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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This stick-style train station measures 24' x 60'. It is in two sections, a two-story office and living quarters measuring 24' x 30', and a single-story baggage room and freight storage area of equal dimensions. The depot rests on a brick foundation. The frame structure is covered with drop siding on the first floor, and with clapboards on the second.

The baggage area is topped with a hipped, bracketed roof of wooden shingles. The two-story section has a gabled roof, similarly shingled and bracketed. The eaves throughout have a wide overhang.

Windows are 2/2 double-hung sash. Six are set into two bays facing the siding, on the first and second stories. The gable above the bays is marked by turned decoration.

The main floor of the two-story section is divided into a waiting room and an agent's office. Living quarters upstairs are four rooms and a closet or pantry. The baggage room has a sliding door.

Some deterioration of the window frames and roof shingles has taken place, but in general the structure is in excellent condition. The depot still functions as a working rail structure, along a line still in operation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1899-1900	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	
1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	THEATER X_TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE	CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION	LAW LITERATURE MILITARY	SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
PERIOD PREHISTORIC	AR ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As in so many small Iowa towns, the Albert City depot symbolized the vital importance of the railroad to community prosperity. A rail line was the means by which agricultural or other local products reached market, and by which merhandize from urban manufacturers was obtained. Albert City made its depot one of the first buildings erected in the town, celebrating an end to the long days of travel by wagon which for less fortunate people was the only means of transportation in rural Iowa.

The November 21,1901 issue of the Albert City <u>Pioneer</u> described an historic gun battle between the citizens of Albert City and three bank bandits. The three men had robbed a bank in Greenville, Iowa, and eventually sought sanctuary in the Albert City depot. A fierce gun battle resulted in the death of the town marshal, a local citizen, and one bandit. The other two bandits were captured as they attempted to escape into the surrounding countryside. The bullet holes are still in evidence in the depot walls.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert City Pioneer- March 29, 1900, November 21, 1901

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chicago, Milwaukee and Pacific Railroad station at Albert City was built in 1899. It consists of two sections: a two-story passenger area and agent's quarters, and a one-story baggage area. The depot is of frame construction, the lower story faced with clapboards about twice the width of those used on the second story. The two-story bay on the track side is of interest, as it allows the station agent a clear view of the tracks in both directions, without the need to step outside.

The roof if the two-story section is gable, with a small gable protruding over the bay. Eaves are quite wide, with extremely utilitarian brackets. The roof of the baggage area is a low hip, also with wide eaves and brackets. Windows throughout are 2/2 sash.

The station at Albert City was entered in the Register on 22 October 1976. During the summer of 1977, the property was acquired by a local elevator company, which proposed to destroy the depot and erect a grain elevator in its place. The Albert City Historical Association raised funds to save the building by moving it to a new location, next to the Albert City Historical Museum. This new location is only a short distance away from the original trackside site, and one lot removed from the tracks (see map). The area around the new site is primarily residential. The depot will be restored and repaired, and will serve as an adjunct to the city museum.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC COMMUNITY PLANNING ___RELIGION ___PREHISTORIC __CONSERVATION _LAW __SCIENCE ___1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ECONOMICS __LITERATURE SCULPTURE ___AGRICULTURE EDUCATION __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1600-1699 ARCHITECTURE ___MILITARY __1700-1799 ART ENGINEERING __MUSIC <u>X</u>1800-1899 X_EX RUX BAD AN SETTLEMENT ___PHILOSOPHY X_TRANSPORTATION ___COMMERCE __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT 1900-OTHER (SPECIFY) __COMMUNICATIONS INVENTION BUILDER/ARCHITECT Chicago, Milwaukee, and Pacific SPECIFIC DATES 1899 Railroad

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Although this building is to be moved, retention of this property on the National Register is warranted by several considerations:

1. Albert City was a creation of the railroad. The Chicago, Milwaukee and Pacific extended its line through this area in 1899, and the town was platted along the tracks that same year. Like many small towns in the midwest, Albert City would not have existed but for the railroad, which brought in manufactured goods and took away to eastern markets the agricultural resources of the surrounding area. In this respect, the depot is the most significant structure in Albert City, a symbol of the company which in effect created a new community here.

2. The sale of the land on which the depot was originally located resulted in a clear choice: either someone move the depot, or the new owners (the elevator company) would have it demolished. Local sentiment is strongly in favor of preserving the depot, as witnessed by the funds raised to move it on very short notice.

3. The new location is not far from the original site, and, if not immediately beside the tracks, is only a short distance from them, so some association with the railroad may still be maintained.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albert City Pioneer, March 29, 1900; November 21, 1901.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAI	LDATA					
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