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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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INTERIOR	STATE:
	Arkansas
	COUNTY:
RICPLACES	Pulaski
FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
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NAME						
COMMON:						
Choctaw Rou	te Station					
AND/OR HISTORIC:						
Rock Island	Station					
OCATION						
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Arkansas Bu	ilding Company					
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DATA SHEELP WAS SOCKED

Built circa 1899 the Choctaw Route Station served as a passenger depot for the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company. It is a two storey red pressed brick building of rectilinear plan, approximately 125 feet by 56 feet in dimension. One storey wings with flat roofs and simulated parapets flank each end of the main part of the structure. The station is oriented on a north-south axis with a long covered loading area on the east side, and a smaller covered loading area on the west side.

The east and west elevations are organized into three bays, the central bay being emphasized by a brick parapet which serves as a marquee for the railroad company. This bay is further set off by brick quoins at each end, and the alternating use of segmental and triangular pedimented arches over the windows. Three triangle pedimented arched windows are located in each second storey end bay. All windows on the ground floor have flat arched windows, three per bay. The end elevations have four windows on each storey.

The most significant feature of the station is the exterior embellishment. The entire entablature of the upper storey is made of terra cotta. It is exceptionally ornate, exhibiting the influence of Louis Henry Sullivan in its floral and fruit embellishment of the cornice, soffit, ane extended freize. The projecting cornice is decorated at regular intervals with bouquets, and underneath, by muted brackets inlaid with acanthus leaves. The soffit is panelled with a floral ornament centered in each panel. A band of egg-and-dart ornamentation and dentils complete the cornice. The frieze has been widened until it incorporates the pedimented arches of the second storey windows. A continuous cornice band connects all of the window arches of the upper storey windows.

The enlarged frieze is exceptional in the use of terra cotta ribbon and draping fruit band and cartouches. Fruit wreaths with conical fruit filled baskets infill the pedimented arches of each upper storey window, complementing the ornate entablature.

The interior ground floor of the main building is organized into five bays. A central two storey concourse fills two bays. The restaurant and dining hall occupied the two north bays, and a baggage room the remaining south bay. The second storey spaces served as general business offices of the railroad, as did the one storey wings.

The interior spaces of the station are essentially unadorned. However, the original ceiling of the two storey concourse was exceptional with its coved corners creating a semi-vault. This was covered with a terra cotta ornamental tile and heavy cornice.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Arkansas	
OUNTY	
Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBERNAY	DATE
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STATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description (Choctaw Route Station - Page 2)

The internal structural support for the roof and upper floor is provided by a series of two storey brick columns nineteen feet apart, and brick arches spanning the distance between the columns and the solid brick exterior walls. Four of these arcades create the five bay interior space organization, spanning the shorter dimension of the station. A molded trim is used throughout and walls are plaster on brick.

The station has undergone one major interior renovation (date unknown). A new suspended plaster ceiling was installed which lowered the ceiling height about six feet, thus leaving it thirty-five feet above the concourse floor. All arch openings were enclosed. Interior trim for doors and windows was replaced and plaster caps, moldings and ornaments on the arches were removed.

S	SIGNIFICANCE			
-	PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)		
	☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
	☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	
	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known)		
	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec	k One or More as Appropri	iate)	
	Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
	☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
	☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
	☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
	Architecture	Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
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	☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	☐ Communications	Military	Theater	
	☐ Conservation	☐ Music	▼ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the latter half of the nineteenth century the growth of railroads in the United States paralleled the economic growth of the country. The continuous expansion of railroad track brought about a corresponding need for more railroad terminal buildings. Varying in size, shape and material of construction, these railroad stations were built all over the Nation

Though railroad stations once covered the country, a large percentage of these structures have disappeared. The diminished importance of railroad traffice has resulted in the deterioration and/or destruction of many terminals. As the number of stations diminishes, the significance of those remaining increases. Arkansas still has a number of railroad stations, and the continued preservation of these stations is important to both the architectural and transportation history of the state. The state of the stat

Located in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter district is the Choctaw Route Station. This turn-of-the-century railroad depot is one of the finest examples of railroad architecture in Arkansas.

It is a two storey rectangular structure with one storey wings projecting from both the north and south elevations. A long one storey porch covers the passenger loading area along the entire east elevation, with a smaller porch over the entry on the west elevation.

The most interesting feature of this red brick building is the highly decorative terra cotta frieze surrounding the second storey. Inset into this intricately adorned frieze are the window heads of the second storey windows. Unlike the plain window heads on the first floor, those on the second floor have alternating pedimented and segmental arched heads.

The Choctaw Route Station was built in 1899 by the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad. This railroad amalgamated with many small lines in Oklahoma and extended into Arkansas in the early 1890's. Used as a passenger station, the Little Rock terminal building housed two waiting rooms, a baggage room, restaurant and dining room.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FERENCES			
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ORGANIZATION				DATE
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89-665), I hereby nominate this	property for inclusion	National R	egister.	વાલાઇ કૈડ્રેલિક દુલ
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Officer		actor	Keeper of The N	lational Register
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Date December 10, 19	74	Date	5.2.7	5

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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NOMINATION FORM	Pulaski	
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on Sheet)		mark!

STATE

Arkansas

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Choctaw Route Station - Page 2)

When the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad was sold in 1902, the Choctaw Route Station became the property of Rock Island Railroad. Until the mid 1950's it continued to serve as a passenger station for Rock Island. Now owned by the Arkansas Building Company the building, though not in use, remains in good condition.

The Choctaw Route Station is an architecturally significant commercial structure in the most historic section of the state's largest city. As a well preserved turn-of-the-century railroad station it is also historically significant.



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Choctan Route Station

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Pula Form No. 10-301a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY JAN 2 3 1975 RECEIVED 1975 DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC

Choctaw Route Station

AND/OR COMMON

Rock Island Station

LOCATION

Little Rock CITY, TOWN

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

PHOTO REFERENCE

Bob Dunn PHOTO CREDIT

1974 DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET east elevation, viewed from the southeast PHOTO NO.

#103

#123 PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Choctas Route Station.

Pulasi

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Arkans

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

RECEIVED JAN 2 3 1975

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Choctaw Route Station

AND/OR COMMON

Rock Island Station

2 LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Little Rock

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

nn

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET detail of terra cotta frieze

PHOTO NO.

#2003

#203

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Choctan Route Station Pulaski County
Arkansas FG

FORM 10-301 A (6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Arknasas	Pulaski	Little Rock
STREET AND NUMBER		
East Third and Rock Isla	nd Railroad	
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
Robert Dunn	November, 1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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Form 10-301 (July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME				
СОММОН	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)		
Choctaw Route Station	Rock Island Station	MAY 6 197		
2. LOCATION				
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JAN23 1975 NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered MAY 6 1975

Name

Location

Choctaw Route Station

Little Rock Pulaski County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan Hon. Dale Bumpers Hon. Wilbur D. Mills Regional Director, Southwest Region

Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism State Capitol Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Mr. William E. Henderson

State Historic Preservation Officer

PR MM

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