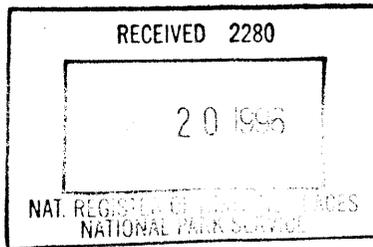


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Milwaukee Railroad Depot

other name/site number: Alberton Community Center

2. Location

street & number: 701 Railroad

not for publication: n/a  
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Alberton

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Mineral

code: 061

zip code: 59820

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally X statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

12-16-96

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register    see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register    see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register    see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register    see continuation sheet
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

1-13-97

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### 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: public/local

**Number of Resources within Property**  
Contributing      Noncontributing

Category of Property: building

<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> building(s)
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Alberton, Montana

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### 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions:

Current Functions:

Transportation: Rail-related

Social: Meeting hall

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Materials:

Other: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:  
Craftsman

foundation: concrete  
walls: wood  
roof: asphalt shingle  
other: n/a

### Narrative Description

This single-story railroad depot has a rectangular plan with three entry bays to the north, the central bay being gabled. There is also a projecting bay on the south wall beneath the eave extension. The frame construction is finished in clapboard with board and batten in the gable ends, and vertical and horizontal board trim. There is vertical beaded tongue and groove in the lower one-third wall panel. Doors are half-light panelled doors with three-light transoms. A freight door is in the east-south wall and east gable end with a four-light transom. The foundation is of concrete. The gable roof is covered with black asphalt shingles and features decorative knee braces beneath the eaves and three interior brick chimneys. The building is painted light grey with dark grey trim and has bright red-orange on the lower wall panels.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Transportation, Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1908 - 1946

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1908

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### Historic Significance

The Milwaukee Railroad Depot is an outstanding historic building for its associations with rail transportation history in Alberton, Montana. It is the only, and historically most important, building remaining in the community that was associated with the founding of the community as a rail freight division point. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Milwaukee Railroad Depot was constructed in Alberton in 1908, and quickly became an anchor in the town's commercial district. During the early years, passenger trains stopped at the Alberton Depot for thirty minutes each day. Travellers would rest and eat at "The Beanery" located in the depot, or walk north across Railroad Avenue (Main Street or Highway 10) to the saloons, restaurants and other Alberton businesses.

Today, the depot is one of the few buildings related to the days when the Milwaukee Road had established a division point in Alberton for the repair and maintenance of their engines. The roundhouse and shops were taken out of this freight division point when the Milwaukee converted to electric power.

#### Architectural Significance

The depot gains National Register significance according to Criterion C, for its architectural values, exemplifying both the patterned, standardized plans used by the Milwaukee Road for depot construction, and influences of Craftsman style. Today, it is one of a limited number of such depots remaining in the state of Montana that retain complete integrity of workmanship, materials and design as well as integrity of location, for many historic depots were purchased by individuals and removed from the railroad right-of-way following the Milwaukee rail line abandonment in the late 1970s.

The Milwaukee Railroad was constructed during the height of popularity of Craftsman style architecture, and hence many of its depots reflect those sensibilities in their detailing. The Alberton depot retains many characteristic Craftsman elements, including the broad gable roof, projecting eaves, multiple stick brackets, 2-over-2 hung windows, and narrow-gauge clapboard cladding in combination with other textures, in this case vertical board and board-and-batten panelling.

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Browman, Audra "Alberton, Montana". Looseleaf notebook, n.d., p. 15.

See *Historic Resources of Alberton, Montana* MPD.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository:

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property:** less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	691950	5208350

**Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):** Located in the SW ¼, SE ¼, NW ¼ of Section 2, T14N, R23W.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The depot sits on unplatted land, so the following boundary has been developed to include the open space in front of the building and the area between the building and the railroad bed. The northern boundary follows the right-of-way of Railroad Ave. and the southern boundary goes along the rail bed (tracks now removed). The eastern and western boundaries are drawn thirty feet from the side walls of the building.

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**Boundary Justification**

These boundaries encompass the depot in historic setting including the open space to access the front of the building, and the space between the building and the railroad bed.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title: James R. McDonald Architects, P.C. revised by: Mike Koop, SHPO staff  
street & number: P.O. Box 8163 telephone: date: 1986 updated 1996  
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59801

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**Property Owner**

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name/title: Town of Alberton  
street & number: telephone:  
city or town: Alberton state: MT zip code: 59820