



LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing \$75,000 Grant Award for Restoration, Adaptive Reuse of
Original Station Built to Serve a 19th Century Pennsylvania Railroad

The first five phases of the Save Our Station – Mertztown Train Station Project are funded at 81%.

12/18/2021 / MERTZTOWN, PA

Longswamp Township Historical Society has been awarded with a \$75,000 grant from the Berks County Commissioners through the Berks County Redevelopment Authority. Funds received will be used to help offset costs associated with the Save Our Station – Mertztown Train Station Restoration Project, which is currently estimated at \$310,000. Once the project is complete, the station will become a museum that houses objects relevant to the Longswamp area and a historical library. The structure, which will be relocated to the Longswamp Township Park in Mertztown and restored, will also serve as a safe gathering place for the community and headquarters for Longswamp Township Historical Society.

The sum raised to date (\$195,186), a sum that includes the recent grant award, represents 81 percent of the estimated construction funds needed (\$242,233) to begin the first five phases of the Project, which include disassembly; inspection, diagnosis/repair/replace; relocation; reassembly; site prep; concrete work; restoration.

“The influence of the East Pennsylvania Railroad Company is still with us, though many don’t realize it,” said Marie Maly, President, Longswamp Township Historical Society. “The name “East Penn,” as the railroad was informally known, was adopted for use by multiple businesses, a school district, and Northeast Berks County. The Mertztown train station is one of only two of the original 13 stations built to serve the East Pennsylvania that remain standing, making it a worthy candidate for preservation.” Longswamp Township Historical Society acquired the station (ca. 1875) from Atlas Minerals & Chemicals, Inc. in May, 2019.

The East Pennsylvania Railroad, built to connect Reading and Allentown, cut a swath through Longswamp Township (which, at the time, included today’s Borough of Topton) and its neighboring communities in Berks County (Bowers, Lyons, Fleetwood, Blandon, and Temple) and Lehigh County (Alburtis, Macungie, and Emmaus). The last rail was laid to complete the single-track railroad on April 20, 1859.

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About Longswamp Township Historical Society

[Longswamp Township Historical Society](#) was formed as a township committee in October, 2009, by the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors with a purpose to discover, preserve and share the historic and cultural heritage of the Longswamp area and a mission to own and operate a museum and historical library. Its first public event was held May, 2011. Since June, 2014, Longswamp Township Historical Society has operated as a not-for-profit organization under IRS Code 501(c)(3) and a Public Charity under Code 509(a)(2). Celebrating its 10th year of operation, it continues to operate as a self-funded committee of the township that proudly serves the Longswamp area. For more information, visit longswamhistory.org, or follow us on [Facebook](#). Complimentary photos are available at www.longswamhistory.org/press-kit-photos.