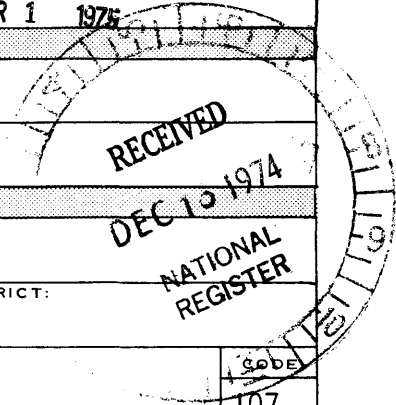


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
 COUNTY: McMinn
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: APR 1 1974



1. NAME

COMMON: Niota Depot
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Mouse Creek Depot

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Niota CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3rd
 STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: McMinn CODE: 107

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____ No use at this time

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Niota
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Niota STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: McMinn County Register's Office
 STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse
 CITY OR TOWN: Athens STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee
 COUNTY: McMinn
 ENTRY NUMBER: APR 1 1974
 DATE:
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

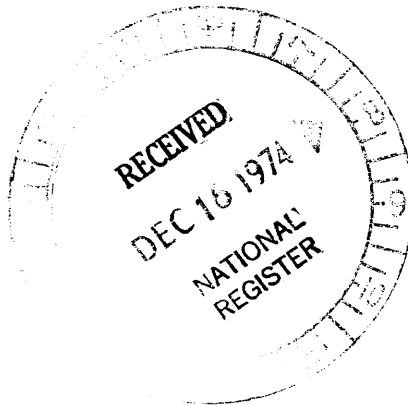
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Niota, or Mouse Creek Depot, located along the tracks of the Southern Railroad Company in Niota, is a rectangular brick building 112 feet by 42 feet with a cantilevered 8 feet overhang on all sides. The hipped roof, which was originally covered with wooden shingles, was covered with orange tiles around 1900. This roof is still on the building today.

The west, or front elevation, has a door and three windows, each having four large panes. The east elevation has only one opening, a large double door of batten construction for loading purposes. The north and south elevations are similar, each having a door with transom, two windows similar to those on the front, and three of the large double batten doors for loading. The interior of the building has a small office area, waiting room, and warehouse space.

The depot was built in 1854, and was in continuous use until July 4, 1972. During the Civil War, some bricks were removed from the walls to form gun ports to allow the depot to be used as a fort, if the need arose. Fortunately, only skirmishes occurred along the railroad tracks in Mouse Creek and the Depot was not damaged. Other than the roof, and the removal of the loading docks, the building remains unchanged since its original construction. Following its closing, the interior furnishings have been removed, and the building is showing deterioration.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1854

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On November 21, 1835, a bill was introduced in the state legislature providing for a general system of internal improvements in the State of Tennessee, and included in this report was a letter from General Edmund Pendleton Gaines in which he stated that the area around Athens in McMinn County would be well suited for a railroad extending to the point in Georgia where the Atlantic and Mississippi Railroad was to cross the Coosa River.

On February 19, 1836, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee passed an act to incorporate the Hiwassee Railroad Company, which was to build a line from Knoxville to a point on the southern boundary of the state to intersect with the railroad from Augusta to Memphis. This was the first railroad project in Tennessee upon which actual construction work was done.

Following survey work and land acquisition, grading began in late 1837. After about 65 miles of grading the work was discontinued due to financial difficulties, and the company went into bankruptcy in 1842. Work was then continued by the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad and the railroad reached Mouse Creek, now Niota, in February, 1852. Work began on the depot in 1854 and was opened in April, 1855. It is believed to be the oldest standing depot in Tennessee.

In mid-June, 1855, 18 years after the contract was let for the first construction work on the original Hiwassee Railroad, the first train ever to reach Knoxville arrived there over the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad. In 1869, the line became known as the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad, and in 1894 it was acquired by the Southern Railroad Company which operated it until the depot was closed in July, 1972. The railroad recently deeded the property to the City of Niota, upon the request of interested citizens in the area who are interested in the preservation of the depot. A commission has been formed to explore the possibilities of developing the building into a museum to interpret the railroad history of the area. Some city offices may also be located in the building.

The Niota Depot is very significant not only because it is probably the oldest standing railroad depot in Tennessee, but also because of its part in the development of the area by the railroad, the first to be begun in the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. James Burn (County Historian).
 "The Story of Niota, Tennessee," Athens Press 1961.
 Athens Daily Post-Athenian, June 10, 1969; July 14, 1972.
 McMinn News-Herald, March 5, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

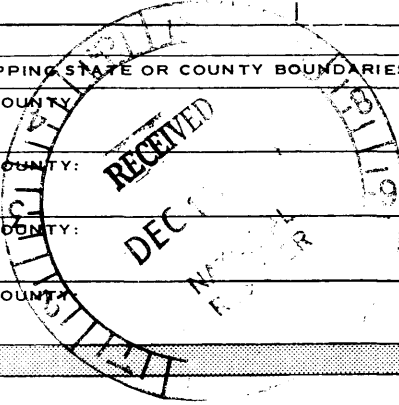
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35 ° 30 ' 53 "	84 ° 32 ' 46 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

14/722540
 3932710
 (1)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Herbert L. Harper, Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE: 5-27-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
 170 2nd Avenue North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

CODE: 47

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Lawrence [Signature]

Title: Executive Director
 Tennessee Historical

Date: 12/12/74

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/4/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 1 1975