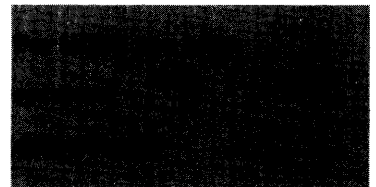


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Alma Depot

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number ~~southwest corner of intersection of~~ Dixon & 11th Street ^{N/A} not for publication

city, town Alma N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ --

state Georgia code 013 county Bacon code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Alma Exchange Bank and Trust
Mrs. Olivia Bennett, President

street & number P. O. Box 1988

city, town Alma N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31510

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Bacon County Courthouse

city, town Alma state GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alma Depot is a one story, rectangular shaped frame structure built in 1906. It is covered in flush novelty siding and has a low roof with broad, overhanging eaves and little ornamentation. Remains of an elevated wooden platform are found on the south and west sides. The eastern end of the roof is hipped while the western end forms a gable. The roofing is now composition shingles. Exterior doors are simple paneled types and the window surrounds are plain boards attached to the sub-sheathing. Several windows have iron burglar bars. The overhanging roof is supported on the corners by simple, angled corner braces. Simple, exposed rafters support the overhanging roof on three sides.

The interior of the depot is divided into two waiting rooms on the east, an office in the middle, and a large warehouse room on the west. The two waiting rooms have narrow horizontal beaded-board flush paneling on the walls and ceilings with vertical wainscoting surrounding the rooms at window level. The eastern portions of the waiting rooms have had two restrooms added to each of them. Each waiting room has a window leading to the office area and an exterior door. The office has paneling exactly like the waiting rooms. It has an observation bay protruding southward toward the railroad tracks with diamond patterned sash in the upper window. Other windows open to the waiting rooms. The warehouse area is approximately 60 feet by 27 feet and has two large, sliding doors on each side and one on the end. This area has no interior paneling and the ceiling is supported by an exposed truss system of wooden beams.

The depot is located in downtown Alma adjacent to the railroad tracks and is surrounded by commercial buildings. A residential area lies to the north. The railroad tracks have been removed. There is no landscaping at present and no outbuildings are associated with the structure. Changes to the building include the removal of most of the wooden loading platform, rearrangement of the interior space in the 1930s, and the replacement of the original tile roof.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alma Depot, built in 1906, is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce and transportation. Architecturally, it is important as a functionally designed building, that of a small town railroad depot. It incorporates the necessary elements of such a functional structure - a warehouse for shipping, a business office for railroad personnel, and waiting rooms for passengers. The style used is similar to other small town depots of the era. In commerce, the depot is significant to the local community as the location where, in 1930, a local credit union was founded. This financial institution grew into the Alma Exchange Bank and Trust. It remained in the depot until 1939. It is unusual for a depot to house activities other than railroad related functions. In transportation history the depot is significant for representing the role that the railroad has played in the history of Alma. Alma's first railroad, a logging line, was laid in c. 1887. After 1902 it was incorporated into the Brunswick and Birmingham Railroad Company system, which projected a trunk line from Brunswick, Georgia, to Birmingham, Alabama. Several ownership and name changes later it became the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad of today. This depot was apparently the only permanent depot facility ever built by the railroads in Alma and thus served as the center for freight and passenger activities. The depot was especially important for the role it played in the local turpentine and lumber industries. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The location of present day Alma was first a stop on a logging railroad where it crossed Big Hurricane Creek. When the McLaughlin, Deen and Company turpentine business started around 1899, Alma was named and became a post office. The town was incorporated in 1904 but not laid out until 1906. The depot, completed that same year, was outside the original town plan. In 1910 the town population was 458 but after Bacon County was created in 1914, Alma became the county seat and its population rose to 1,061 by the 1920 Census. These first decades of the town's growth saw business and residential structures constructed along either side of the railroad, around the depot.

The original rail line through what is now Alma was constructed after 1887 by the Offerman and Western Railroad Company as a logging railroad. The property was sold on July 1, 1902 to the Brunswick and Birmingham Railroad Company. This railroad failed in 1904 and was purchased by the Atlantic and Birmingham Railway (A&B). In 1905, the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic Railroad (AB&A) was organized to purchase the Atlanta and Birmingham, to extend its trackage, develop mineral lands, and commence rail-water interchange of traffic at Brunswick.

The AB&A was placed in receivership in 1921. A reorganization was completed in 1926 and the line became the AB&C under control of the Atlanta Coast Line (ACL). With aid from the large and successful ACL, the AB&C developed into a profitable road with its main line then running to Waycross and the trackage to Brunswick (the track through Alma)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Draft Nomination Form and supplemental information prepared by Randy Shipp, and Mrs. Bonnie T. Baker, Bacon County Historian, on file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Alma, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	6	0	5	1	0	3	4	9	0	5	1	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 The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat map by a heavy black line. It is the southern portion of the parcel owned by the owner at this location and does not include part of 11th Street. It is the portion of the owner's property directly associated with the depot.

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 Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date February 18, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta state GA 30334

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/25/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Elizabeth A. Lyon</u>	<u>National Register</u>
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>4/7/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

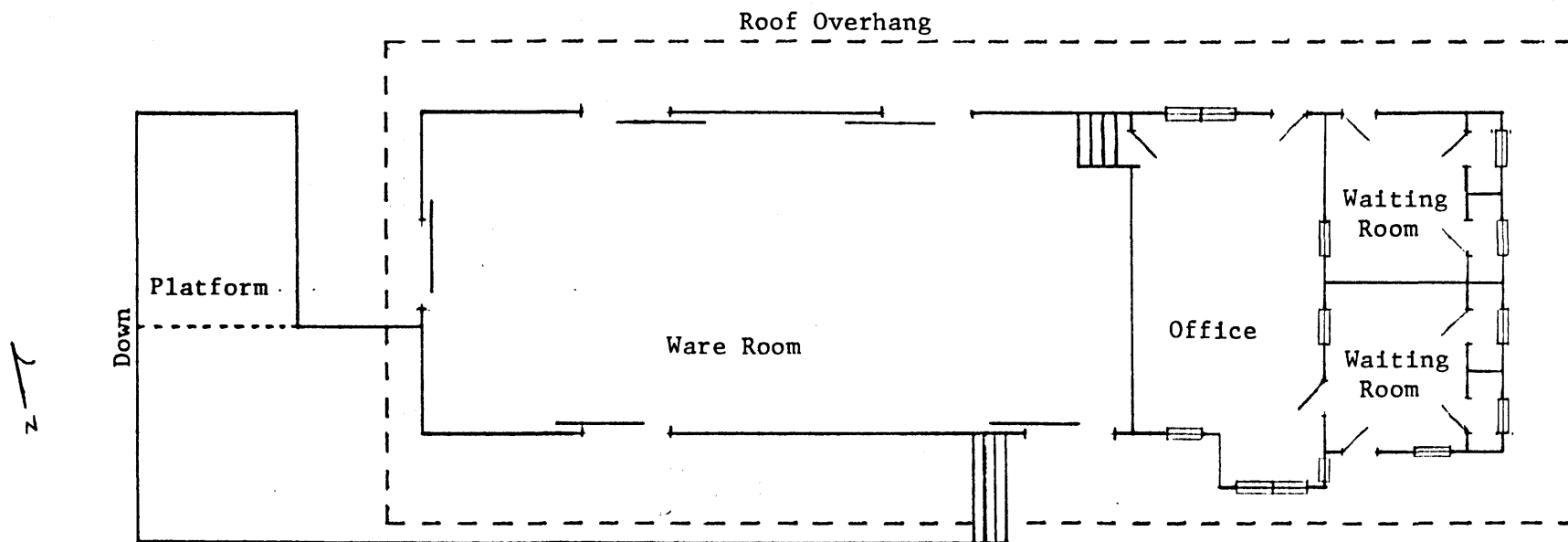
becoming a branch.

The last line to operate through here was the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. Passenger service stopped in 1952 and freight service later. During its peak from 1906 through the 1920's the depot saw as many as six passenger trains daily, three eastbound and three westbound.

The coming of the railroad coincided with the increased economic growth of the area. Thick pine forests led to the development of pine-related industries including turpentine, rosin, crossties, lumber, and logging. Near present day Alma the large McLaughlin, Deen and Company turpentine still, that depended heavily upon the railroad for shipment of raw products to the coast, was established around 1899.

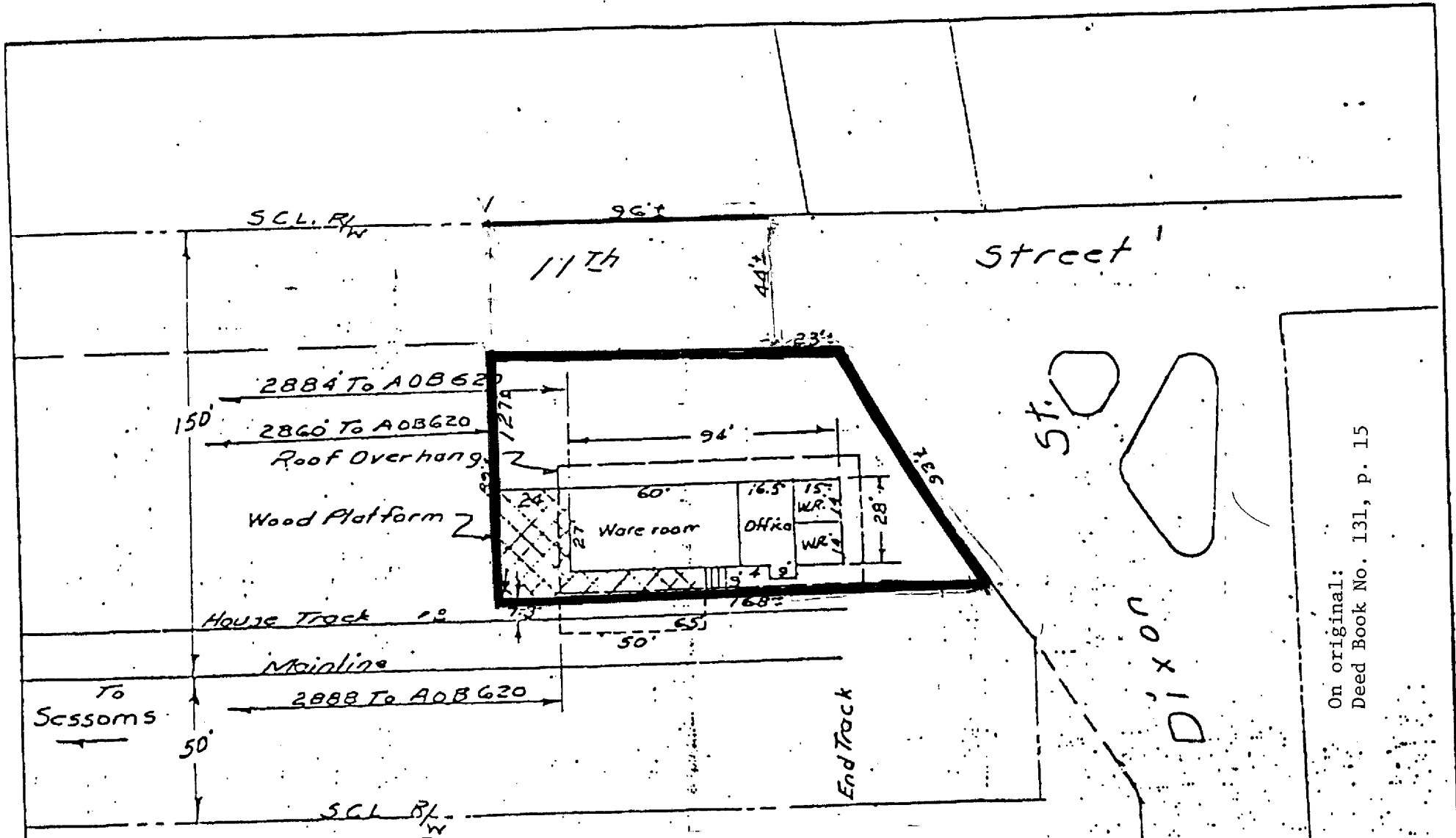
The Alma depot, when built in 1905-06, resembled many being constructed during the same era, and especially in south Georgia, although its roofline is distinctive. Its tile roof, probably covered with Ludowici-made tile, and long rectangular shape was reminiscent of other depots along the line. It was the only depot ever built in Alma and served as a community focal point for the several decades during which it handled passenger service.

After the ending of rail service to Alma, the depot remained in the ownership of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. By 1975 it was being leased for a feed and seed business and local citizens sought it for reuse as part of a 1976 Bicentennial project. Negotiations ensued and it was eventually transferred first to a private citizen, Mr. Harold L. Chancey, who in 1980 sold it to the present owners. Civic plans for its adaptive reuse have not yet been made.



Floor Plan
 Alma Depot
 Alma, Bacon County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Randy Shipp
 Date: c. 1981

ALMA DEPOT
 Alma, Georgia
 Not to Scale



On original:
Deed Book No. 131, p. 15

Plat Map

Alma Depot
Alma, Bacon County, Georgia
Scale: 2' - 100'
Source: Bacon Co., Ga. Deed Book
131, page 15.
Date: 1975.
Key: The nominated property is that
portion of the plat marked by a heavy
black line south of 11th Street.

Alma,
Bacon County, Ga.

SEABOARD COAST. LINE		
RAILROAD COMPANY		
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER		
ATLANTA, GA.		
REVISIONS 6-16-74 9-15-75 Proposed Sale of Depot & Space To Harold L. Chancey Alma, Ga AOB 620		
SCALE	DATE	DWG. NO.
	3-5-74	6245-1

V-2