

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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4

**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

HISTORIC

Wyoming Railroad Station

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Railroad Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wyoming

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

CODE

10

COUNTY

Kent

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Wyoming

STREET & NUMBER

Town Hall

CITY, TOWN

Wyoming

VICINITY OF

STATE

Delaware

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

The Green

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

Delaware

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Delaware Cultural Resource Survey K-1688

DATE

1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Old State House, The Green, P.O. Box 1401

CITY, TOWN

Dover,

STATE
Delaware 19901

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wyoming Railroad Station is a one-sided type, single level, brick passenger depot constructed in 1872 by the Delaware Railroad Company in the central Kent County town of Wyoming. It replaced an earlier frame depot plotted in Beer's Atlas of Delaware, Wyoming map (1868), and is located at the center of town, next to the railway between Broad Street and Camden Wyoming Road on East Railroad Avenue.

Best described as "truncated" Italianate, the low mass of the 1-story brick building is offset by a regular placement of arch-headed doorways and windows defining three principal chambers aligned within its rectangular plan. The coursing of the exterior brickwork varies, with 6, 7 and 8-course common bond segments present on each wall. The most distinctive architectural feature is the flush row of vertical stretcher bricks defining the heads of the doorways and windows. The present low-hipped composition shingled roof with shallow bracketless eaves, a replacement of unknown vintage, is very similar to the original standing seam sheet metal-clad hipped roof with deep eaves apparent in a late-nineteenth-century photograph of the station. The central bay of the building, defined on the facade by a projecting bow-front window, housed the ticket office, telegraph station and business office. The other two chambers which flank the office were used as waiting rooms (perhaps, at first, segregated by gender), each with an arch-headed double door on both facade and rear elevations as a means of access.

Several surviving original exterior doors feature four slightly raised, square-shouldered panels with heavy, applied Grecian ogee moulding surmounted by two arcuated panels. The windows are of tall, two-over-two pane sash, the upper panes conforming to the slight arc of the brickwork above. At present, the station houses a laundromat. Recently, there have been proposals to rehabilitate the building for eventual use as a town office.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wyoming Railroad Station is a significant architectural symbol of the central role of the Delaware Railroad in the post-Civil War economic development of Delaware as a means of rapid and efficient transfer of passengers, goods, and produce throughout the Delmarva Peninsula.

The Delaware Railroad, connecting the agricultural hinterlands of Delaware and portions of the Eastern Shore of Maryland to northern markets by way of Wilmington and Philadelphia, represented a regional culmination of the railroad-building mania sweeping America in the mid-nineteenth century. Envisioned as a link between existing northern and southern railways, the Delaware Railroad operated the length of the state by 1859, and by 1866 was extended to the town of Crisfield, Maryland, on the Chesapeake Bay.

Prior to the construction of the railroad, the area later named Wyoming consisted of a few frame dwellings occupied by the owner of a grist mill on nearby Isaac's Branch, and was unknown variously as "West Camden" and "Camden Station" from its inception in 1856 until 1865, when its name was officially changed by the town's inhabitants to honor a highly respected minister recently arrived from Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, who purchased much of the town's land and laid it out in town lots.

The economic and commercial optimism generated by the railroad brought into being a new community in Wyoming. Other towns springing up along the route of the railroad at this time were often named for Delaware Railroad officials, as in the case of Harrington and Felton.

Manlove Hayes, a director of the Delaware Railroad Company, accurately appraised the social and economic benefits arising from the railway in his History of the Delaware Railroad (1888):

"Well cultivated farms had succeeded to the dense forests and jungles that stretched for miles together on the borders of the railway when it was first opened. New villages had grown up at Clayton, Wyoming, Felton, Harrington, Farmington and the other principal stations. Tasteful residences, public schools, academies and churches in the larger towns presented inducements to people seeking new homes and brought many settlers to the neighborhood. The substantial and effective appearance of the new brick Passenger Depots and grounds, ornamented with plants and flowers, which were to be seen at many of the stations, showed the travelers that the managers of the railroad were performing a commendable part in their educating, cultivating, and refining the tastes of a people."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/4 acre

UTM NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,5,17,0,0	4,3,2,9,8,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes only the building itself.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dean E. Nelson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

May 22, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Old State House, The Green, P.O. Box 1401

TELEPHONE

736-5685

CITY OR TOWN

Dover,

STATE

Delaware 19901

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 National Park Service

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

10/10/80

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST

DATE 12/9/80

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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

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date entered DEC 4

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The country passenger depots built by the Delaware Railroad Company throughout the state during the second half of the nineteenth century came from plan books, whose basic tenants were later codified by railroad architect Walter Gilman Berg in his treatise Buildings and Structures of American Railroads (1893). Discussing the particulars of smaller facilities, he wrote:

"Where standard designs or 'class depots' are adopted, stress should be laid on having the designs modified in minor details, so as to avoid a monotonous sameness of similar structures along the road. This can be easily accomplished by making modifications in the details of the exterior finish, gables, dormer windows, ridge cresting, finials, roof brackets, chimneys, etc., without in reality changing the ground plan or the frame or walls of the buildings."

The Wyoming Railroad Station, considered as an element in a unified network of Delaware Railroad stations surviving from the second half of the nineteenth century, is a good example of the architectural precepts governing much of the railroad depot construction of the time. Its architectural and historical qualities are paralleled in the stations of Middletown and Seaford, both listed in the National Register for their association with Delaware railroading. In addition, nominations are currently being developed for the Milford Railroad Station and Felton Railroad Station to document their respective and collective significances in Delaware's heritage.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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WYOMING RAILROAD STATION

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Beers, D. G. Atlas of the State of Delaware. Philadelphia, Pomeroy & Beers, 1868.

Berg, Walter Gilman. Buildings and Structures of American Railroads; A Reference Book For Railroad Managers, Superintendants, Master Mechanics, Engineers, Architects, and Students. New York: J. Wiley and Sons, 1893.

Grant, H. Roger and Charles W. Bohi. The Country Railroad Station in America. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Company, 1978.

Meeks, Carroll Louis Vanderslice. The Railroad Station: An Architectural History. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1956.

Mitchell, Jon Clayton. "Railroad Building in Delaware," unpublished, M. A. Thesis, University of Delaware, 1948.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware: 1609-1888. Reprint ed., Port Washington, New York: Kenibat Press, 1972.

Delaware Railroad Company, Annual Reports 1852-1901, at the Hugh Morris Library, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.