

7. Todd Hermann's Station & Loading Dock



One of the key structures on the "west side" of my HO scale Catasauqua Branch layout is the Reading Company's station and loading dock. In my mid-1950s timeframe passenger service was long gone on this part of the Reading, but the station still hosted a freight agent and a yardmaster who kept the traffic moving through the busy interchanges here with the Lehigh & New England, Lehigh Valley, and Ironton railroads. The station also served local consignees via its siding and a long wooden loading dock. When the Reading abandoned the lower part of its yard at West Catasauqua in 1962-63, the station was shuttered as well. Fortunately, local railfans had the building moved by road to Kempton, Pennsylvania where it still stands today as the gift shop for the Wanamaker, Kempton & Southern tourist line.



This scene sat as a mock-up on my layout for years, but I finally got around to building it in 2022. I used measurements of the actual structure at Kempton and period photos to scratch build my slightly compressed version of the station and the loading dock using strip wood and scribed basswood siding from Mount Albert Scale Lumber. The doors and windows on the building are

modified Tichy Train Group parts. The shingles are from LaserArt. Other details are from Crow River Products (oil tank and stacks), Rix Products (poles) and Sylvan Scale

Models (Studebaker). I stained the loading dock with Minwax “Early American” and aged it with washes of gray and white acrylic craft paint. The station itself is painted in the Reading’s classic two-tone scheme using the last of my Floquil Antique White and Roof Brown. The whole assemblage still needs another pass of weathering, but I’ve been pleased with how it’s turned out so far. ***Todd Hermann***