five years, the group has doubled its membership and tripled its number of visitors and artifacts, Halem said.

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