

Historical Marker - L1146C - Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad / Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad (Marker ID#:L1146C)



Front - Title/Description

Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad

The first railway in the Northwest Territory, the Erie and Kalamazoo Rail Road linked the east coast with the Michigan Territory and points westward. The E&K was chartered on April 22, 1833, to connect present-day Toledo, Ohio, with the Kalamazoo River; however, the track never reached beyond Adrian. The first train arrived in Adrian on October 1, 1836. In 1837 the E&K contracted for the transport of "the Great Western Mail." From 1852 to 1857 the line, then part of the Michigan Southern Railroad, was a link in an early rail route from the east coast to Chicago. As part of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the New York Central, the Penn Central, and the Conrail systems, the E&K carried passengers until November 1956.

Back - Title/Description

Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad

Blissfield was once a stop on the Erie and Kalamazoo Rail Road, the first passenger railway in the Northwest Territory. On October 1, 1836, the first train, a horse-drawn wooden car running on iron strips spiked to oak rails, left Toledo and traveled the thirty-three miles to Adrian. Advertisements in the Toledo Blade boasted that the train saved travelers two days in their trip to Adrian, where they connected with coaches bound for Michigan City, Chicago, and the Wisconsin Territory. Passengers paid \$2.25 for a full ticket in the "pleasure car." In June 1837 the E&K replaced horsepower with a locomotive. The E&K existed as a leased railroad and paid dividends to investors for more than 125 years.

Significant Date:

Statehood Era (1815-1860)

Registry Year: 1984 **Erected Date:** 2001

Marker Location

Address: Beagle Road and Main Street

City: Blissfield

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Lenawee

Township:

Lat: 41.83679000 / **Long:** -83.87190200

Web URL: