

PH 366561

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 12 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1977

**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

Currie ~~Manually Operated~~ Railroad Turntable

AND/OR COMMON

Currie Manually Operated Railroad Turntable

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

County Road #38

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Currie

\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Murray

CODE

101

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Murray County Park System

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Seventh Streets - Murray County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Slayton

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Murray County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Slayton

STATE

Minnesota

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1974

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society, Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The manually operated turntable was built in 1901 at the western end of the Chicago and Northwestern Branch Line that ran from Bingham Lake to Currie, Minnesota.

The turntable is constructed of stone, wood and steel. A pit, varying in depth from 4 feet at the outside edge to 7 feet at the center, is lined with Mankato limestone. These stones are carefully fitted and piled, requiring no cement to hold them in place. A massive undercarriage supports the moveable turntable and measures 70 feet in length by 6 feet 2 inches in width. This undercarriage of steel supports the 7½ inch square by 16 feet oak timbers on which the rail is laid. Plank walkways flank the rails and are enclosed by 4 by 6 inch railing to prevent falls into the pit. Eleven foot pine poles extend from each end of the turntable and are pushed by walkers to move the table. The entire turntable is balanced exactly on a "sow in a saddle" and moves with ease so quietly that a rider is unaware at first that he is moving. An engine placed on the turntable can be turned clockwise or counter-clockwise to align with the track leading either to the roundhouse or back to the main line.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT American Bridge Company  
Chicago, Illinois

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Currie is located in the north east quarter of Murray County. In 1901 the Chicago and North Western Railroad came to Currie on a branch line that ran from Bingham Lake where a junction was made with a larger segment of the railroad line. Since Currie was the terminus of this branch line the American Bridge Company of Chicago, Illinois built a hand-operated turntable that was used to turn the locomotives around for the return trip to Bingham Lake. In 1922 the turntable was expanded to accommodate the larger steam engines.

When passenger trains were replaced by automobiles, railroad service in Currie became erratic and the turntable was rarely used. In 1973, the now deteriorated turntable was offered for sale and the community through the efforts of the 4-H Club purchased the turntable for \$1.00.

Today the triangle of land has been incorporated into the Murray County Park System. The turntable has been restored and is in working order. A railroad depot and water tower have been moved into the area. Further public improvements are planned to improve the recreational park area.

07/01/01

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"End of line is just beginning," St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press, 30 March 1975.  
Prospectus End-O-Line Railroad Park, Currie, Minnesota, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.8 acres (see plan 1 (see 4/2/77))

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	2,8,6	4,8,0	4,8,3	5,6,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Darryl Siegel, Southwest Regional Development Commission, assisted by Mrs. High Gervais, and Mrs. Ray Ruppert

ORGANIZATION

DATE

10/13/76

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2711 Broadway Avenue

507-836-8549

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Stayton

Minnesota

# 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

*Russell W. Fridley*

TITLE Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. M. ...*

DATE

12/13/77

ATTEST:

*Charles ...*

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2-2-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Currie Manually Operated Railroad Turntable

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NOTE: The acreage of nominated property should be changed from 2.8 acres to less than 1

The acreage of the End-O-Line Railroad Park is 2.8 acres. The railroad turntable is located on the western edge of this park. The depot and the water tower were not intended to be part of the nomination. Therefore only the turntable is to be part of the nomination and is located on less than 1 acre of property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Note: These changes apply to  
Currie Railroad Turntable in  
Murray County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000758

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Murray

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Chicago Saint Paul Minneapolis and  
Omaha Turntable

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy.38

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

*Nina M. Archabal*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAR 21 1989

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Currie Railroad Turntable

Murray County, MN

Name Change Approval  
to Chicago Saint Paul Minneapolis  
and Omaha Turntable

Keeper

Bill Boland 6/30/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Note: This change applies to the Currie Railroad Turntable in Murray County, Minnesota

Reference Number: 77000758

State: Minnesota

County: Murray

Resource Name (Historic): Chicago Saint Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Turntable

Comments: The Chicago Saint Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Railway Company ran a branch line to Curry in 1901. The turntable was constructed at that time, and historically, the name should reflect that ownership. In 1904 this line was acquired by the Chicago and North Western Railway Company.

(Prosser, Richard S. RAILS TO THE NORTH STAR. Minneapolis: Dillion Press, 1966.)

Nina M. Archabal  
Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

6/1/89  
Date