

WINDSOR LOCKS PRESERVATION NEWS

A publication of the Windsor Locks Preservation Association, Inc.

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www.wlocksct.com/railroad

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few years ago, I visited my hometown in Louisiana. One of the places I made a point of revisiting was the old Train Station. When I was young, I spent many weekends there, watching the trains arrive and depart. While attending college, I made numerous trips back, to that same station, to photograph various portions of the building, which by that time, had closed. I have so many fond memories that will forever be attached to that place.

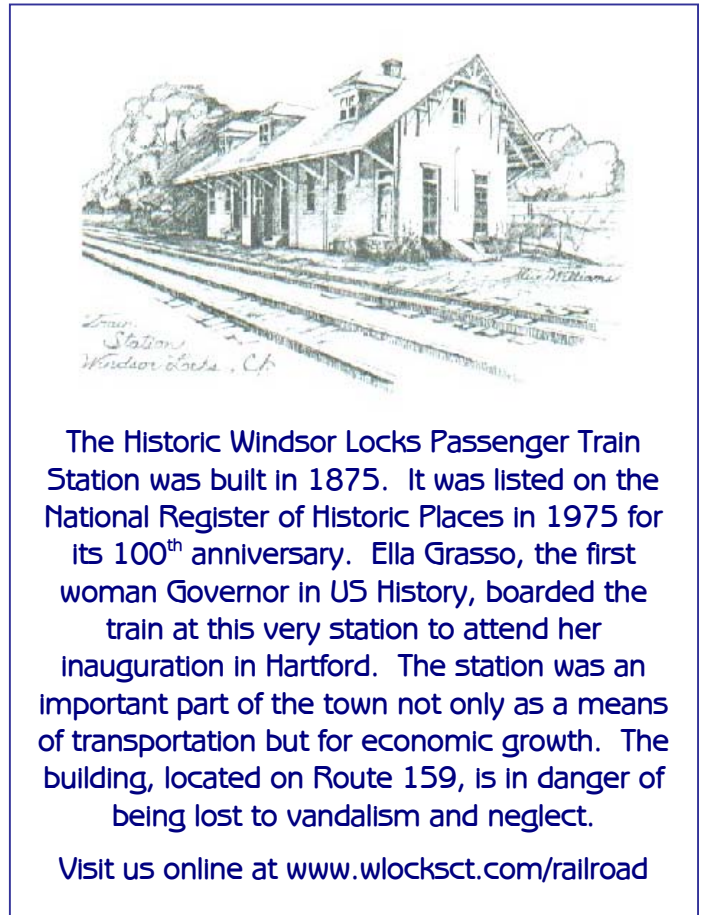
And now there is a “new” place.

On October 5, 2004 I was allowed to view the interior of the old Windsor Locks Train Station. I was elated to discover that much of the original structure has remained intact. As I walked through the now deserted building, it became clear to me that I was drawn to this old structure for all the right reasons. Because this old “beauty” deserves another chance to live.

During the past few weeks, I’ve had the great

Let’s Save the Windsor Locks Train Station!

The Windsor Locks Preservation Association was formed on October 25, 2004. We received non-profit status in December 2004. Our goals are to encourage and educate the public and town government on the importance of preservation. Our main focus is to obtain and preserve the Historic Windsor Locks Passenger Train Station. Additionally, we are introducing an educational program into the school system and have encouraged students to become involved in our efforts.



The Historic Windsor Locks Passenger Train Station was built in 1875. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 for its 100th anniversary. Ella Grasso, the first woman Governor in US History, boarded the train at this very station to attend her inauguration in Hartford. The station was an important part of the town not only as a means of transportation but for economic growth. The building, located on Route 159, is in danger of being lost to vandalism and neglect.

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opportunity to speak with so many people in the area. People from many different “walks of life”. And what has struck me most in each and every conversation is the importance this small piece of Windsor Locks history holds. The station was a large part of the “pulse” of the town. This station has touched each and every person in it’s own special way. Everyone has a story to tell or a fond memory, much as my own, to share.

In almost every conversation I’ve had, the same comments arose over and over again. “I’ve always wondered why nothing has ever been done about the station” or “Why hasn’t someone done something about that building”. It’s during those many

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conversations that I realized, I could no longer ask those same things. I had to do something or at the very least, try.

There is a long road ahead, a path that must be closely followed, of the station is to "breathe" again. I dream of the future. A future when the old Main Street of our small town once again shines for all to see. Our history is something we all should share and something that should be passed on for the next generations to share, remember and cherish. It is through our hearts that the history and memory of the station currently live. So, let's pass it on! Join with me and Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station!

I have a vision of this important piece of our past becoming an equally important piece of the future of Windsor Locks. For all of the historically important buildings of our past that have been lost, I hope you will all join me in making this vision happen. Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station!

The spirit of the Station is alive and well! So please, join with us and "Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station!"

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Windsor Locks Preservation Association, Inc.
"We're on the Right Track!"



Windsor Locks Train Station circa 1920

PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

We began publishing the newsletter in October 2004 to let everyone know about what was happening with respect to Saving The Train Station. Effective June 1, 2005 the Preservation Association's newsletter is available quarterly. The newsletter, as with everything, had grown and due to the expense of producing and mailing it, we felt that for now, the quarterly letter should be sufficient to keep all informed. For those with email, your email updates are still sent as news and updates are available. ❖



Windsor Locks Train Station Magnets are now available!

YOU CAN HELP! Attend our public meetings, join our membership and attend fund raising events! Membership is only \$10.00 yearly. We have many items available for your generous donation! Notecards \$5.00, Cookbooks \$10.00, Magnets \$1.50, Prints \$20.00 (unmatted) and Prints \$25.00 (matted).

