

NR listed 9-27-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FOR NPS USE ONLY

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered 9-27-84

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rock Island Depot

and/or common Lonoke Depot

2. Location

street & number Highway 70 and Center Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lonoke

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Lonoke

code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Not in use

4. Owner of Property

name City of Lonoke

street & number 203 West Front Street

city, town Lonoke

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Circuit Clerk & Records Office, Lonoke County Courthouse

street & number Lonoke County Courthouse

city, town Lonoke

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Arkansas Railroad Depot Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975

federal state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock

state Arkansas

7 Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Sited on South Front Street, the Lonoke Depot is a fine, unaltered example of an early twentieth century depot. Constructed in 1912 of red brick, this handsome structure has a steeply pitched red tile gable roof and exhibits the subtle influence of the Jacobethan Revival.

ELABORATION

Completed in November of 1912, the Lonoke Depot is typical of depots constructed throughout Arkansas early in the twentieth century. While many such depots no longer exist, this refined structure remains a focal point of downtown Lonoke. Though similar to the Rock Island Depot in Fordyce, Dallas County, the Lonoke Depot pre-dates Fordyce by thirteen years. Located on the south side of the railroad that intersects the downtown from east to west, it is situated on a 80 x 300 foot tract of land to the west of Center Street. The building faces north and is located across the street from the site of the 1899 frame depot.

The depot is a one-story red brick structure with a red tile-covered steeply-pitched gable roof. The gable end on the east and west elevations are stepped and project above the roof, thus creating a parapet that is finished with cast stone coping. The building is 28 x 100 feet and consists of three distinct sections - a large 28 x 20 foot shipping area, an office area and a passenger area. The depot has a concrete foundation and full basement. A single brick chimney with a cast stone cap pierces the west end of the roof ridge. Windows throughout the building are double-hung with vertical lights in the upper sash and cast stone sills.

The north elevation features a central three-sided telegrapher's bay that pierces the slope of the roof, terminating with a gabled dormer, in front of which a low crenellated parapet echos the lines of the bay projection. Both the dormer and parapet are finished with cast stone coping. The north slope of the roof extends beyond the wall, creating a protective overhang. The section to the right of the telegrapher's office is devoted to shipping, with a single double-hung window flanked to the left by a door and to the right by a sliding door. The larger section to the left of the bay projection has a pair of windows flanked on either side by a door and window. The wood doors have single-light upper sash and transoms. Windows on this elevation are all four-over-one.

The south street facade has a gabled projection directly opposite the projection on the north elevation. Two small double-hung windows are aligned with the heads of three pair of windows to the right of the projection. Three fixed windows detail the gable end. Two small windows and a freight door are located to the left.

The east end elevation has a four-over-one window flanked on either side by a narrow two-over-one window. A cast stone plaque in the gable end is enc

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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with "Lonoke" and a painted "Rock Island" sign is located at the north corner. The west elevation is identical to the east, with the exception that the three windows are fixed.

The interior has a large waiting area and freight area which are separated by offices. Walls are exposed brick and the ceilings are plastered. Pressed granite floors are laid in decorative patterns. Doors are paneled wood with transoms. Original lighting and steam heat units are intact.

The original mail post, which trains used to detach mail bags, is in place along side a look-out tower atop the building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Rock Island Depot has served this central Arkansas agricultural community for seventy-two years. For most of these years it has been the commercial and economic center of activity for Lonoke and Lonoke County. Constructed in 1912 at a cost of \$26,000, the building replaced an earlier depot which had been constructed in 1899 to serve traffic along this Memphis to Little Rock line. Cotton, rice, flour, soybeans, timber, and other commodities were shipped on the Rock Island line from the Lonoke depot.

ELABORATION

The city of Lonoke is one whose history is directly related to railroad transportation. The original Memphis to Little Rock Railroad went through Brownsville which was located a few miles north of the present town of Lonoke. Federal troops destroyed the tracks during the Civil War and they were later relocated in present day Lonoke. The commercial district developed on either side of the tracks; one side being designated North Front Street and one side referred to as South Front.

According to local newspaper accounts announcing the construction of the 1912 facility, "The building will be of pressed brick and fire proof material and will have every convenience that goes to make up one of the best buildings on the line." The building that T. B. Davis and his building crew constructed aptly fit this description.

The Rock Island Depot has catered not only to the freight and passenger needs of the citizens of the county, but has also been the hub for a great deal of political activity. Governors (Ben Laney, Sid McMath, Orville Faubus, and Winthrop Rockefeller), Senators (John McClellan and W. J. Fulbright), and local politicians have all made speeches from trains stopped at the depot. As was the case in all small American towns, soldiers serving during World War II and the Korean conflict departed from the depot. News of their later status was also filtered through the depot as it was the site of the local telegram service.

The Rock Island Depot in Lonoke ceased to function as an active depot some years ago. Its transferrance to the city for use by the local historical society insures that the building's service to the community will continue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1973 Lonoke County Centennial Document compiled by Mrs. Don Sjostrand and Mrs. James B. Abraham.
Lonoke Democrat, March 7, 1912, pg. 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lonoke, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	0	0	5	9	0	3	8	4	9	4	3	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

Zone		Easting					Northing							

E

Zone		Easting					Northing							

F

Zone		Easting					Northing							

G

Zone		Easting					Northing							

H

Zone		Easting					Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel of land intersecting Missouri Pacific Railroad (Rock Island) main track from Center to Depot Street adjacent to Highway 70, containing 24,000 sq. feet more or less. A building, Rock Island Depot, measuring 28 x100 feet on a concrete foundation.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles D. Cummings, Executive Director (ed. by AHPP staff)

organization Central Ark. Plan. & Dev. Dist. date August 30, 1984

street & number 112 N.E. Front St. telephone 374-4669

city or town Lonoke state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Wilson Stiles

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-31-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

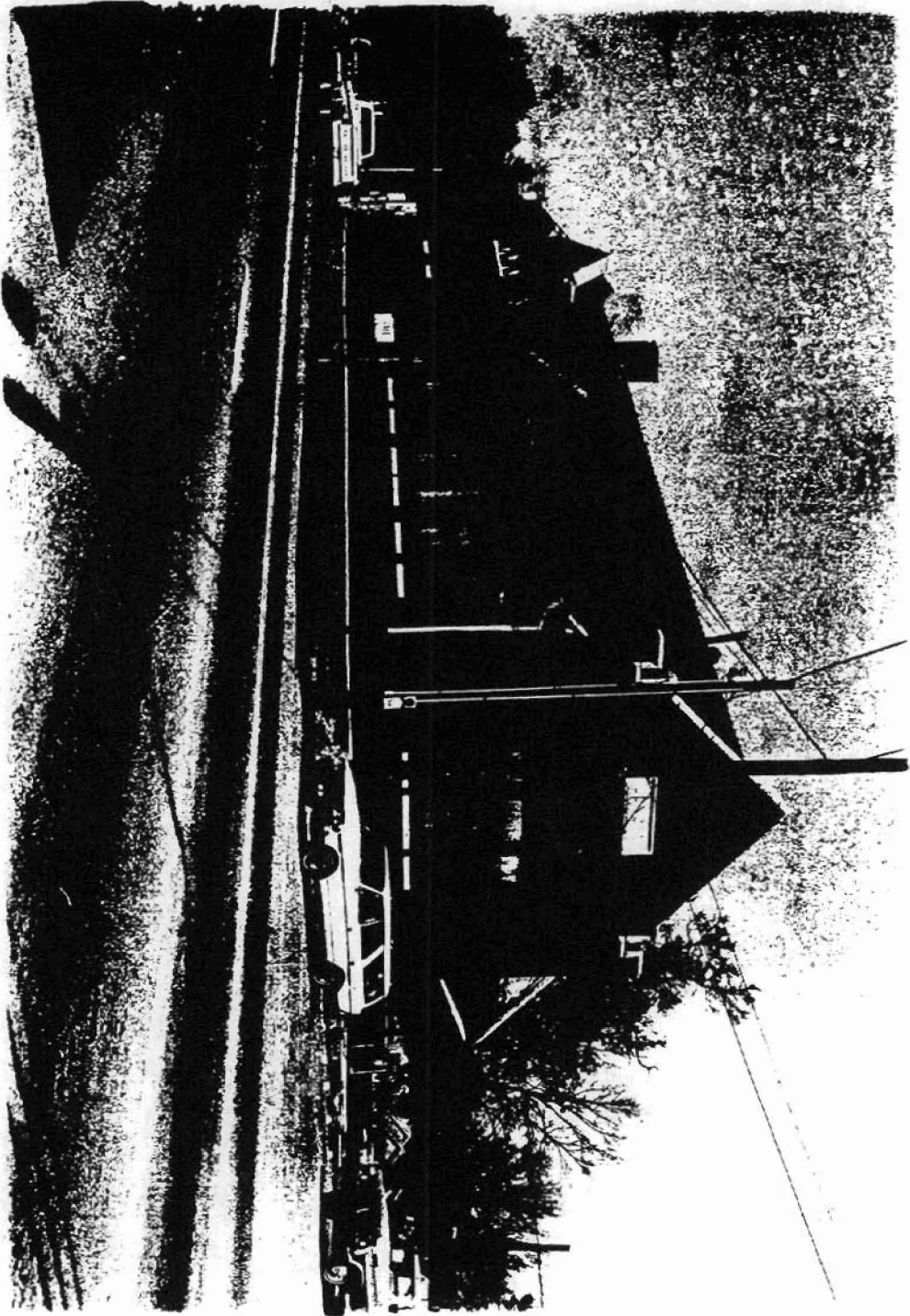
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Rock Island Depot
Lonoke
Lonoke Co., Ark.
USGS Quad. - Lonoke, Ark.
Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference

15 600590/3849430

