



1896 P. R. R. Depot 1976
Mount Joy, PA

Prepared by Mount Joy Stamp Club

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RAILROAD IN MOUNT JOY

Just three years after the first trial run of a steam locomotive in America, which was held in Honesdale, PA, a charter was signed in Mount Joy for the erection of a line. Construction on the local line began in 1834, and the first passenger coach drawn by an engine passed through Mount Joy December 14, 1836. The line was known as the Harrisburg, Portsmouth, Mount Joy and Lancaster Railroad. The Exchange Hotel, located on the northwest corner of North Barbara and East Main Streets served as the railroad station until 1876, when it was moved to a station opposite the flour mill, known as Brandt and Stehman's Mill, now Spangler's.

The first line crossed West Main Street and traveled down through the borough on the north side of town until it hit North Barbara Street. Here it traveled across a lot now occupied by the Union National Bank, across East Main, through some lots to its present route east of the borough.

In 1852, the line was leased to the P.R.R. and the "big ditch" was cut through the town and double tracks were laid. Many buildings had to be moved and put on new foundations. A new station was built, as shown on the envelope, and the first train used the cut and the station in 1896. The station was used for many years, and many trains stopped at Mount Joy. Time has a way of changing things. Less trains stopped, and eventually the station was closed. Vandals began to take over and eventually a church purchased the property. Many in Mount Joy wanted to have it restored, but in January 1976 it was demolished and is now a parking lot.