

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 15 1987

date entered MAY 14 1987

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

1. Name

historic Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot

and/or common Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot

2. Location

street & number Sixth Street (near Church St, intersection) N/A not for publication

city, town Natchitoches N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Natchitoches code 069

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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 in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Natchitoches (depot) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number P. O. Box 37

city, town Natchitoches N/A vicinity of state LA 71458-0037

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Natchitoches Parish Courthouse

street & number Church Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 476

city, town Natchitoches state LA 71457

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

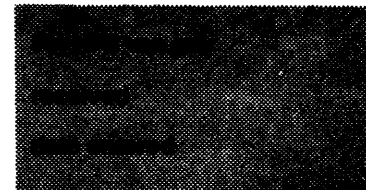
The Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot (1926) is a two story brick and terra cotta building located in a semi-industrial area north of downtown Natchitoches. The design was inspired mainly by the Italian Renaissance. Despite some cosmetic deterioration, the depot has been little altered since construction.

The more or less symmetrical building consists of a two story main block with single story side wings. The plan culminates in a central two story entrance hall-waiting room. There is also a ticket office, an ancillary single story waiting room, and service and office spaces.

The facade is articulated in a manner reminiscent of sixteenth century northern Italian villas. The main block consists of an arcaded loggia flanked by a pair of low pyramidal roof towers. This in turn is flanked by extended single story side wings. The arcade loggia features superimposed Persian columns, brincaade bas relief spandrels, and prominent oeil-de-boeuf motifs. The second story is plainer, but culminates in an elaborate parapet with consoles and various designs in multicolor glazed terra cotta. Each of the towers features a prominent upper window ornamented with engaged Persian columns. The towers terminate in oversized modillion cornices surmounted by prominent red tile pyramidal roofs. The rear (railroad) elevation is sparingly outlined in classical details. Its major feature is a continuous ornamental fixed awning. The principal interiors are treated with double frame openwork beam ceilings with oversized brackets. High brick wainscotting is also found in the principal rooms.

The only alterations have been the installation of plywood paneling and a lowered ceiling in the ticket office. In our opinion, these changes should be regarded as minor because the building's significance rests upon its exterior. It should be noted that the boarded windows are only a temporary security measure.

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Continuation sheet Texas & Pacific RR Depot

Item number 4

Page 1

Natchitoches Parish, LA

Ownership (continued)

Union Pacific Railroad Company (land)
One American Place, Suite 1508
Baton Rouge, LA 70825

Explanatory Note: The railroad donated the depot to the City of Natchitoches, but retains ownership of the land itself.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1926 **Builder/Architect** Builder; Texas and Pacific Railway

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot is significant in the area of architecture on the state level as one of the largest and most architecturally pretentious railroad depots remaining in Louisiana.

In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, the major means of transportation in the nation was by train. Besides being the link between an individual town and the outside world, it was integral to the very economic existence of a community. Therefore, besides the seat of the government and the churches, the train depot was probably the most important building in any town through which the railroad passed. The architecture of the railroad stations reflected that importance and they ranged from grand neo-classical and Beaux Arts piles in the major cities to modest board and batten structures in smaller towns, many of which were literally created by the coming of the railroad.

Today a fair number of railroad depots remain in Louisiana. Most of these, however, are architecturally indistinguished village depots and are only locally important as reminders of the importance of the railroad in a particular town's history. Urban depots of the period were much larger buildings and had more than just a single story. Moreover, they were not just random collections of standard decorative features placed on a frame shed. They were consistently articulated with the vocabulary of a recognized historical style of architecture.

The Texas and Pacific Depot is one of only four urban depots (as defined above) extant in Louisiana. It is further distinguished by its impressive Italian Renaissance styling, which makes it one of the most architecturally pretentious depots in the state. Noteworthy features in this regard include its twin towers, its sculpturally rich entrance loggia, and its overall Italian villa style massing. In fact, of the state's major depots, it is the most specific reference to a particular historical archetype.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wells, Carol. Cane River Country Louisiana. Natchitoches, LA: NSU Press, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 3/4ths of an acre

Quadrangle name Natchitoches North, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	9	1	1	0	0	3	5	1	3	7	8	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. The west boundary follows the railroad line. The north, south, and east boundaries parallel building elevations at a distance of 50 feet. These boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the depot. To have listed all the land owned by the railroad would have meant nominating hundreds of acres

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries of right-of-way.

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date August 1986

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

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

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 10, 1987

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5-14-87

J. Allore Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

SCALE 1" = 100'

TEXAS & PACIFIC
RAILROAD DEPOT



NATCHITOCHESS
PARISH, LA.

BOUNDARIES

