

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received **NOV 25 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Zachary Railroad Depot

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 4434 West Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Zachary N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish East Baton Rouge code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert Preston Kennedy 504-654-2821

street & number P. O. Box 3

city, town Zachary N/A vicinity of state LA 70791

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

street & number 222 St. Louis Street P. O. Box 1991

city, town Baton Rouge state LA 70821

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Although originally built in 1885, the Zachary Railroad Depot's present appearance dates from "improvements" made in 1918 and 1926. The one-story rectangular frame structure is located in the small town of Zachary in northern East Baton Rouge Parish. It is adjacent to the town's old residential section. (There is very little left of the historic central business district.) The depot has been altered very little since it was remodeled and easily conveys the full measure of its significance as the primary resource associated with the founding and development of Zachary.

Railroad company records reveal that the Zachary depot was constructed in 1885 for \$3,986. Its original appearance is documented in a surviving photo dated March 28, 1894 which shows a modest board and batten structure. Railroad archives show "improvements" made to the building in 1918 and again in 1926. Records do not indicate what was done when and it is impossible to tell from the architectural evidence. Suffice it to say, however, that the remodeling consisted of almost doubling the length of the depot (at the rear), adding a bay window on the side, and replacing the exterior board and batten siding with the present clapboarding and beaded boards. The walls and ceilings on the interior (except for the freight room) are completely covered in one inch beaded boards. This treatment apparently dates from the remodeling because it is the same throughout and echoes the beaded board bands on the exterior.

The simplicity of the depot's exterior is relieved by the bay window and the alternating vertical beaded boarding and horizontal clapboarding. The only noteworthy features on the interior (two waiting rooms, an agent's room and a freight room) are the safe and one of the two ticket windows. The interior also retains its wooden plank flooring.

Since it was remodeled, the depot has received very few alterations. According to railroad records, the present loading dock dates from 1940. The present owner, in restoring the depot, replaced the roofing material and cut an opening between one of the waiting rooms and the agent's room. Finally, at some point, one of the two ticket windows was taken out.

Assessment of Integrity:

The changes noted in the last paragraph are very minor and do not seriously detract from the depot's historic appearance. The early-twentieth century remodeling does not threaten the depot's historic integrity because the railroad's impact upon the town was not static. It not only founded Zachary but remained the focal point of the town's development until the late-1940's. The town retains several superior late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century residences, but none of them graphically illustrate the presence of the railroad the way the depot does. Regardless of whether its present appearance dates from 1885, 1918 or 1926, it is still the primary resource representing the crucial importance of the railroad in Zachary's history.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates built 1885, remodeled 1885 Builder: Louisville, New Orleans and Texas Railroad
 1918 and 1926 **Builder/Architect** 1918 & 1926 Improvements: Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion A

The Zachary Railroad Depot is locally significant in the area of exploration/settlement because it is the primary resource associated with the founding and development of the town of Zachary. The railroad created the town and remained the focal point of its development until the late-1940's,

In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, the major means of transportation in the nation was by train. Besides being the link between an individual town and the outside world, the railroad was integral to the very economic existence of a community. Hence the train depot was one of the most important buildings in any town through which the railroad passed. Architecturally, the stations ranged from grand neo-classical and Beaux Arts piles in the major cities to modest board and batten structures in smaller towns, many of which, like Zachary, were literally created by the coming of the railroad.

The age of the railroad dawned in Zachary in 1883-84 when the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas Railroad laid 456 miles of track between Memphis and New Orleans. On October 6, 1884, the first passenger train schedule between the two cities was put into effect. Although northern East Baton Rouge Parish had been fairly well settled as far back as the early-nineteenth century, what would become the town of Zachary was farmland until the railroad arrived. In fact, the town was named for Darel Zachary, who owned the farm through which the railroad passed. Zachary sold the LNO&T a strip of land fifty feet wide by 650 feet long for the sum of one dollar. When the station was completed, it was named for him.

Soon after the railroad's arrival, businesses and residences began to be built around the tracks, and on August 2, 1889, Zachary was incorporated as a town. Because of the railroad, Zachary emerged as a shipping and receiving point for area farmers. The attendant growth and prosperity is reflected in population increases (from 419 in 1914 to 626 in 1930), in the wide variety of business establishments found in early-twentieth century newspaper advertisements, and in the extant old residential section. The railroad remained the life-sustaining force during this period; its continuing importance is evident from the fact that the depot was almost doubled in size in either 1918 or 1926.

From its arrival in 1883-84 until the late-1940's, the railroad was the focal point of Zachary's development. The town literally grew up around the depot. An 1894 ordinance uses the railroad as the point of reference for officially establishing the town's limits. The old central business district was confined roughly to a three block area around the railroad. In fact, in 1925 the city council restricted all business activity to this one section of town. The boundary description in the

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 1/8 acre

Quadrangle name Zachary, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	7	6	6	2	0	3	3	9	1	8	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to attached sketch map,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff ASSISTED BY OWNER
Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana date October 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert B. DeBlieux
title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 18, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Chief of Registration date 12/28/83
Keeper of the National Register

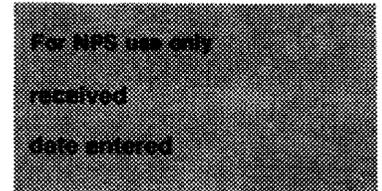
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Zachary Railroad Depot

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8. Significance (cont'd)

ordinance began: "This shall comprise all that part of town, beginning at a point on the Y.M.V. Railroad, three hundred feet south of Main Street crossing, . . ."
The railroad remained Zachary's focal point until Highway 19 was constructed in 1947 and development began to shift in that direction.

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9. Bibliography

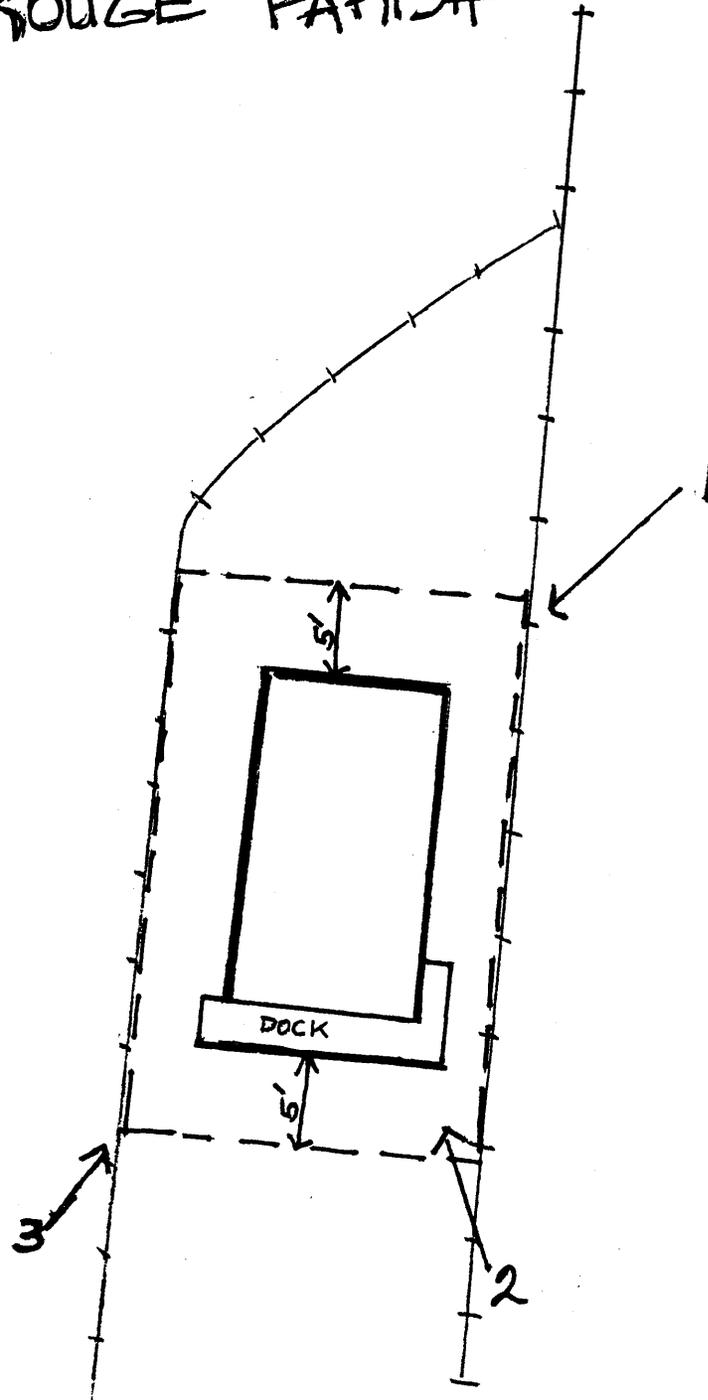
Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Records

March 28, 1894 Photograph of Zachary Depot

Zachary Faces and Places: A History of the City of Zachary, Louisiana.
Zachary Bicentennial Committee. Baton Rouge: Land and Land Printers,
1975. (This volume is very useful because it contains old photographs,
old newspaper advertisements, and city council minutes and ordinances.)

Zachary Vertical File, Louisiana State Library.

ZACHARY RAILROAD DEPOT EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH



BOUNDARY LINE - - - -

EASTERN AND WESTERN BOUNDARIES FOLLOW RAILROAD LINE. THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY IS PARALLEL TO THE REAR OF THE DOCK, AT A DISTANCE OF 5', AS SHOWN. THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY IS PARALLEL TO THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, AT A DISTANCE OF 5', AS SHOWN.

NOT TO SCALE



NOT TO SCALE