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Dear Sir,

In 1869 the railroad came to Oakland, NJ, then part of Franklin Township. It arrived through the efforts of Mr. David C. Bush who was also an investor and ticket master. In 1872 he donated land to Oakland and built the railroad station. The railroad and the station he built were iconic to this community and literally fostered this town's development. It can be easily argued that there would be no Oakland today were it not for the presence of the railroad and the station. It mostly prospered for almost 90 years. Then, in about 1960, with the rail service eliminated and no funds to maintain it, it was torn down and replaced by a dreadful brick post office building which in turn was torn down in the 1980s. The property upon which the original Oakland RR station was build is vacant.

I share this with you because there is an embryonic movement here in Oakland to rebuild our old Oakland railroad station and reclaim our lost treasure. And I am also aware through your web site of the spectacular job that you and a concerned citizenry have accomplished in saving the old railroad station in Maywood. It's incredible and it's inspiring. To that end, I firmly believe that we in Oakland can learn much from you with regard to how you did it and the resources you developed and employed.

Of equal importance is the fact that the size and design of the RR station in Maywood is virtually identical to the original station here in Oakland. While we have pictures of our station to view, we, more importantly, have your station to see, to emulate and possibly duplicate from a living model.

To this end, I would be very appreciative if you would agree to meet and discuss your amazing accomplishment. As I am retired, I have virtually complete flexibility with regard to time, date and locale.

Thank you very much. Enclosed are a few pics of the old Oakland railroad station. It's certain that you will immediately recognize it as a virtual duplicate of the miracle in Maywood that you created. May I hear from you very soon as I am anxious to begin my understanding of your miracle and apply that learning to the task before us here in Oakland?

Cordially,

Kevin Heffernan