

**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 Junction Railroad Depot

and/or common Morristown Depot

**2. Location**

U.S. 52

street & number South side of U.S. Highway 52  
at the west edge of Morristown not for publication

city, town Morristown vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Indiana code 18 county Shelby code 145

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Depot, a recorded partnership of Jack W. Warble and E. Anne Guffin

street & number U.S. Highway 52, Post Office Box 475

city, town Morristown vicinity of state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Shelby County Courthouse

city, town Shelbyville, state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date 6-76

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

The Morristown Depot is presently situated on U.S. Highway 52 at the west edge of Morristown, and is in use by the owners as an office. Originally located on North Street approximately four blocks east and two blocks north of its present location, the building was moved in 1976 when threatened with demolition by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. A 1926 caboose and 80 feet of track have been placed in front of the structure.

A simple, one-story rectangular building, its sturdy pinned beam construction reflects its dual function as a grain elevator as well as a train depot. The gabled roof is extended to shelter a wooden loading platform that continues 30 feet to the left of the building. The platform and steps have been reconstructed, based on early photographs.

Double freight doors appear on both the front and rear of the building. To the right of the doors at the end of the platform is a projecting bay. All windows have double hung sash. The board and batten siding has been painted to match the original color sample.

Although the interior of the depot has been remodeled for office use, the waiting room and telegraph area have been restored as nearly as possible to their early appearance, with original exposed walnut beams, beaded wainscoting and poplar floors. The original telegraph table with the key, sounder and line phone have been mounted in the projecting bay.

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

**Specific dates** 1867-68

**Builder/Architect** Samuel McGrew Johnson

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

The Morristown Depot is significant for its architecture and for its former role as Morristown's main transportation center.

The construction in 1866-67 of the Junction Railroad, which extended from Hamilton, Ohio, to Indianapolis, Indiana, provided the first great impetus to Morristown's growth. The railroad later became part of the C.H. & I. (Cincinnati, Hamilton & Indianapolis), and a county history written in 1887 states that Morristown was the third most important shipping point on the entire line.

The depot was constructed soon after the railroad was completed under the supervision of Samuel McGrew Johnson, its pinned beam, barn-like construction reflecting the agrarian nature of the area. It served as the town's center of transportation, moving much grain and livestock, as well as passengers. According to one local account, the present depot is a part of the original, which had a large basement and served as the local elevator. "In the basement, a horse went round and round, hitched to a long pole, to furnish the power to elevate the grain in buckets from the dump to the first floor, or to the cars on the siding, as required."<sup>1</sup>

The Morristown Depot served as the local railroad center until about 1950, and was used for storage from then until about 1974. The Chesapeake and Ohio planned its demolition to make way for a railroad siding, and it was purchased and moved to its present location. The building stands today as a treasured local landmark.

1. Memoirs of Mrs. Florence Johnson Rock. See bibliography.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brant & Fuller, History of Shelby County, Indiana, Chicago, 1887  
"Memoirs of Mrs. Florence Johnson Rock and Historical Sketches." Publisher unknown,  
 May, 1946

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Morristown Indiana

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 6	6 1 1 2 1 8 1 0	4 1 3 9 1 2 1 1 8 1 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Wortman-White Addition, Lots 3 and 4.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David W. White, Director

organization Shelby County Historical Society date 2-22-78

street & number P.O. Box 74 telephone 317/763-6313

city or town Shelbyville state Indiana 46176

## 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

*J.D. Cloud by J. H. [Signature]*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-24-79

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Carol D. Skell</i> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>11-14-79</u>
Attest: <i>William H. Brathan</i> Chief of Registration	date <u>11-8-79</u>