A 1995 photograph of the Plains Train Depot, showing the relatively unchanged scene. The photograph was taken during fieldwork for the Cultural Landscape Inventory.

The Plains Train Depot
Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, GA

Plains Train Depot | **Kenneth P. Craig** | From the Jimmy Carter NHS museum collection [JICA 6927]

The Plains Train Depot - a wood-framed building with both board and batten, and lap siding - served the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad from 1888 to 1951. When Plains, GA native Jimmy Carter ran for governor, and then for president in the 1970s, the depot became his campaign headquarters. The depot served as the central meeting point for the Carter family, volunteers and tourists. The building was used as the backdrop for campaign announcements and press conferences. To the voting public, the depot represented the southern, small-town background of Jimmy Carter. When Carter won the election for President in 1976, he celebrated the victory at the Plains Train Depot and when he lost the 1980 re-election, he returned to the depot to thank his supporters.

This watercolor was painted by Kenneth P. Craig, an artist and retired Presbyterian minister from Huntersville, NC. Reverend Craig finds inspiration in Jimmy Carter, and in the National Historic Site, particularly the Boyhood Home and the Depot.