



## Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



### Railroad Station, East Hampton, L.I.

With the imminent approach of summer here on the East End, many of us are already weighing our transportation options. Whether you're a commuter, day-tripper, or homeowner, deciding on the where, when, and how of your travel plans can seem like a calculated chess game. With the recent implementation of the South Fork Commuter Connection between Speonk and Montauk, you may have considered using the train as opposed to driving. One of the stops along this route is the East Hampton Station on Railroad Avenue between Newtown and Race Lanes, which is seen in the postcard image above.

The station was built in 1895 on a lot belonging to David J. Gardiner, which he sold for \$1,400. It was chosen over another proposed location, which was a lot belonging to Charles R. Dayton along Rt. 114. According to the June 21, 1895 edition of *The East Hampton Star*, the depot building was to be made of brick and slate and the station proper was to be "...forty feet long, with extension roofs forty feet long on either side." There were also plans for "ornamental elevations and trimmings" which can be seen with the planting of flowers in the foreground. Across the street, buildings belonging to the East Hampton Lumber & Coal

Company can be seen, where coal was once brought into the yard by railroad cars on its own track. Riverhead Building Supply now occupies this space. A horse and carriage can also be seen standing in front of the station building, waiting to take passengers to their intended destination.

By the 1940s, it appears the station's red brick was painted white and its wooden platform replaced with a concrete one. In 2000, the station was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and was restored to its original red and green color in 2017 as part of a \$120 million state reconstruction project. While the railroad once contributed to bringing a large influx of visitors to East Hampton in the early 20th century (creating a rooming shortage), it has now become an option for easing road traffic and congestion.

## EXPLORE MORE

**The Digital Long Island Collection** is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

**The East Hampton Star Archive** is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

**The Karl Grossman Research Archive** is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

**The Local Artist Research Archive** is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



### **Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."**

We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to [Digital Long Island](#) on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

***Researched and written by Gina Piastuck, Department Head, Long Island Collection.***

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*Palmer School of Library and Information Science and holds both an M.L.I.S. degree and a Certificate in Archives and Records Management. Her responsibilities managing the Long Island Collection include providing reference and research assistance to patrons on and off site, as well as the acquisition, arrangement, description and conservation of rare and new materials pertaining to the history and people of Long Island.*

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