

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 101 East Railroad Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Ruston N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Lincoln code 061 zip code 71270

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker Sept. 3, 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

Richard Lynn 10/8/92

Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Depot  
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 buildings  
\_\_\_\_ sites  
\_\_\_\_ structures  
\_\_\_\_ objects  
1 0 Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/restaurant  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

no style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof metal  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Vicksburg, Shreveport &amp; Pacific Depot, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA

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The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot is a frame building which assumed its present appearance c.1900. It is located along the rail line in downtown Ruston. Despite some alterations, the building retains sufficient historic integrity to merit National Register listing.

The depot is popularly believed to be the original depot constructed when the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad came through the area in 1883. And, indeed, some of the details look as if they could be from the 1880s. These include the transoms over the freight doors, the window surrounds with Italianate pediment shaped tops, and the use of board and batten siding. (Board and batten siding was fairly typical of rural American depots of the 1870s and '80s.) Given this, it is tempting to conclude that the building is the original 1883 depot.

However, Sanborn maps for Ruston present a more complex picture. The 1885 map shows a frame depot on the site, but it is not as long as the present building, and it has a hip roof, not the present pitched roof. The 1892 map shows a somewhat longer building with a hip roof. The 1898 map shows a hip roof building which has grown once again, this time to the size of the present depot. The 1902 Sanborn map shows the present building with its overhanging, pitched roof and projecting bay on the track side. The most likely scenario is that the 1883 depot was progressively lengthened and finally renovated at the turn of the century with a new roof and refurbished office area. But it should be noted that this cannot be established with absolute certainty.

The building consists of a long freight area to the west and a pair of offices at the east end, one with a polygonal bay facing the track. The 1908 Sanborn map shows that for a time the freight area had a partitioned off section for baggage. This feature no longer exists. The two offices feature heavy molded cornices and fluted window and door surrounds with decoratively cut corner blocks. They also feature picture moldings and chair rails. The beaded wallboard is set vertically above the picture molding and horizontally below. Under the chair rail, the wallboard is set diagonally.

The present (c.1900) roof has broad overhanging eaves supported on decoratively cut diagonal braces. One brace is toenailed directly into a freight door surround, a sloppy piece of construction that tends to confirm a re-roofing job on an older building. Other noteworthy exterior features include exposed purlins and rafters and six over six windows.

**Alterations**

The building has been renovated more than once, most recently for a restaurant. As a result, the western third of the old freight area now contains a restaurant kitchen. The eastern third has a lowered ceiling. The middle third

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Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Depot, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA

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is still open to the rafters. In addition, a small portion of the freight area has been partitioned off for bathrooms. A portion of the wall between the two offices has been removed. (This change may well be over fifty years old.) Most of the track side platform, under the eaves, has been enclosed for restaurant seating and storage. Other changes include the loss of both freight doors (one is used as a standing partition in the seating area), the installation of a small picture window in the old freight area, and the loss of a side door.

**Assessment of Integrity**

Despite the foregoing, the building is still clearly recognizable as a railroad depot of its era. Hence, its National Register eligibility remains intact.

Note: "No style" was used because the styled features are minimal. On balance, "no style" seemed more accurate than Italianate.

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

### Period of Significance

c.1900-1942

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

unknown

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Depot  
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	5 3 4 0 0 0	3 5 9 8 7 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to sketch map.

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date June 1992

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Ronnie Sexton

street & number 96 N. Vienna telephone

city or town Ruston state Louisiana zip code 71270

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Depot, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA

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The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot is locally significant in the area of transportation because it represents the important role played by railroading in the parish seat of Ruston. Circa 1900 was chosen as the beginning of the period of significance because it cannot be proven that the depot dates back any further. Even if it is the original 1883 depot, it was considerably enlarged and renovated between 1883 and 1902. Thus, it would be hard to make the case that the building possessed integrity for the 1883 period. The year 1942 was chosen as the ending date to coincide with the fifty year cutoff. (The railroad continued to be an important force in the town's history past the fifty year cutoff, and the building in question remained in use as a depot.)

As happened throughout the South, the railroad did much to bring development and prosperity to Louisiana after the Civil War. The first railroad to arrive in Ruston was the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific (now the Illinois Central) in 1883. The founding of Ruston was a direct result of this east-west line's arrival. At first business boomed. Town lots sold quickly, and within a year Ruston had become the parish seat. After the first boom, economic growth continued at a slower rate, but the industrial development expected by city fathers did not materialize at that time. Instead, it came during a second spurt of growth stimulated by the 1901 arrival of Ruston's second railroad, the Arkansas Southern (now the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific). This north-south line made Ruston a railroad junction and contributed to the establishment of several new businesses. These included a cotton compress, an ice factory, a cottonseed oil mill, a large stave factory and, south of Ruston in Ansley, a lumber mill.

In addition to playing a significant role in the founding and early development of Ruston, railroads sustained the city throughout the historic period, being the foundation of the economy. The present c.1900 Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot represents this continuing importance. At one time Ruston possessed a goodly number of railroad related resources, including a roundhouse, a railroad foundry and shops, two small buildings where traveling salesmen called drummers could display their wares, six depots, and several railroad hotels. However, all but three of the many railroad related structures which once served Ruston have vanished. Those remaining include two depots and a railroad hotel.

The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot represents a greater time span in Ruston's historic railroad era, being at least twelve years older than the city's two other railroad related resources. Thus it stands as an important resource representing the significant phenomenon of railroading in the town.

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Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Depot, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA

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Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Ruston, 1885, 1892, 1898, 1902, 1908, 1914, 1922, 1930.

Graham, Kathleen. Notes on a History of Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, 2nd ed. Louisiana Polytechnic Institute Bulletin, Vol. XLIII, No. 3, July 1945.

Ruston Daily Leader, Centennial Edition 1873-1973, September 26, 1973.

Hays, M. S. Sketches of Old Ruston, Louisiana, N. P., 1976.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot  
Lincoln Parish, LA

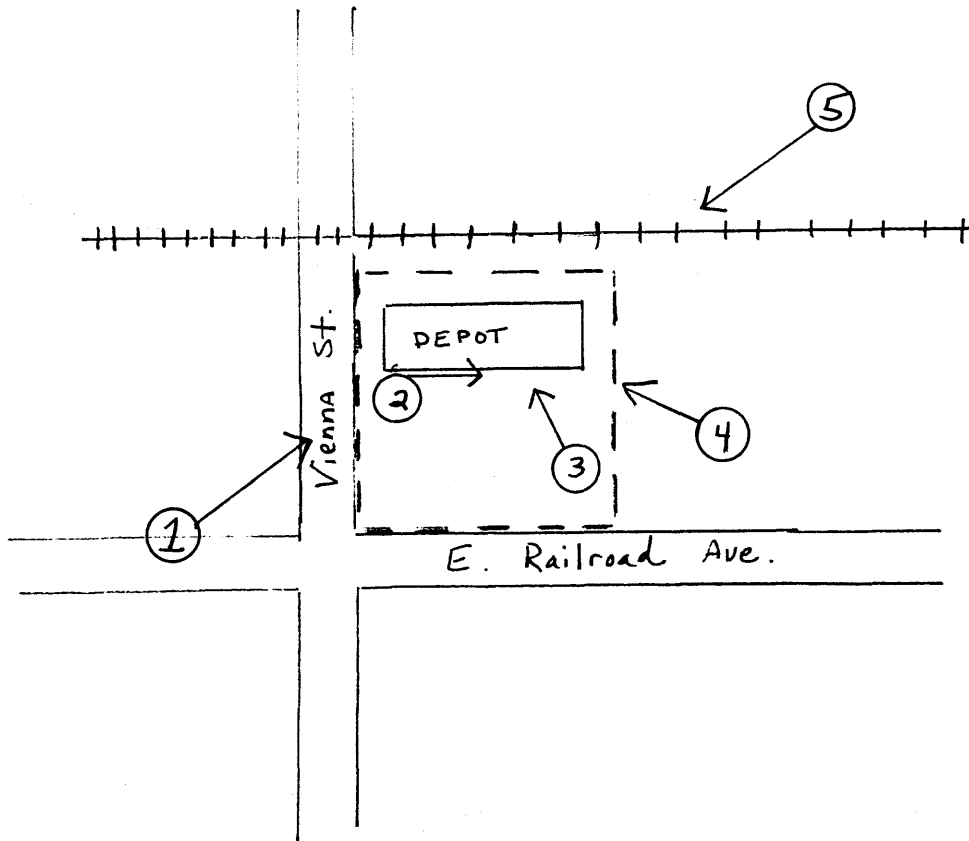
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Boundary Justification

Boundaries follow property lines on the north, west and south. The eastern boundary line does not follow the property line in order to exclude a nearby non-contributing element.

Vicksburg, Shreveport + Pacific Depot  
Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA



1" = 100'

--- BOUNDARY