

Retail center to honor steel history

TOM BRECKENRIDGE
Plain Dealer Reporter

The history of steel will join the mix of retail at Steelyard Commons, the big-box shopping center being built in the Cuyahoga River's industrial valley.

Mittal Steel and the Ohio & Erie Canal Association announced Monday that they will pump \$45,000 each into a proposed steel-heritage exhibit at the shopping center, scheduled to open in a year.

Plans call for a \$215,000 exhibit featuring a small, red-brick "clock" house, where steelworkers started their shifts; a "bottle car," a rail car that moved molten steel; and other artifacts from steel making on the site.

The mills were razed to make way for Steelyard Commons, which will feature a Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Best Buy and other national retailers and restaurants.

The steel-heritage exhibit will sit on the site's northeastern end, near a

proposed extension of the Towpath Trail.

First Interstate Development Co., the developer, has moved the clock house near its new home and is repairing it.

The building, the size of a three-car garage, could feature videos, story boards and other displays on the century-old history of steel making in the valley.

Mittal Steel, which bought the steel-making operations of International Steel Group in the industrial

valley in 2005, is eager to celebrate an industry and workers that established Cleveland as an industrial giant, said Terry Fedor, general manager of the Mittal plant.

The Cleveland Landmarks Commission is working with the Towpath Trail Partnership Committee to develop the exhibit. They hope to raise more money from local foundations and businesses.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:
tbreckenridge@plaind.com, 216-999-4695