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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM CANAL DATE ENTERED

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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New Jersey

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		fice of Historic Pres	servation			
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CONDITION

__UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

slightly XALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morristown Railroad Station was built in 1914 by the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Company. The station consists of three separate buildings. The largest is the main station located on the eastbound side of the tracks about 200 feet from the Morris Street crossing. Directly opposite stands the shelter house for westbound passengers. This building contains a waiting room (now not open to the public) and rooms that served once as the express building, at a point west of the underpass joining the two buildings. The third building is the control tower located west of the westbound building, on the northern side of Route 287 passing under the tracks.

The platforms are over 600 feet long and extend from Morris Street across the driveway bridge west of the station. Canopies are of construction and cover the concrete platforms. The main building dimensions are about 140' long, 40' wide, and 40' high at the top of The waiting room is 70' long and 357 wide. All buildings are entirely built of fireproof materials. The only wood used (old English oak) forms the windows, door frames and interior decoration. The roofs have steel trusses supporting concrete slabs, coverd with green glazered tiles. Partitions are constructed of terra cotta brick and the floor constructed of reinforced concrete over steel girders and The exterior wall surfaces are made with hydraulic pressed bricks of "Washington" gray, laid in headers and stretchers. bond) Headers are of a darker gray. All trimming is done in the same material. Inside, floors of all rooms are made of marble chip terrazo, bordered with marble. Over the main entrance to the waiting room is a marquee of steel and glass supported by chains and ornamental scroll brackets, extending over the sidewalk to the curb.

Inside the waiting room, gang benches can seat 80 people. Four of the benches centrally disposed in the room support four magnificant glazed lamps, similar to the one in the Montclair Railroad Station, and still in use. The original wall lamps, in the same style of the bench lamps, have been replaced by modern ones. Aside from the wall lamps, the station itself has not changed since it was built in 1914. The area in front of the main building has been artifically shaped and heavily landscaped to integrate the "Italian" style of the station into an ornamental garden. Four pillars topped by luminous globes delimit the entrance of the station at the ends of the looping driveway. Six other pillars that were originally on the pedestrian axis perpendicular to the station (2) and on the western side (4) have also disappeared.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES Built in 1914	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT F.J. Nies	
		INVENTION	**************************************	
x _1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599		ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	X LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morristown Railroad Station was built in 1914 by the Erie Lackawanna Railroad Company. It was designed by the company's architectural team under the supervision of F.J. Nies, architect and G.J. Ray, Chief Engineer, who supervised the most interesting Lackawanna buildings, including the Lackawanna's Hoboken Terminal. The Station was built during a period of affluence for the Railroad company. Buildings should reflect the welfare of the company and give confidence to This policy came along with a desire to separate the stockholders. rail and street traffic to avoid dangerous crossings. For Morristown, it was decided to use current techniques and design concepts to build both station and tracks at one level about the street. As soon as it was completed, the station was recognized as one of the most beautiful stations ever built on the line.

The style of the station is strongly inspired by the Italian or Roman Villa (Modified Florentine or Italianate style). The size of the volumes, their proportions, the slope of the roof, the configuration and the forms of the openings, as well as the material used are determinant factors in the architecture. This architecture most probably inspired the nearby Theodore Vail mansion, Morristown built in 1918. This house, (Morristown Historic District) constructed of white Vermont marble and presenting very similar features to the station, is now the Morristown Municipal Building.

Moreover, the land around the station was heavily landscaped to match the character of the architecture, allowing for pedestrian access to the station. Benches were provided, turning the area into a small park. Today, the well-maintained park area in front of the station creates a valuable piece of green landscape in the heart of the town.

The station and its site represent one of the finest examples of railroad architecture in New Jersey. It is mentioned in the now classic Droege's passenger terminal book of 1916 as an example of a medium-sized railroad station. Not only the style, but the manner in which functional problems of circulation and lighting are resolved. The underpass becomes an open covered space under the shelter building on the westbound side. This allows the underpass to be lighted by natural light. The design of the space also permits a permanent visual control over the underpass, increasing the security.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	APHICAL REFER	KENCES		
Droege, John A. Passe	enger Terminals &	Trains, New Yo	ork McGraw Hi	11 Book Co., 1916.
The Local History Sect	tion of the Morris	town Public L	ibrary, Miss	Ochmaneck, director.
The Archives of the De Philadelphia, PA, Mr.			il, 1528 Waln	ut Street,
Richard P. Browne Asso	ociates, Railroad	Station Evalua	ation Study (in progress), Wayne,
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Station at Morristown (Morristown Railroad Station) Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

10. Amendment to Geographical Data

The boundaries of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Station at Morristown should be amended as follows:

Main Station

2.366 acres

Westbound Station

.804 acres

TOTAL

3.170 acres

The following verbal boundary description now incorporates the westbound station on the east side of the tracks as well as the main terminal:

Beginning at Morris Street and the NW corner of property 60A proceed to the NE corner of said property projecting the line 85 feet to the railroad property line. Thence, proceed south along said railroad property line about 500 feet to a point even with the SW corner of property 60A. Thence, proceed to said SW corner. Thence, proceed NW along said property line to the point of beginning.

T. Karschner 3/1980







