

Cincinnati Northern Model RR Club
Modeling the prototype CNRR from Franklin to Van Wert, Ohio in 1950

Description of New Layout of CNRR Model Railroad

The Cincinnati Northern Model RR Club has been constructing for several years a two-level layout in a 25' x 27' room that represents a portion of the Cincinnati Northern in the early 1950's, as though it had remained independent from the New York Central Railroad. They are showing what it might have been like if the CNRR had gone on to become a major regional railroad by expanding into the eastern Kentucky coalfields and building a line to Toledo to reach the Lake Erie coal docks. Not surprisingly, coal would account for much of the CNRR traffic.

Franklin, Germantown, Lewisburg, and Greenville are modeled on the lower level, and the upper level includes Coldwater, Celina, and Van Wert. The latter features a large freight yard and engine servicing facilities. There are interchanges with the PRR at Van Wert, with the B&O at Carlisle, and with the Nickel Plate at Coldwater and Celina. One helix connects the lower (Blue Ash) staging with the upper (Jackson) staging, and another helix takes trains between Greenville, on the lower level, and Coldwater, on the upper level. There are staging yards on both levels, representing Blue Ash and Jackson, respectively.

Both levels of this layout are operational, and trains are running between Franklin and Van Wert. Work on sidings, structures, and scenery is moving ahead. They will allow visitors to enjoy operating trains, following a timetable and train orders.



Figure 1. Model of a Train crossing Great Miami River in Franklin OH

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Figure 2. Model of the Train Depot in Carlisle OH



Figure 3. The Old Ross High School building on SR-128 south of Hamilton OH.

The Cincinnati Northern Model RR Club is located in the old Ross High School building at **3371 Hamilton-Cleves Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013**. They currently occupy two classrooms on the third floor of the old Ross High School. (The CNRR clubroom in the upper left corner.) Follow SR 128 south from Hamilton is **before** the new Ross HS and the Ross Middle School. The 3-story old high school building will be on your right.

**Directions Options (Starting from FAHS Harding Museum,
which is located at 302 Park Avenue Franklin, OH 45005)**

Route-1 (via I-75/SR-129/SR-128) circa 32 Miles/Estimated driving time 40 minutes

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- Go east on Park Ave. across Lions Bridge onto W 2nd St/OH-123. Continue to follow W 2nd St.
- Turn right onto N Riley Blvd.
- Turn left onto E 6th St/OH-123. Continue to follow OH-123.
- Merge onto I-75 S toward Cincinnati.
- Merge onto OH-129 W via EXIT 24 toward Hamilton.
- Turn left onto S 3rd St. (S 3rd St is just past Veterans St)
- Turn right onto OH-128/Pershing Ave. Continue to follow OH-128.
- Immediately after crossing the bridge over Great Miami River, turn left onto Pyramid Hill Blvd/OH-128. Continue to follow OH-128.
- 3371 Hamilton Cleves Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013-9535. Old Ross High School is on the right.
- Turn into drive and go to back parking lot. Building Entrance is Door #3.

Route-2 (via SR-73/SR-4/SR-128) circa 27 Miles/Estimated driving time 45 minutes

- Go east on Park Ave. across Lions Bridge onto W 2nd St/OH-123. Continue to follow W 2nd St. Turn right onto N Riley Blvd.
- N Riley Blvd becomes OH-73.
- OH-73 becomes OH-4 (in Middletown)
- Turn right onto High St/OH-129 (In Hamilton)
- Turn left onto S 3rd St.
- S 3rd St is just past Veterans St
- Turn right onto OH-128/Pershing Ave. Continue to follow OH-128.
- Immediately after crossing the bridge over Great Miami River, turn left onto Pyramid Hill Blvd/OH-128. Continue to follow OH-128.
- 3371 Hamilton Cleves Rd, Hamilton, OH 45013-9535, Old Ross High School is on the right.
- Turn into drive and go to back parking lot. Building Entrance is Door #3.