

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 24 1984

date entered OCT 25 1984

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

1. Name

historic Kansas City Southern Depot, Leesville

and or common same

2. Location

street & number ~~corner of~~ Louisiana Avenue and ^{3rd} ~~Third Street~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Leesville N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Vernon Parish code 115

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Vernon Parish Police Jury

street & number P. O. Box 1548

city, town Leesville N/A vicinity of state LA 71446

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Vernon Parish Courthouse

street & number 201 South 3rd Street

city, town Leesville state LA 71446

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

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	(deterioration on interior)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kansas City Southern Railroad Depot in Leesville (1916) is a brick and stucco, one story, Mission Revival building located on the southern fringe of the town's historic central business district. Although the depot has suffered some deterioration on the interior, there have been no noticeable alterations to the building; hence it still conveys its historical appearance and associations.

The railroad terminal consists of a passenger depot and an attached freight depot. Only the passenger depot is styled. The freight depot is an innocuous stucco over frame structure with a parapet and a more or less flat roof. The passenger depot is more substantial with stucco over masonry construction. It has a three room linear plan with a large open porch at one end. The central office which is "sandwiched" between two waiting rooms projects forward from the building under a hip-gable pavilion. The exterior is articulated with brackets, overhanging eaves, and sets of sash windows resting upon a brick dado. Corners are accented with decorative piers which protrude above the roofline and terminate in shaped tops. The glazed tile roof has a relatively low pitch and terminates in hip gables. Interiors are sparingly treated with vaguely classical fenestration surrounds and brick dados.

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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1916 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Kansas City Southern Railway

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Leesville Railroad Depot is locally significant in the area of industry because it symbolizes the force that made possible the great Vernon Parish lumber boom of the early twentieth century (c.1900-c.1930). Lumbering was the industry in the parish during this period and its history and that of the railroad are inextricably linked.

Although one usually associates Vernon Parish's lumbering history with the early twentieth century boom period, its beginnings go back as early as the 1880's when logs were floated down the Sabine River to a mill at Orange, Texas. The fledgling lumber industry received the necessary "shot-in-the-arm" in 1897 when the Kansas City Southern Railway arrived in the parish and ushered in a new era of expansion and prosperity by providing a much needed transportation system. Mills were soon located up and down its north-south tracks. There were at least five large mills with daily cutting capacities of 100,000 or more board feet as well as numerous smaller mills.

The lumber boom changed the face of Vernon Parish. Mill towns such as Rosepine and Pickering dotted the landscape, and Leesville, the parish seat, grew and prospered as the commercial center for the lumber industry, in addition to having a huge mill itself. The small town's population almost doubled between 1904 and 1928. Successive Sanborn Insurance Company maps for the period graphically illustrate this growth as more and more homes and businesses were being built and the town's limits were expanding.

By about 1930 Vernon Parish's rich timber resources were depleted. At the beginning of the century it was a land of great virgin pine, but by the end of the lumber boom 70% of its 870,400 acres was cut-over land. The Leesville Railroad Depot stands as a direct visual link with the force that made possible this significant chapter in the parish's history. (There are no other railroad depots in the parish.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Leesville, 1904, 1909, 1915, 1922, 1928,
Wise, Erbon W. Tall Pines: The Story of Vernon Parish. Sulphur, LA: West Calcasieu Printers,
1971.
Kansas City Southern Railway Archives. Pertinent information communicated by letter. Copy

10. Geographical Data

in Register file. LA State Historic Preservation
Office.

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/6th of an acre

Quadrangle name Leesville, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	7	5	0	4	0	3	4	4	4	5	0	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 enclosed sketch map. Boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass only the significant resource--i.e., the depot.

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

Assisted by Vernon Parish Tourism &
Recreation Commission, Bill Bailey,
Director, POB 1228, Leesville, LA 71496

name/title National Register Staff
Division of Historic Preservation
organization State of Louisiana

318-238-0783.
date July 1984

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

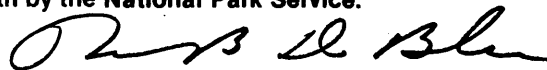
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



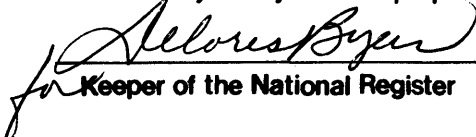
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 17, 1984

For NPS use only

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

for 
Keeper of the National Register

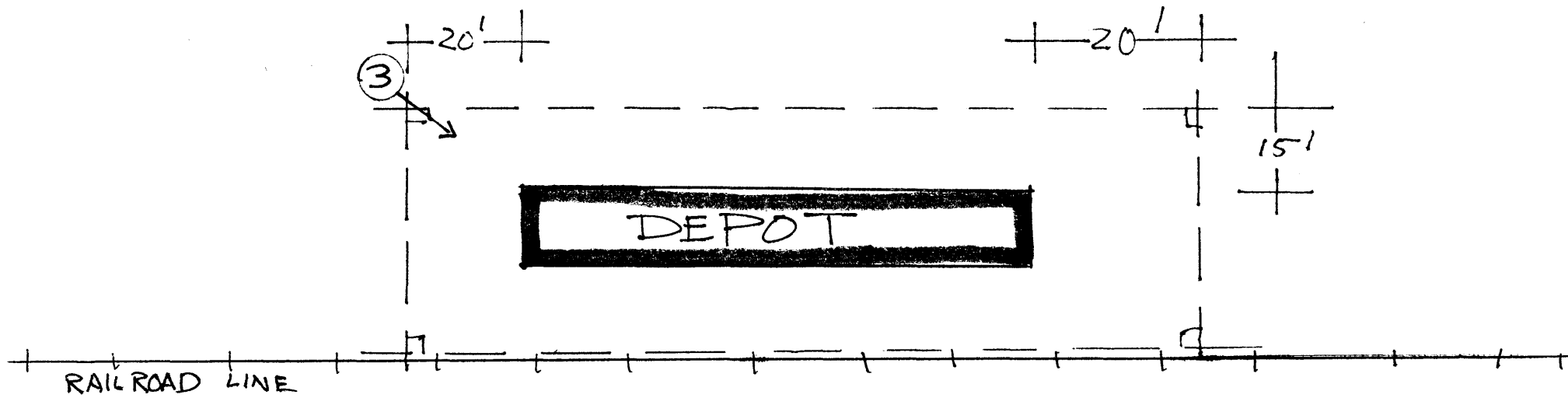
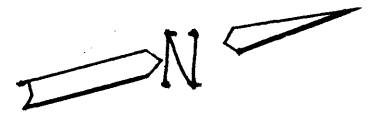
Entered in the
National Register

date 10/25/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN DEPOT
LEESVILLE

VERNON PARISH, LA

NOT TO SCALE

--- BOUNDARY