

**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** Racine Depot

historic Racine Station of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad

and/or common Racine Depot (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number 1402 Liberty Street not for publication

city, town Racine vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Wisconsin code 55 county Racine code 101

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Not in use

**4. Owner of Property**

name Chicago & Northwestern Railway

street & number 400 Madison Street

city, town Chicago vicinity of state Illinois 60606

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Racine County Registry of Deeds - Racine Courthouse

street & number 730 Wisconsin Avenue

city, town Racine state Wisconsin 53403

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Johnson, Johnson & Roy -  
title Racine Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Racine Public Library

city, town Racine state Wisconsin 53403

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Racine passenger station of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, located at 1402 Liberty Street, is a one-story building in a Classical Revival style, approximately 35 x 163 feet, with its long axis nearly perpendicular to State Street (north-northwest). Attached to this main structure, on its west facade, is a covered passenger platform approximately 20 x 450 feet, of frame construction. Directly opposite this, across the double tracks, is a one-story covered passenger platform, the center of which is a brick waiting room. The main building is built of red brick with cut limestone trim, and all roofs are of slate.

The main terminal building is composed of a large central section, flanked by smaller wings at both north and south ends, with a still smaller wing attached to the southernmost end. There is a large rectangular limestone plaque with the inscription, "C & N-W RY," above the two windows in the northern wing's facade.

The east facade of the main terminal building is the most clearly Classical Revival of all the facades. The larger central section is divided into five bays by six piers, with each bay featuring a round arch window. There is a dentil moulding, with two scroll brackets in each bay, in the cornice. Atop the piers at each end, a large carved limestone globe sits on the limestone-trimmed roof-line. The limestone watercourse is carried across this wing. On the extreme south of this facade lies the still smaller baggage room wing.

The south facade of the main terminal building features the roof-lines of the southernmost baggage wing, the south wing with its massive central chimney, and the larger central section.

The west facade of the main terminal building features an approximately 20 x 450 foot roofed passenger shelter with brick paving (the roof being supported by posts). The central section is, like the east facade, divided into five units, each with a round arched window, by six piers. Of the second and fourth window only the fanlight section remains, visible above the passenger shelter roof-line; the lower parts have been replaced by smaller round arches containing fanlights, sidelights, and doors. The cornice detail of the west facade is identical to that found on the east facade.

Located directly opposite the main terminal building and its passenger platform is an open, one-story roofed passenger platform that, for the most part, is identical to the passenger platform across the tracks. However, instead of a main terminal building, a smaller, one-story waiting room building has been substituted. These two buildings are connected by a tunnel.

The Racine station of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad has been altered, but not in a significant way. The porte-cochere on the east facade of the north wing has been removed (10-15-48) and replaced by a small pent roof over the entrance. A skylight in the platform roof above the bay window of the north wing's west facade has been removed. In the southernmost wing's west facade, one of the small square windows was replaced by a double door in 1943. Large brick arches with stone trim, along with one bay, were removed from the ends of the covered passenger platforms in 1948.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 1901-02<sup>1</sup>

Builder/Architect Frost and Granger, Architects<sup>2</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Station in Racine is a significant part of Racine's local architecture. Racine employed the prominent Chicago architects, Frost and Granger, for the design of this depot, and after seven decades the structure contributes to the appearance and architectural quality of the city.

### Architecture.

The Racine station of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad is one of the finest examples of nonresidential Classical Revival architecture in Racine. Despite the alterations, none of which have been major, and its present boarded-up and unkept appearance, the grace and dignity of this building are still apparent. The use of brick on this building gives it less of the monumental appearance typically associated with Classical Revival architecture. Designed by the firm of Frost and Granger, of Chicago, in 1901, construction was completed in early September of 1902, at a cost of \$60,000. Both Charles Sumner Frost (1856-1931) and Alfred Hoyt Granger (1867-1939) studied architecture at MIT. Frost was especially active in railroad terminal design, and his works include the LaSalle Street station, the Northwestern Terminal, and the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company general office buildings (all in Chicago), as well as Union Station in St. Paul and the Great Northern Railway station in Minneapolis.<sup>3</sup> Granger's major works include the New Chicago Club and St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, the U. S. Soldier's Home Hospital in Washington, D. C., the Union and Administration buildings at Indiana University, and the Winnebago County Courthouse in Oshkosh.<sup>4</sup> This successful partnership lasted from 1898 to 1910, during which the Racine station of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was planned and built. Among Wisconsin National Register listings credited to the firm are depots at Watertown (1903), Ashland (1900), Oconomowoc (1896), Lake Geneva (1891), and South Milwaukee (1893).

<sup>1</sup>Original drawings by Frost & Granger, dated Sept. 30, 1901. In possession of Sanford Pollack, Architect, 338 Main Street, Racine, Wisconsin

<sup>2</sup>Milwaukee Sentinel - August 23, 1902.

<sup>3</sup>National Cyclopedia of Biography - Vol. 25, p. 224. Some of Frost's Wisconsin designs have already been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, including the Watertown Depot in Jefferson County (NRHP, 3/28/79), the Lake Geneva Depot in Walworth County (NRHP, 7/31/78), and the Richard T. Ely House in Madison, Dane County (12/16/74).

<sup>4</sup>National Cyclopedia of Biography - Vol. 25, p. 247.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Milwaukee Sentinel.  
National Cyclopedia of Biography

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 1.0

Quadrangle name Racine South, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A 

1	6	4	3	4	6	9	0	4	7	3	1	0	0	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

Blk 3 Palmetter & Briggs Add Lot 4  
Lots 5 & 6 Except W 146.4 Ft., that prt SE-1/4 Sec 8 as rec Vol 112 pg 107

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert D. Long - Architectural Conservationist

organization Architectural Conservation Program date January 4, 1980

street & number 730 Washington Avenue telephone 414-636-9280

city or town Racine state Wisconsin 53403

# 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

*Richard M. Meehan*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 5/2/80

For HCRS use only

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

*Joe W. Ray*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/10/80

Attest: *Linda Flint McEllelland*

date 10.7.80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Racine Depot, Racine, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706