



THE LIBRARY IS MOVED INTO THE BUILDING

In 1961, Harry Molin (1914–1989), the hotel owner and manager at the time, had another building built next to the railway hotel. Apart from putting in order more hotel rooms in the new building, Molin let other businesses move in, such as a grocery store, a bank and the editorial office of a local newspaper. The hotel business in the old railway hotel was gradually phased out and moved to the new hotel building.

In 1973 the municipality of Storuman bought the old railway hotel from Molin and began to carefully renovate it 1979. In 1980 the library was moved into the building, and it was also listed as a culturally important building to preserve.

At the end of the 1990s, the library was finally connected to Molin's newer building to create a community center containing e.g. a youth center, a bowling alley and a café. Many of these businesses are still in the building and some new ones have been added.

In 2023, the old railway hotel celebrated its centenary. It is still a library, and we are happy that the historic building is accessible to residents and visitors. It is, after all, a historic gem in the heart of Storuman!

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THE OLD RAILWAY HOTEL IN THE HEART OF STORUMAN

A century-long journey from hotel to library



**Storumans
kommun**
LUSPIE





BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Swedish Parliament decided to build a railway line to connect the northern inland parts of Sweden with the south. This railway line, named "Inlandsbanan", would stretch from Kristinehamn in the south to Gällivare in the north. Between 1907 and 1937, tracks were laid in several stages and the infrastructure surrounding the railway was slowly built.

In 1923, the railway tracks finally reached Storuman and the construction of both railway station and railway hotel began in the same year. They were built according to drawings made by Folke Zettervall (1862–1955) who was the chief architect of the Swedish State Railway Company (SJ). Miss Anna Norén (1887–1960) was appointed manager of the hotel and she came to run the hotel right into the 1950s.

THE RAILWAY HOTEL

The original hotel building had guest rooms, dining rooms for first class and third class, a reception and a kitchen. From the reception on the ground floor, you could reach the first class dining room through swing doors. A separate entrance in the west wing led into the third class dining room.

The ceiling decorations, mainly in the first class dining room, are made by the artist Elis Tallmo (1886–1956) who was hired by SJ to decorate waiting rooms and other railway buildings in northern Sweden.

On the upper floor there were eight guest rooms. The rooms were equipped with their own sinks, but the toilet was shared and located in the corridor. The hotel employees had their rooms in the attic.

In 1934, the hotel was expanded with five new guest rooms. The first class dining room was also extended and the so-called "club room" was built. Crown prince Gustav VI Adolf was a recurring guest at the hotel when he travelled to his fishing cabin outside Tärnaby. When the entire "Inlandsbanan" railway was completed in 1937, the inaugural train departed from Storuman railway station on August 6, and on board was future king Gustav VI Adolf.

During the Second World War, shelters were built in the basement of the hotel. During this time, unarmed German troops and material were also transported on "Inlandsbanan" to occupied Norway. This was part of the concessions the Swedish government made to Nazi Germany in order to avoid Sweden being drawn into the war.

