

PH0355569

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 RECEIVED **MAR 2 1977**  
 DATE ENTERED **NOV 23 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

**\*\*** Great Northern Railroad Depot

AND/OR COMMON

Princeton Depot

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

First Street and <sup>MIN</sup> Highway 95 West

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Princeton

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

Mille Lacs

CODE

095

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

Library  
Youth Center

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Princeton

STREET & NUMBER

206 South 5th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Princeton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mille Lacs County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milaca

STATE

Minnesota

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in 1902 at a cost of \$20,000, the former Great Northern Railway Depot is located at the southwest corner of First Street and Tenth Avenue in Princeton, Minnesota. The depot is constructed of a creme-colored brick with trimmings (lintels, sills, copings, parapets, and finials) of rusticated and carved sandstone. The structure is one storey in height with the exception of a second storey storage room above the transverse gable of the depot proper. It measures approximately thirty-two by two hundred feet in plan.

The design, a combination of the Queen Anne and the Jacobean, is attributed to J.C. Patterson, resident engineer of the Great Northern Railway. Construction was under the direction of contractors Libby and Nelson of Minneapolis. Materials were, for the most part, obtained locally.

In plan, the building is comprised of two parts: the depot proper and the baggage/freight section. Within the depot are two large spaces measuring twenty-five by thirty feet and thirty feet square formerly used as womens' and mens' waiting rooms. These two rooms are separated by a passageway to either side of which (within the transverse gabled section) are toilets and the depot office. Beyond the mens' waiting room one enters the freight section. This is comprised of three spaces: a baggage room (18'0" by 30'0"), an express room (18'0" by 30'0"), and the freight house (30'0" by 80'0").

The interior finish of the depot is of red oak with floors of hard maple. The interior of the freight section is unfinished. A stone platform runs the total length of the structure on the track side. The former timber platform at the end of the freight house has been removed.

When the depot ceased its function to the Great Northern Railway, it was acquired by the City of Princeton. It is presently undergoing restoration/preservation in an effort to adapt it to a multiple use as a city library, county historical society, and youth center. The building is in a good state of repair and maintenance.

# 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 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 1902-03

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.C. Patterson  
Builder: Nelson, Minneapolis

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1902, the Princeton Great Northern Railroad Depot was for 70 years the focus of commercial transportation in the Princeton area.

The village of Princeton was incorporated as a village in 1877. At that time it was a small lumbering and logging town located on the edge of the northern forests, yet isolated from the neighboring communities of St. Cloud and Elk River. In 1886 the railroad had built north to connect Princeton with Elk River and a frame depot was constructed to handle rail traffic. By 1902 the focus of Princeton commerce had changed from timber to agriculture and light industry, and the depot once used as a way station for northern bound laborers was found to be inadequate for transporting newer commercial products. In September of 1902 the Great Northern Railroad then under the direction of James J. Hill began construction of a new depot. This depot had its formal grand opening on January 30, 1903.

The commodities shipped from the depot were bricks, potatoes, livestock and dairy products. The manufacture of bricks was for many years Princeton's leading industry. Four brick yards produced twenty million bricks annually and required on the average forty-seven train loads of forty cars each to ship the brick to customers. This volume continued until 1927-28. During the early 1900s potato production resulted in an average seasonal shipment of up to two thousand cars or a million and a half bushels of potatoes to southern markets. By the late 1940s thirty-seven potato warehouses had been constructed along the railroad tracks to hold the regionally produced potatoes and those shipped in from the Red River Valley for processing in local plants. During this same period the railroad shipped on the average of 75,000 pounds of butter and cheese and 60,000 pounds of poultry, grain products and \$150,000 of livestock. This diversified agriculture expanded and agricultural shipments continued through the 1940s.

Although the large scale parcels shipped by rail diminished in the 1950s rail service continued until 1972-73. Through the efforts of city officials the depot was purchased from Burlington Northern in 1972. Initially it was used as the city hall but today it has been adaptively used to house the Mille Lacs County Historical Society, the Princeton Youth Center and the Princeton Library.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The New Depot A Go," The Princeton Union, 11 September 1902, p.1.

"New \$20,000 Station Erected at Princeton This Year by the Great Northern Railway," The Princeton Union, 18 December 1902, p.1.

"Princeton's New \$20,000 Station," The Princeton Union, 2 October 1902, p. 1.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4,5,4	1,30	1,1,0	5,0	4,6	1,30	1,1,0	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

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society

DATE

10 January 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

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

2-7-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Robert B. Rethig*

DATE

11/23/77

ATTEST

*Charles A. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-17-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman  
1/19/89

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  
Great Northern Railroad Depot in  
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 77000757

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Mille Lacs

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):** Great Northern Depot

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:**

**ADDRESS:** 1st St. and Mn. Hwy. 95

**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**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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REFERENCE NUMBER: 77000757

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Mille Lacs

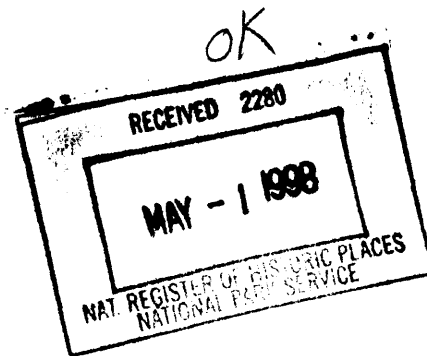
RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Great Northern Depot

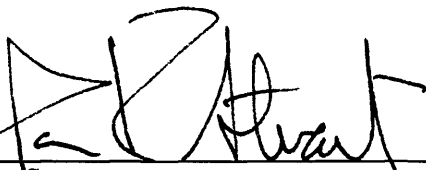
CITY/TOWNSHIP: Princeton

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS: 101 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.

COMMENTS: Address Correction



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian R. Stewart  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

4/28/98  
Date