

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 9 1988

date entered FEB 29 1988

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

**1. Name**

historic Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad Depot

and or common Arcadia Railroad Depot

**2. Location**

street & number LA 151 n/a not for publication

city, town Arcadia n/a vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Bienville code 013

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant - leased

**4. Owner of Property** to Bienville Depot Museum Association for restoration as a parish museum

name Town of Arcadia

street & number Office of the Mayor, City Hall

city, town Arcadia n/a vicinity of state LA 71001

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bienville Parish Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Drive (no specific address) P. O. Box 238

city, town Arcadia state LA 71001

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title LA Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1987  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
_____ excellent	_____ deteriorated	_____ unaltered	<u>X</u> original site	
(ext.) <u>X</u> good	_____ ruins	<u>X</u> altered	_____ moved	date _____ n/a
(int.) <u>X</u> fair	_____ unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad Depot (1910) is a single story board and batten building located on the railroad corridor of downtown Arcadia. The roofing material was recently replaced and there has been some interior water damage, but other than that, the building is in original condition.

As is the case with most small community railroad depots, the passenger and freight components are combined in a single building. The east end of the depot is the freight area and has exposed roof trusses and an exterior loading platform and ramp. The center of the building is the baggage area. The west end of the depot contains the ticket office and separate waiting rooms for whites and blacks. The walls and ceilings in the principal rooms are sheathed in narrow gauge beaded board. The only decorative touches are the beveled cornerblocks on the door, window and ticket window surrounds.

The exterior of the depot is plain board and batten with six over six windows and transoms over the principal doors. Plain brackets support a wide skirting roof which encompasses the entire building. Each end of the roof features a large imbricated shingle gablet with a round louvered vent.

Note regarding photos: There is no electricity in the depot, and it was much too dark to do any interior photography.

# 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 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 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** 1910 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion A

The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad Depot is locally significant in the area of transportation as the primary resource associated with the important historical force of railroading in the town of Arcadia.

Although there were a few railroad lines constructed in Louisiana prior to the Civil War, railroading did not begin in earnest until about 1880. For example, by 1860 only 335 miles of track had been laid, and by 1880 that figure had not even doubled. But between 1880 and 1910 over 4,000 miles of track were laid. These were the boom years of Louisiana railroading, a period during which railroads competed with, and generally defeated, older forms of transportation such as steamboats. In many ways the railroad remade the state. In choosing major outlines of their routes, railroad officials were governed not by existing settlement patterns, but by their overall plan for continental development. Many new towns were created as a result of railroad expansion. Examples include Crowley, DeRidder, Eunice, and Many, to name just a few. In addition, there were cases like Arcadia where existing towns relocated to be near the railroad. Moreover, it is certain that the rice boom and the lumber boom, which were so important to the economy of Louisiana, would not have been possible without a well developed railroad network. In the late nineteenth century railroads were as much desired as interstate highways were in the mid-twentieth century. Every small town Chamber of Commerce waited for "the great day" when the railroad would come. Those towns which were bypassed by the railroad ceased to thrive and ultimately became economic backwaters with small populations.

The great era of railroading is a definite epoch in Louisiana history. When in 1910, the railroads reached their maximum growth in the state, scarcely anyone imagined that four decades later they would be in sharp decline. To a large extent this decline was triggered by competition from automobile transportation and ultimately the interstate highway system. By 1970 mainline trackage in Louisiana was less than 15% of what it had been in 1910.

There is no doubt that during the great railroad era (c.1880-c.1940) the town of Arcadia existed and continued to flourish principally because of the presence of the railroad. Not only was the railroad the major artery of commerce for this inland commercial center, but the town itself had relocated about two miles in 1884 to be near the railroad. Being a railroad town enabled "New Arcadia" to prosper as a ginning and shipping center for cotton in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although the present 1910 depot is not the original one, it does represent railroading as a historical force in the town from its construction through the mid-twentieth century. In addition, it is the town's only cultural resource directly associated with railroading. Although other buildings in Arcadia date from the railroad era, they should be regarded as byproducts of railroading prosperity and not the representative of the primary instigator of that prosperity.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Bienville Parish. Published by Bienville Historical Society, 1984.  
1916 blueprints of the depot showing a completion date of June 1910. From the archives of Illinois Central Gulf Railroad.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/6th of an acre

Quadrangle name Arcadia, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	0	7	4	0	0	3	6	0	1	0	5	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

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource.

### 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	National Register Staff Division of Historic Preservation	ASSISTED BY TOWN OF ARCADIA AND BIENVILLE DEPOT MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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organization	State of Louisiana	date	June 1987; revised January 1988
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street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone	(504) 922-0358
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city or town	Baton Rouge	state	LA 70804
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## 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



Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 11, 1988

### For NPS use only

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



date 2/29/88

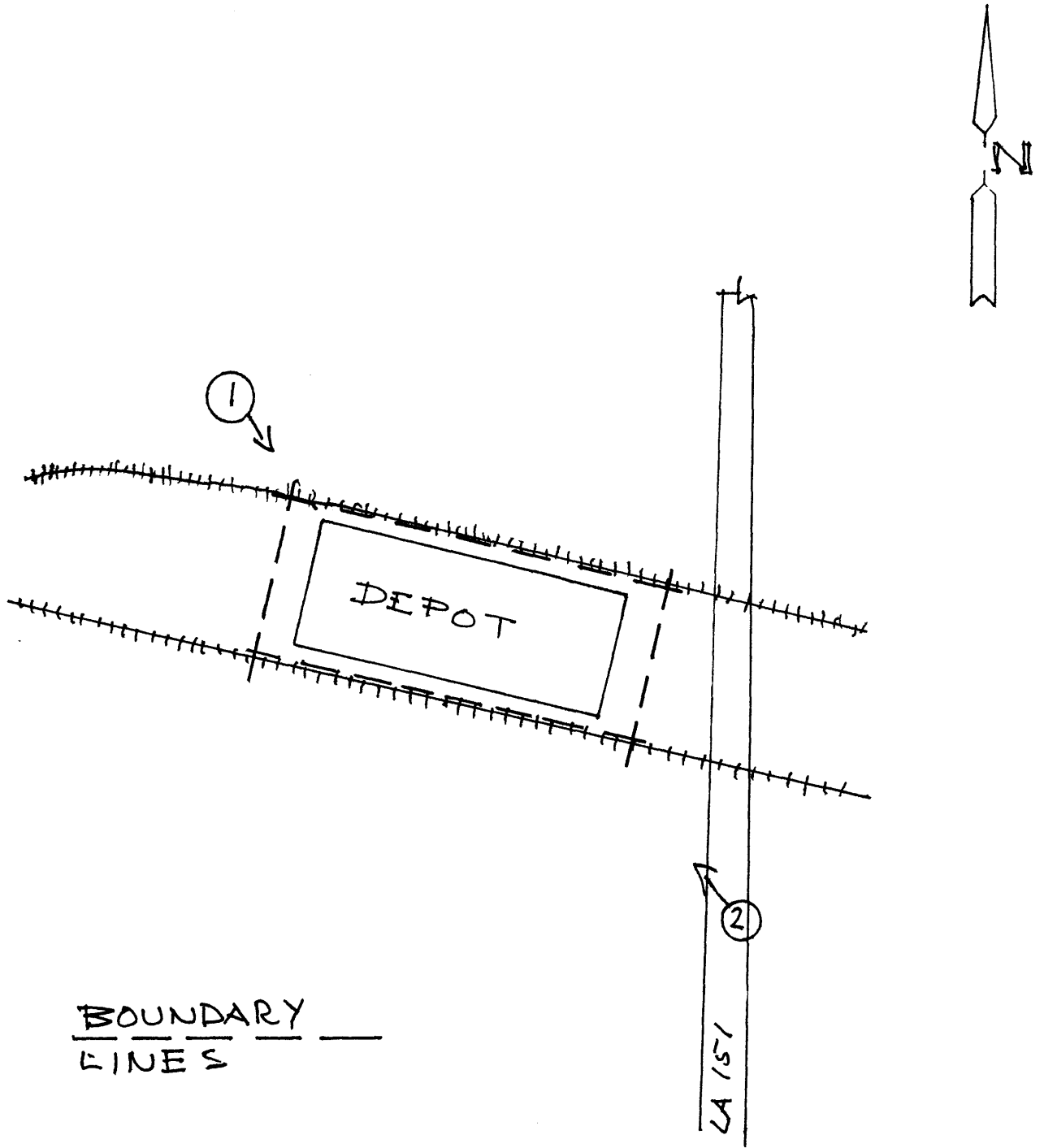
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# VICKSBURG, SHREVEPORT AND PACIFIC DEPOT ARCADIA, BIENVILLE PARISH, LA.



BOUNDARY  
LINES —

SCALE 1" = 50'