

## **Another Idea for the Jenkintown-Wyncote Station**

While walking in the North parking lot of the J-W station parking lot toward the station building, I was struck with a thought that has not been discussed. The Horace Trumbauer station building has been added to, to accommodate the extra seating, bar and entrance for the restaurant. The restaurant is closed..."until further notice"... I don't know what that means. However, if all of the added construction, that is not original to the historic building, is removed and the building put back to its original state, there would be more room to accommodate the high level platform with breaks in it for steps (see photos below.) The high level platform could be run right in front of the entrance to the station with a break for steps opposite the door to the station building. Of course ramps at the ends and in the middle somewhere would be added to meet ADA compliance.

Maybe we missed something in all of our discussions of alternatives to gain some added parking? Restaurants keep going out of business. I think the station should be brought back to what it was: a station with a coffee shop inside, news stand and the grand waiting room. The waiting room should be made into the grand waiting room it was originally – a destination. Make it a place to meet for coffee or tea and a snack. Additionally, it could become a place to hang out – to meet a friend. If the current ticket office, also added onto the original building, is removed this would create additional space outside for bistro tables. These commercial areas could be leased out providing for revenue for Jenkintown and SEPTA in place of the lost revenue from a restaurant.

If the station building is put back to its original purpose, there would be no need to reserve parking for a restaurant. This would allow for an extra 65 parking spaces without expanding the surface for parking. And, parking spots would be gained by not needing the space for the restaurant dumpsters.

Also, maybe SEPTA could do what the Swiss do...have an apartment on the upper floor of the station building (there is an upper floor in our station building.) This would provide additional income, security and also the option to include an agreement in the lease for the renter to be responsible for some of the maintenance – like cleanliness of the station waiting room, bathrooms and general policing of the platforms for trash and debris.

This is just one more alternative to think about. I would love to see the Horace Trumbauer station building restored to its original state and purpose.

Olga McHugh

See photos below, taken in Switzerland on April 27, 2009.





