



CITY OF PEEKSKILL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John G. Testa  
Mayor

## **Work To Begin On Lincoln Train Station Museum With Dramatic Demolition.**

*First Step In Construction Process Will Be Removal Of Unsightly  
Structures.*

Bulldozers Will Roll At 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9 In Culmination of Years  
of Effort.

### ***For Immediate Release***

**Friday, August 13, 2004**

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PEEKSKILL, NY—Years of planning and anticipation will come to a dramatic  
conclusion on Thursday, Sept. 9 at 8:00 a.m., when demolition begins at the site of the  
future Lincoln Train Station Museum.

Decades of proposals, planning and dreams will come to an end this week as  
construction begins on this City's Lincoln Train Station museum. The first step in the  
building process will be the removal of some structures on the site. This will occur on the  
morning of Thursday, Sept. 9.

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After that, work will begin on renovating the Lincoln Train Station itself. The train station got its name because it is the site of where President Abraham Lincoln made a “whistle stop” on the way to assuming the presidency on February 19, 1861. In 1865, the train carrying his body also made a stop at the same site.

Peekskill has a long history of honoring and supporting Abraham Lincoln. Residents of the community were among Candidate Lincoln’s most ardent supporters, which is why Lincoln made his stop in the first place. After Lincoln’s death, Peekskill became the first community to establish a Lincoln Society. The organization celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. The Peekskill Lincoln Society is currently in its 101<sup>st</sup> year. Peekskill Mayor John Testa is its president.

Abandoned by the railroads many decades ago, the Lincoln Train Station building was used as a warehouse and for numerous other purposes. It gradually fell into a state of disrepair. The City purchased the building from its latest owner, Coleman Distributing, earlier this year. It also hired leading historic architects Jan Hird Pokorny Associates of Manhattan to create a plan for the structure’s restoration.

“The Lincoln Train Station is a crucial part of Peekskill’s overall revitalization program,” says Mayor John Testa. “It will help bring new energy and appeal to our waterfront as well as educating our citizens about the impact of the Civil War on our community,” he says.

Once the land is cleared, work on the Lincoln Train Station museum will proceed in phases. In the first phase, New York state grants totaling \$750,000 will be used to complete the restoration of the Lincoln Train Stations’ exterior and interior.

The next phase will focus on completing interior renovations and preparing the facility for exhibits. Further phases will include creating exhibits, landscaping, and the possible construction of a visitor's center.

"The Lincoln Train Station Museum will pay tribute to a man, an era and the people and vision of the United States," says Mayor Testa. "Many individuals have put years of effort into making this project happen. It is a tribute to them and to our city that it is now moving forward."

As part of an agreement with the city, Coleman has relocated to new facilities at 1000 South Street. "Peekskill is a city that respects and supports its businesses. We appreciate the way Coleman worked with us, and we're glad we came up with a solution that keeps an important company going at the same time it allows us to celebrate our history," Testa says.

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