



Windsor Locks Preservation Association, Inc.

We're on the Right Track!

Do you want to save and revitalize the train station? Do you want to learn more about the historic people and places in town? Do you want to do something about making your historic town a better place to live? You are not alone! The Windsor Locks Preservation Association stands with you. And the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and many other organizations across the country stand with us during Historic Preservation Month.

Since the National Trust created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts in America, it has grown into an annual celebration observed by small towns and big cities with events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fundraising events, educational programs and heritage travel opportunities. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the National Trust has extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Preservation Month to provide an even longer opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states and enable more Americans to become involved in the growing preservation movement.

Once again, Governor M. Jodi Rell, by official Proclamation, is declaring Preservation month in Windsor Locks. The WLPA will be celebrating Preservation Month throughout the month of May with the following events. The public is invited to attend all of them.

On May 13, 2007, on Mother's Day at 12 noon at St. Mary Cemetery on Spring St., there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of the former Gov. Ella T. Grasso.

On Sat., May 19, 2007, the 3rd Annual Preservation Flea Market will be held at the Windsor Locks Town Hall parking lot from 8:00AM - 2:00PM. Space rentals are \$15.00 each. For more info, call Martha at 860-623-4234.

Join the WLPA as we march in the Memorial Day parade. Assembly for the parade will be at 10 a.m. along West Street at the intersection of Spring Street. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. and proceed down West Street to Spring Street, east to Main Street and south to Memorial Hall for a program.

WLPA Education Programs: All the programs take place at 7:00 PM and are free of charge. May 15th, "History, What it is and What it is Not" by Mickey Danyluk, June 13th, "The Mark Twain House," by Wayne Gannaway and July 18th, "Behold, There Came Three Wise Women" by Mickey Danyluk.

TRAIN STATION UPDATES

Amtrak is negotiating exclusively with the WLPA. Thanks to the help of Senator Dodd's office, Amtrak is now reviewing our proposal to purchase the train station. Happily, Amtrak has been responsive of late and we expect to hear a decision from them sooner rather than later.

We expect a decision in June on our grant application to the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for funding to acquire the train station. Our grant proposal is scheduled to be reviewed in June

by the Commission's Historic Preservation and Museum Division. If successful, the grant will give us half of the funding for the acquisition costs--the WLPAs, through our fundraising efforts, will match the grant to pay the balance of the total acquisition cost of \$48,000.00. The Historic Preservation and Museum Division functions under state and federal law as Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office.

The state continues to work on the language for the STEAP agreement. Recall that the Town of Windsor Locks, through the WLPAs, was awarded a grant for the preservation of the train station. Although the Town of Windsor Locks and the WLPAs have both given the approval to receive and spend the funds, the state has not finalized the agreement language. So, we continue to wait.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The WLPAs are more than just the train station. But what will we focus on in the future? What are our goals? How do we want to help shape the Windsor Locks of tomorrow? The strategic planning committee has been meeting since February to come up with some answers. We are still working on the plan and we will be getting more input from others, but below are some indications of where we are heading:

Draft Vision Statement: The WLPAs are preservation advocates and ambassadors for Windsor Locks who want to educate our stakeholders about our history and architectural heritage and ensure the vitality of our community through planning rather than chance.

Here are the top five draft goals. These activities represent what we would focus on for the next two years:

Main Goal: Save the train station!

Goal #1: Spread the message about historic preservation by producing a WLPAs brochure.

Goal #2: Conduct an Historic Resource Inventory. The State Historic Resource Inventory identifies and evaluates historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural and industrial resources. The surveys serve as the basis for designations and are also useful for municipal officials, local planners, preservationists, property owners and researchers in helping them make sound preservation and development decisions. There are no restrictions associated with the Historic Resources Inventory.

Goal #3: Write about our local history and have them published locally.

Goal #4: Stay informed and attend all public meetings and inform our members about issues that are important to them.

Goal #5: Walking tours!

Tell me what you think about these goals! Email me your thoughts at wayne_gannaway@hotmail.com. Have a great Preservation Month!