



CITY OF PEEKSKILL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



John G. Testa
Mayor

Lincoln Depot Museum Project Moving Forward Rapidly.

City's Revitalization Plan Turns Dreams Into Bricks, Paint and Stunning Steel Roof.

Building Is on Track to Become One of Westchester's Newest and Most Fascinating Museums.

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PEEKSKILL, NY— Decades of dreams are coming to fruition, with the reconstruction of the Lincoln Train Station building in Peekskill, NY going into high gear.

Skillfully crafted grant applications by city staffers and the resolution of a complex and challenging financial and bidding process have jumpstarted a project that's been a dream for decades. A near derelict and neglected building has a new, historically appropriate metal roof, repaired brickwork and restored windows, among many other things.

Abraham Lincoln made only one stop in Westchester County on his way to assume the presidency in 1861—at the site of the present Lincoln Depot. Archeologists have said that the current structure on the site was probably built in the late 1860s, but the location itself is exactly where Lincoln stepped off his train onto a hand car and spoke.

Estimates are that close to half of Peekskill's residents turned out to see Lincoln, although a far smaller share of people voted for him. Later, in 1865, the Lincoln Depot

was the only spot where the train carrying Lincoln's remains stopped in Westchester County.

During the Civil War Peekskill was a key industrial and recruiting center. Residents such as William Nelson also played an important role in organizing and energizing the young Republican Party, which is one reason Lincoln stopped in Peekskill.

"We are rebuilding the Lincoln Depot so we can create a facility that will pay homage to our ancestors and their sacrifices, and help show the world the role one small community played in the Civil War," says Mayor John Testa. "This once neglected building will soon be a beautifully restored tourism and educational site," he says.

Rebuilding Lincoln Train Station is an important element of Peekskill's Revitalization Plan, which seeks to galvanize the town through the construction of carefully designed developments and fascinating attractions such as the Train Station itself.

Although the Lincoln Train Station Museum had been on the drawing board for many years, it didn't really start moving forward at a rapid pace until Mayor Testa took office. Deeply interested and involved in history, Testa has donned a Revolutionary War uniform and served as a reenactor on many occasions.

"We live in a very historic place," Testa says, "And that history is one of our most important assets. Our goal is to turn Peekskill's past into a way to create a new path to the future, one where our city is among the region's leading educational and tourism centers," he says.

That attractiveness is apparent in the newly restored Lincoln Depot. Its silvery roof gleams in the sun, red bricks sit solidly now in fresh mortar, and the site itself has been cleaned up and refurbished.

"Talk about plans won't give Peekskill the momentum it needs," Testa says. "Action is what's essential. And that's what we've taken with the Lincoln Train Station."

For more information, call Mayor John Testa at 914-734-4105.

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