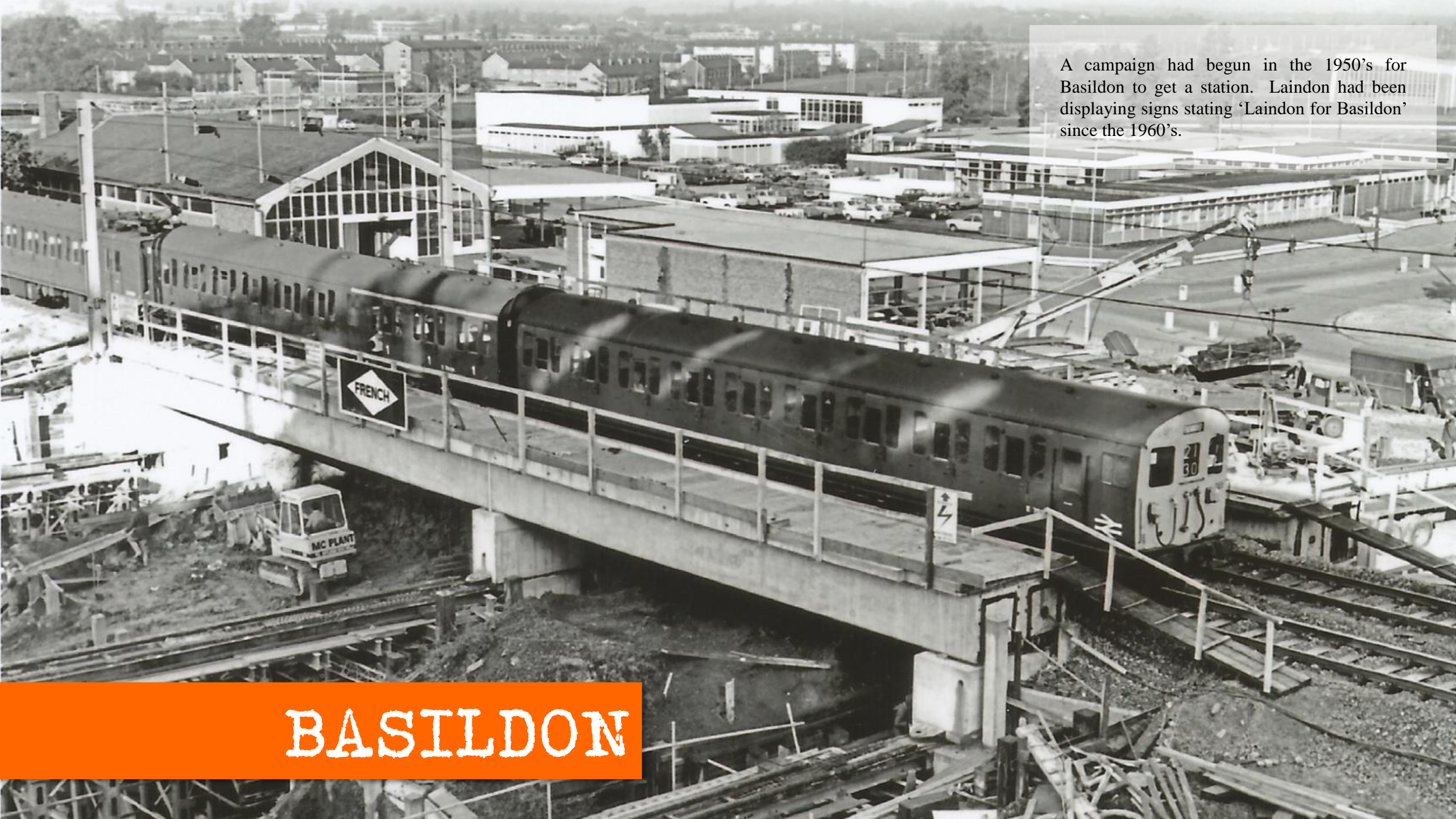


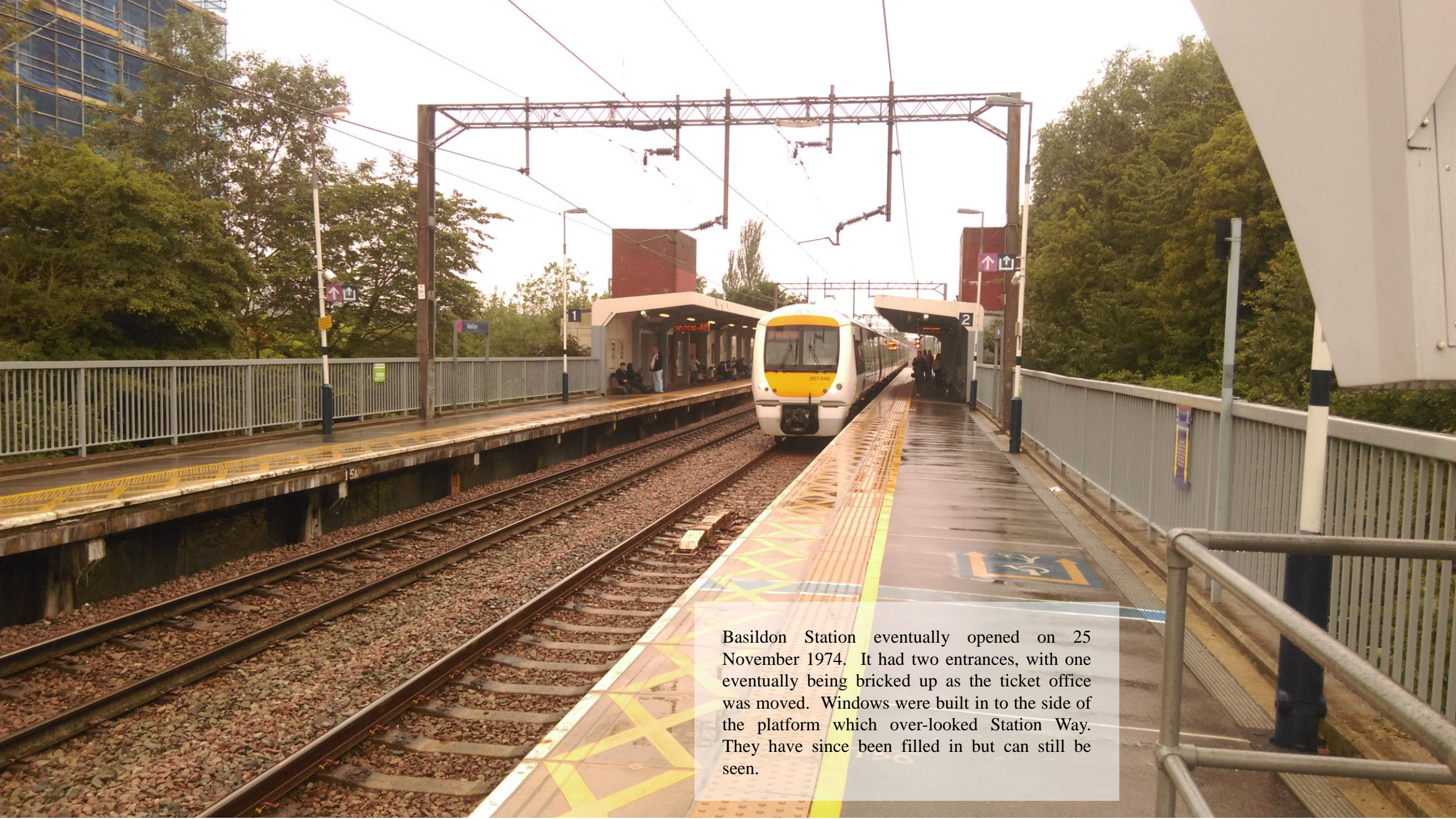
BASILDON BOROUGH'S
TRAIN STATIONS





A campaign had begun in the 1950's for Basildon to get a station. Laindon had been displaying signs stating 'Laindon for Basildon' since the 1960's.

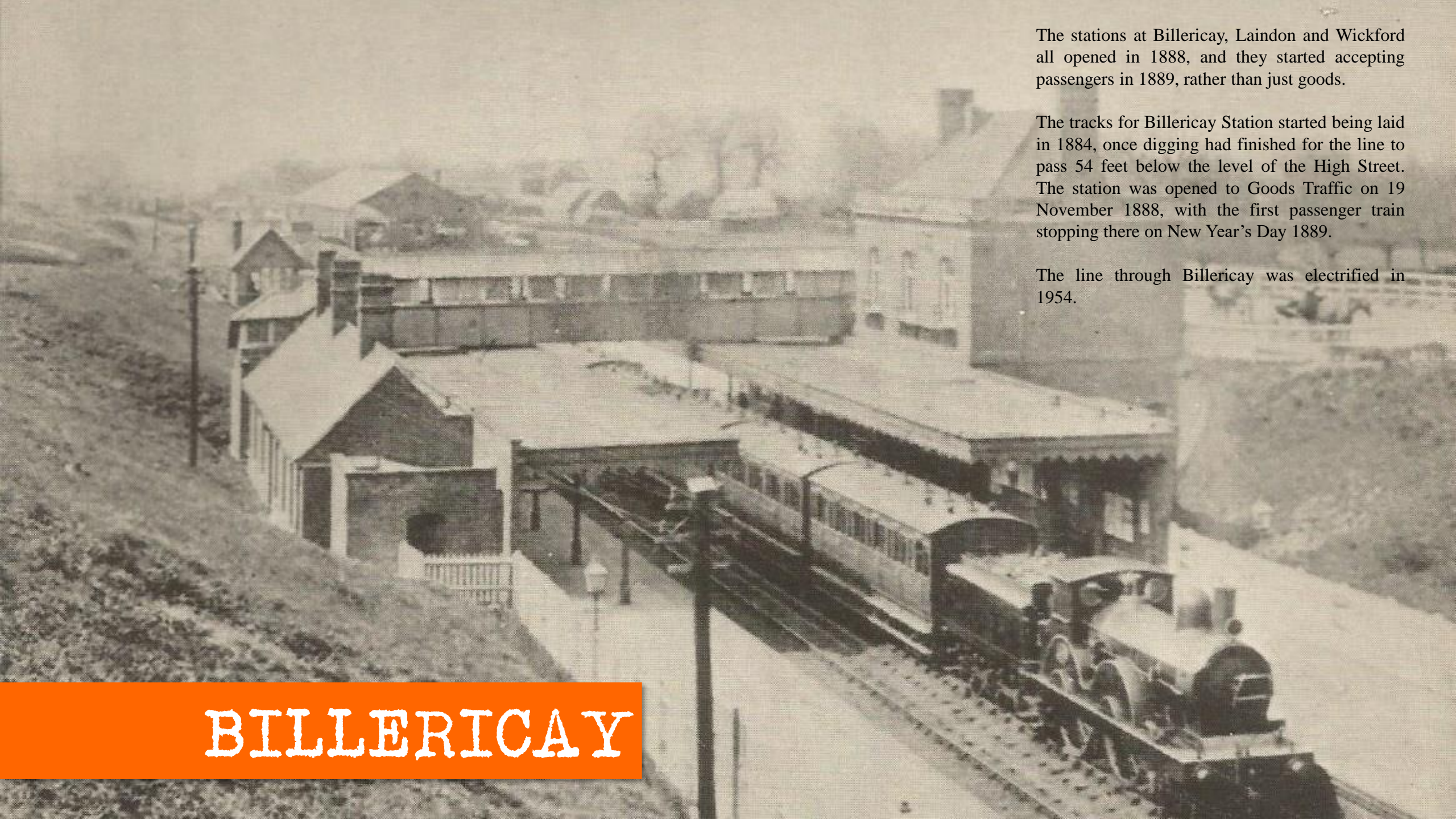
BASILDON



Basildon Station eventually opened on 25 November 1974. It had two entrances, with one eventually being bricked up as the ticket office was moved. Windows were built in to the side of the platform which over-looked Station Way. They have since been filled in but can still be seen.

The road widening on Honeypot Lane,
which now leads to Cherrydown.





The stations at Billericay, Laindon and Wickford all opened in 1888, and they started accepting passengers in 1889, rather than just goods.

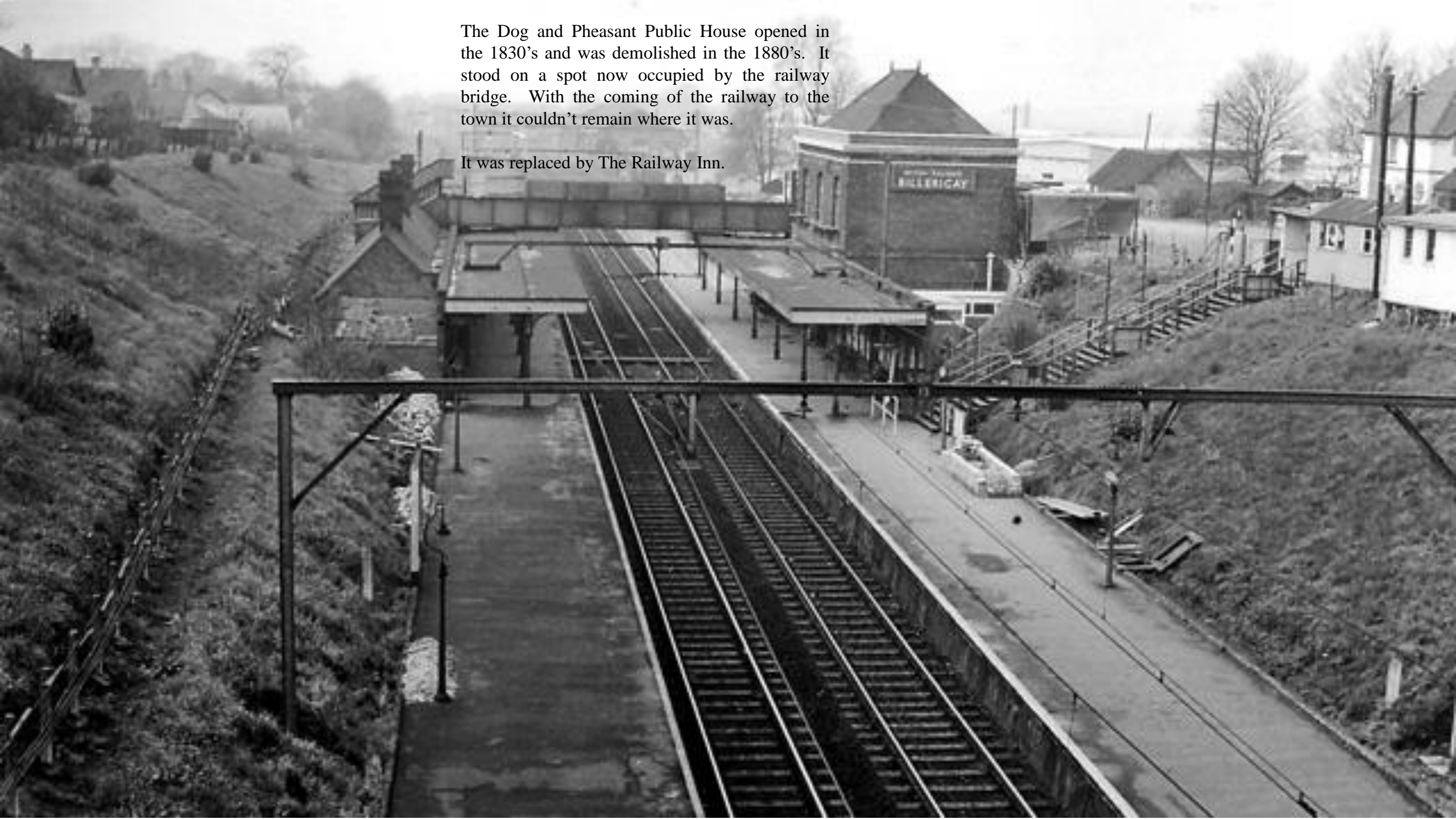
The tracks for Billericay Station started being laid in 1884, once digging had finished for the line to pass 54 feet below the level of the High Street. The station was opened to Goods Traffic on 19 November 1888, with the first passenger train stopping there on New Year's Day 1889.

The line through Billericay was electrified in 1954.

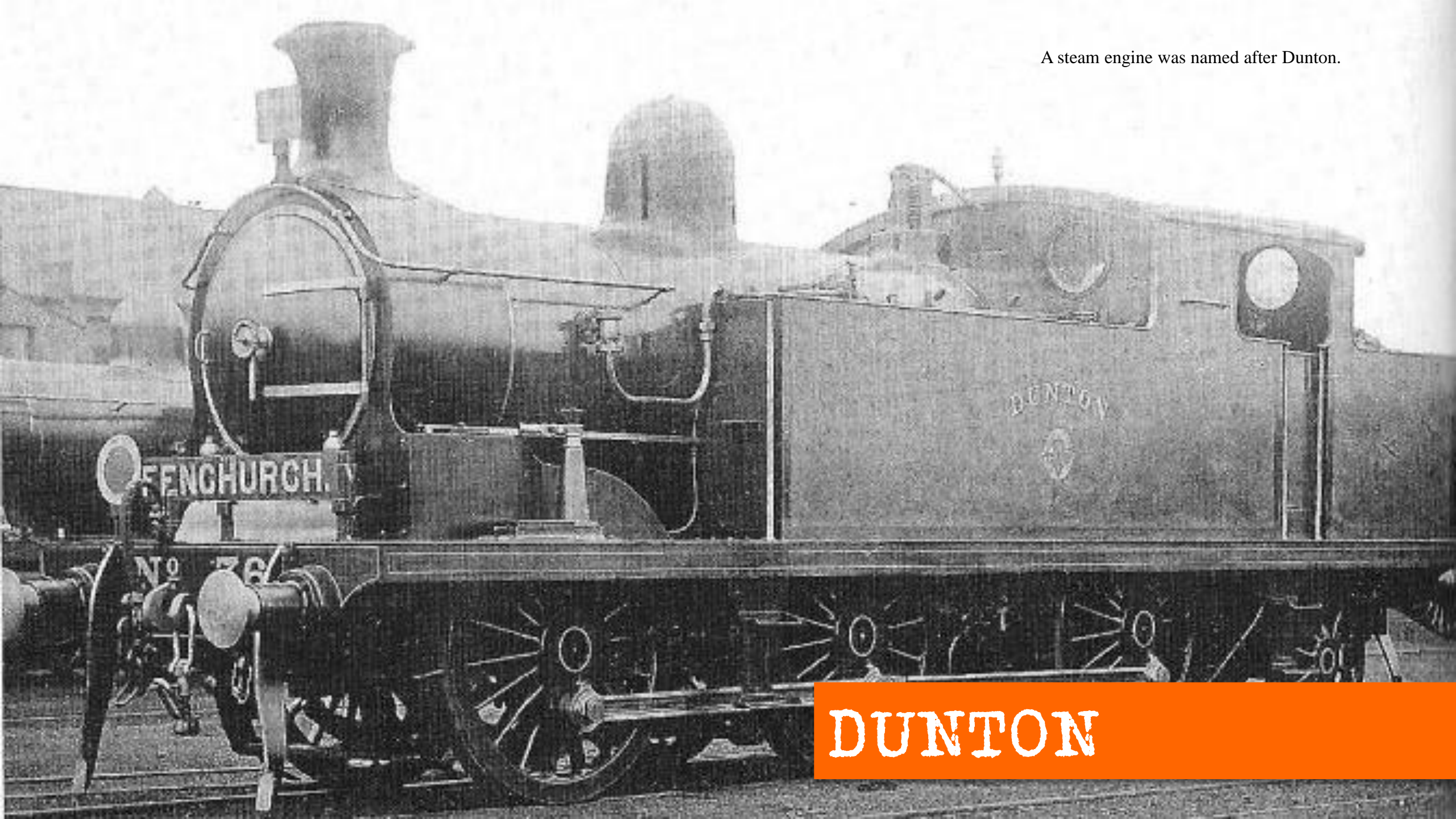
BILLERICAY

The Dog and Pheasant Public House opened in the 1830's and was demolished in the 1880's. It stood on a spot now occupied by the railway bridge. With the coming of the railway to the town it couldn't remain where it was.

It was replaced by The Railway Inn.



A steam engine was named after Dunton.



DUNTON



Laindon Train Station first saw service in 1888, as Billericay and Wickford did.

During both World Wars the line was used by German aircraft to help them navigate their way in to London.

An anti-aircraft gun was installed in the goods yard, which used to be in the area now used as a car park.



LAINDON

Laindon Train Station



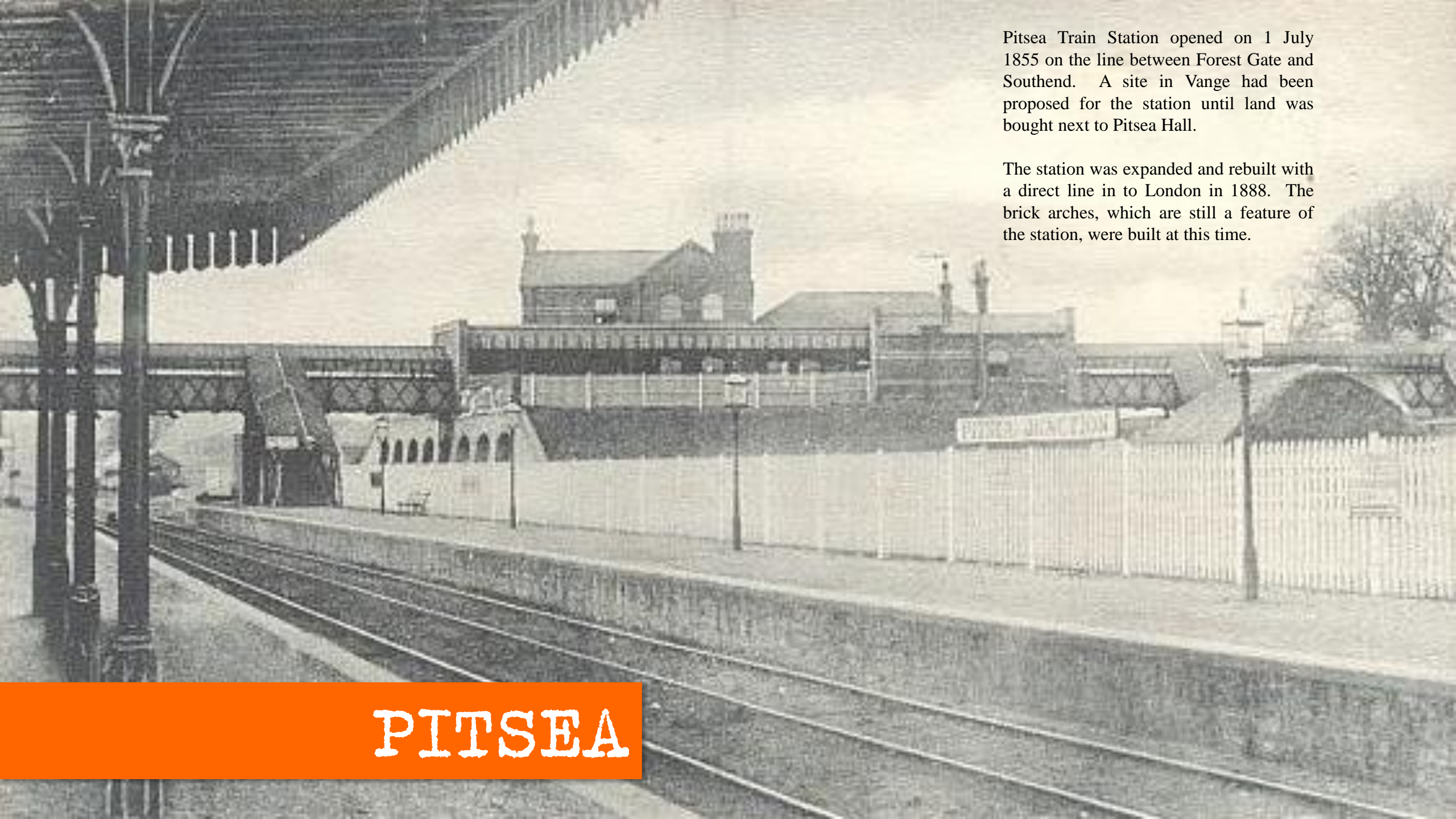
In 1885 Laindon had a steam engine named after it.

Joan Sims was born on Laindon Station on 9 May 1930. Her father, John, was Station Master.

Laindon had been displaying signs stating 'Laindon for Basildon' since the 1960's.

The line became electrified in 1962, cutting the journey time in to London by 25 minutes. The goods service at Laindon ended in 1967.

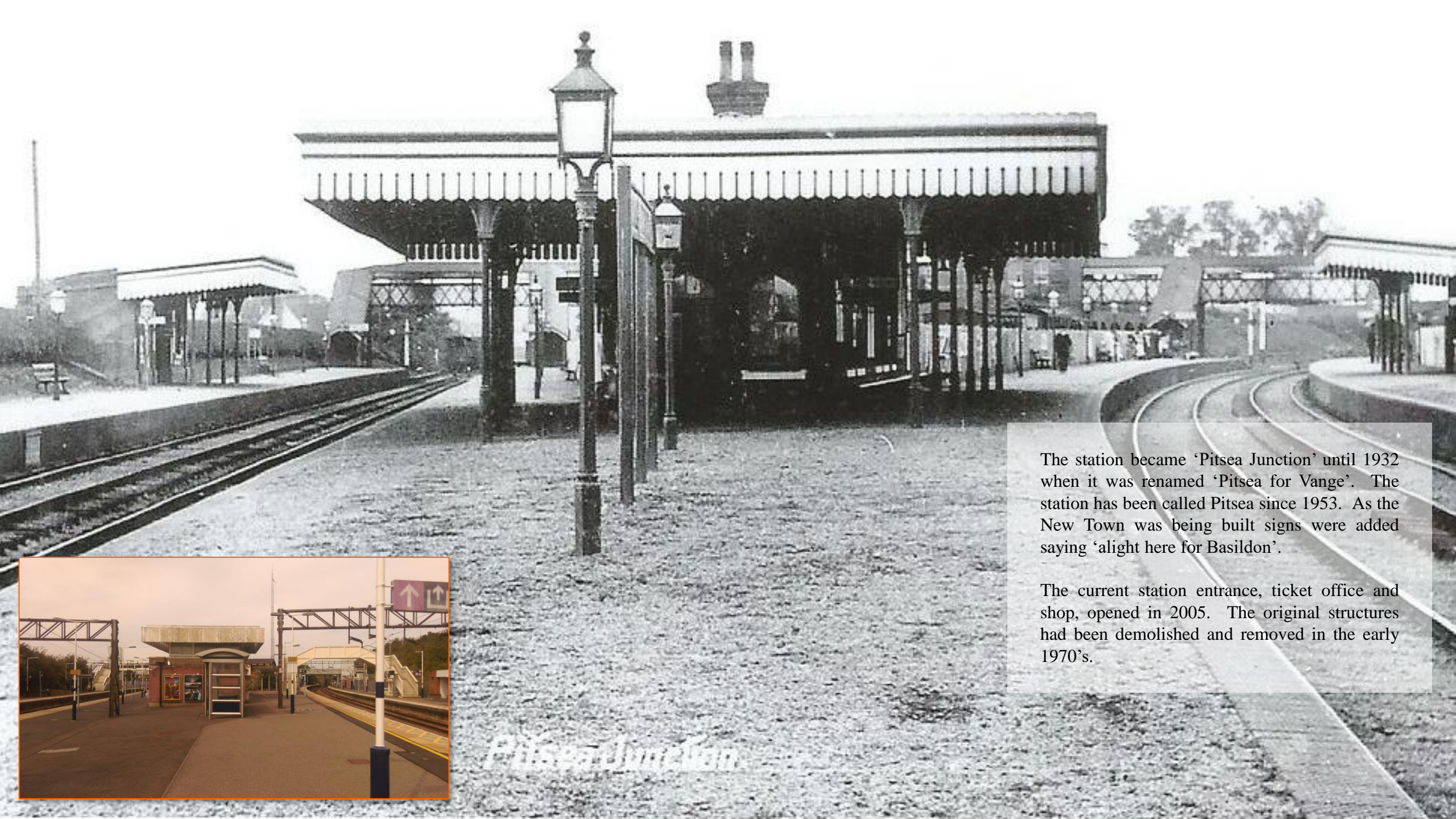




Pitsea Train Station opened on 1 July 1855 on the line between Forest Gate and Southend. A site in Vange had been proposed for the station until land was bought next to Pitsea Hall.

The station was expanded and rebuilt with a direct line in to London in 1888. The brick arches, which are still a feature of the station, were built at this time.

PITSEA



The station became 'Pitsea Junction' until 1932 when it was renamed 'Pitsea for Vange'. The station has been called Pitsea since 1953. As the New Town was being built signs were added saying 'alight here for Basildon'.

The current station entrance, ticket office and shop, opened in 2005. The original structures had been demolished and removed in the early 1970's.







There were two serious accidents in Pitsea during 1961. The first was caused by a derailment and the second happened when the train collided with a lorry on the crossing by Pitsea Hall.

Lives were lost in both incidents.

A foundation stone on the outside wall of Wickford Station shows that it was laid during 1887. The line would connect Shenfield to Southend. A planned line to Southminster, passing through Rettendon and Wickford and going to Pitsea, never came to fruition.



WICKFORD

The line at Wickford was electrified in 1956 and the station stopped taking goods traffic in 1967. The station was rebuilt in 1980 and was damaged by fire in 1998.





The Wickford turntable

