

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-26

Owner Fordyce and Princeton Railway Company
S. R. Tedder, President

Property Name Rock Island Railway Depot
3rd St.

Address Box 757

Location Fordyce

Crossett, AR 71635

Significant Date/s c. 1925

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Rock Island Depot, built circa 1925, is located in the city of Fordyce. The depot is a rectangular brick structure covered by a gable roof of red tiles. Centered in this roof is a large brick chimney. A cross gable roof, existing south of center, extends beyond the east facade forming a projection. This projection has a three sided bay with one-over-one windows covered by a half-hexagonal metal roof. Each of the depot's four gable ends has a parapet wall with coping of fabricated stone. Accentuating the horizontal lines, a stuccoed base capped by a stuccoed belt course encircles the building. All windows and entries have arched openings with key and corner blocks of fabricated stones. Two large windows of three-over-three lights exist on the south of the east facade and on the south gable end. Paired with these windows are two passenger entries which consist of a single door under a one light transom. Smaller windows of two-over-two lights exist on the west facade. The depot also has four large loading entries encircling the north end. These entries are composed of a large wooden door under a transom of eight vertical lights divided by a large central muntin.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Island Railway Depot, was constructed around 1925. The construction of this brick depot in Fordyce reinforced the town's importance, as it became a center for rail connection and transportation in southern Arkansas. This company has through consolidation grown to be one of the major lines running through Dallas County. It acquired the Little Rock and Southern Railway Company in 1902 and the Malvern and Camden Railway Company in 1911. These two acquired companies were instrumental in the establishment of the communities of Carthage, Willow and Manning, all in Dallas County. The Rock Island Railway Company spurred the development of the second community of Sparkman in 1915. The Fordyce and Princeton Railway Company, another important line in the county, currently uses the line and depot to transport lumber products. The Rock Island Railway Depot is one of only two brick depots remaining from an era which breathed new life into economically depressed Dallas County.

Acreage: less than 1

Quadrangle Name: Fordyce

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 554600/3741440

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located within block 16, original city of Fordyce, is bounded on the north, south, east, and west, by lines running parallel to and 50' from each of the four major facades of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/14/83
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 3

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Dallas County Multiple Resource Area
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Princeton Methodist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bob Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

22. Rock Island Railway Depot

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

23. Russell, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

24. Sardis Methodist Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

25. Smith, Jessie B., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

26. Thomas Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melvin Byers 3/27/84

Attest

27. Tulip Cemetery

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bob Grosvenor 10/28/83

Attest

28. Wynne House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/28/83

Attest

29. Charlotte Street Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melvin Byers 9/14/87

Attest

30.

Keeper

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rock Island Railway Depot (Dallas County
MRA)
Dallas County
ARKANSAS

Working No. SEP 14 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 10/13/83 - 10/29/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10/28/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



DA-26
Rock Island Depot
Sarah Brown, photographer
June 18, 1982
Negative on file at the AHPP
View from the Southeast

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000025