

Wilson Heritage Museum – Past and Present, Inc

Our Mission & Vision Statement:

- To preserve and display the heritage of Wilson and the surrounding area.
To enrich people's lives by connecting them to the past.

For many years the House of Memories Museum, located in the basement of the historic Wilson Opera House, was filled with artifacts, photographs, rare memorabilia, written histories of hardships and accomplishments, and collections of all kinds. Then, on November 6, 2009, a fire destroyed several buildings along Highway 40 including the historic Opera House and museum. Relics not melted or burned were water damaged and ruined, as were the hearts of many.

Shortly thereafter, a group reorganized as *Wilson Heritage Museum – Past and Present, Inc.* Over the years, they stayed hopeful and promoted getting a new museum by setting up store front displays, holding fundraising events, decorating floats for Czech Festivals, holding meetings, and selling T-shirts and memberships.

Finally, in 2017, *Wilson Heritage Museum* was offered a contract by *Wilson Community Foundation* to occupy the former Robinson home including the Wilson World publishing equipment and printing presses in the basement in Wilson's downtown business district.

After moving display cases in and filling rooms with items collected during the nearly ten years of waiting, Wilson Heritage Museum hung up a welcome sign and opened their new door in Spring, 2018. They had successfully become a 501-c-3 not-for-profit educational museum.