

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **AUG 17 1978**  
DATE ENTERED **DEC 28 1978**

**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

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company Depot  
AND/OR COMMON

Fayette Depot

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*NE of Fayette off 2nd St*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN *Fayette* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Westfield Township

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE IOWA CODE 14 COUNTY Fayette CODE 065

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" 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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wayne and Gladys Rife

STREET & NUMBER

406 South Second Street West

CITY, TOWN STATE

Mount Vernon

VICINITY OF

Iowa

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Town Square

CITY, TOWN STATE

West Union

Iowa

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

Fayette, Iowa Depot is a 20' x 60' one story frame depot constructed in 1874, and a 24' x 48' one story addition was constructed in 1913. The latter (or south end) has the traditional telegraph operator's bay window view up and down the tracks and is hip-roofed in contrast to the straight-roof of the north (freight) end. Although the building was moved, by the railroad's demand, from tract site, it is essentially unaltered, except for a new foundation. Besides the bay windows, there are twelve large (8') windows--three sectionals at the top, two large track side doors, and three wide freight house doors--one sliding and two pulley lift. The freight house floor is original wide plank. The waiting rooms, office and passageway have the original maple floors. All of these rooms have 14' ceilings, and are lined floor to ceiling with varnished yellow pine tongue and groove boards. There are two chimneys for the three wood burning stoves now in use. One chimney is plastered and exposed in the office. Another is partially exposed in the baggage room. An important feature of the design is the roof overhang, three feet wide, with attractive supporting wood braces. The depot is now located on the brow of a hill, in the area designated, the "State Volga Lake Recreation area." Woods to the north and west, and sloping pastures to the east and south, furnish effective landscaping.

The present owners have been careful to choose furnishings reflecting the basic period of the depot building and to retain and acquire all possible railroad memorabilia. Old Fayette County atlases and family scrapbooks are among the mementos. The original furnishings include brass light fixtures.

# 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

1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Fayette's depot is an attractive example of "railroad architecture." It is distinguished by extensive use of yellow pine (floor, ceiling, and walls of the waiting room) which has been varnished to retain the warm character of the wood. Of necessity, the building has been relocated, but with no loss to its integrity. The only "additions" have been a new foundation and exterior paint.

The Fayette depot served well into this century as a part of the transportation history of Iowa. The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad reached Fayette in 1874 (and occasioned the construction of the depot) and in the following years moved continually west. In 1882, Fayette became a station on the way to Dakota Territory, and the depot hosted many hopeful settlers en route to this western land. Although the railroad did not (as the inhabitants had hoped) help centrally-located Fayette to obtain the county seat (the honor going to nearby West Union), it provided the town with access to eastern markets and assured its permanence as a relatively prosperous, if not populous, community.

The present location of the depot is, in a sense, in keeping with its history. In June, 1849, Robert Alexander, a hatter and hotel owner from Indiana, homesteaded in Westfield Township near Fayette. By 1854 he had acquired 8K acres of land in the area. The Fayette depot was built on a parcel of Alexander's acres. Its present location is also on land once owned by Alexander.

The depot and surrounding 60 acres have been and are the subject of dispute between the owners and the state of Iowa. A State Conservation Commission project to dam the Volga River for recreational purposes would, if carried out, mean the destruction of the depot and the loss of pasture and virgin timberland. The owners of the depot have been fighting state acquisition of their land for several years. At the present time, the controversy generated by the project has resulted in a temporary halt in order to study the situation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company to Gladys Rife, 26 June, 1969.

The Palimpsest, Iowa State Historical Society, May, 1964.

A.T. Andreas, Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa (1874).  
History of Fayette County.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

*Correction 12.13.78: acreage less than one.*  
(Correction, 4 December 1976: acreage: 5

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60 acres

UTM: 15/590/940 4740/700

UTM REFERENCES

A 

15	600690	4740600
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B 

15	600690	4740500
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION *6200*

T93 N R8W:

E $\frac{1}{2}$  SW NW EX TR & E $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW NW EX TR; 3.3A IN NW PART E $\frac{1}{2}$  SW NW; 3A IN N $\frac{1}{2}$  OF E $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW NW; W $\frac{1}{2}$  SE NW; N OF RD W $\frac{1}{2}$  NE NW SW & N OF RD NW NW SW; N $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{4}$  SW NW.

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

Mrs. Gladys Rife

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June 11, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

406 South Second Street West

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Mount Vernon

Iowa

# 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

*Adrian D. Anderson*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 10, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

*[Signature]*

DATE

12-26-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED DEC 13 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 28 1978

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company Depot, Fayette County,  
Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Response to information request of 11/12/76:

- #8. The depot was used as such from its construction in 1874 until it was moved, under threat of demolition by the railroad, in 1965.
- #12. Depot was moved in 1965, from its original location along the railroad tracks in the southwest part of the town of Fayette. It is presently used as a museum, largely for railroad items, but also for items associated with local history.
- #10. (Acreage) The acreage should be amended to consist of 5 acres around the depot, which are necessary to protect its integrity from extensive development of the surrounding area for public recreational purposes which would also result in the demolition of the depot itself.

Because the depot has been moved from its original site, its present surroundings have little direct historical relationship to it, other than that the original and present sites were once owned by the same man, Robert Alexander (see #8 on the National Register nomination form). However, the depot, in its present location, is in potential danger of destruction by the Iowa State Conservation Commission, as part of a project which would dam the nearby Volga River for recreational purposes. This Volga Lake Project has been under consideration since 1970. The original project called for the creation of a single large lake, surrounded by public recreational facilities. As a first step, the Conservation Commission obtained an option to purchase the property owned by Gladys Rife, who consented only under threat of condemnation. The depot is located on this property, and should the property be acquired by the Conservation Commission, the depot will be immediately demolished. The purchase of the land has not been made, however, because the original Volga Lake Project was halted when it was found that the soil beneath the proposed lake will not hold water. An alternative proposal, for the creation of 3-5 "finger lakes" in the same area, has been under consideration by the state legislature, with no decision to date. However, the probability that the site on which the depot is located will be developed by some version of this public recreation project is extremely high, due to the influence upon state legislators which appears to be wielded by proponents of the development of the Volga River area.

UTM Reference: corrected, and on a basis of 5 acres included in the nomination:  
15/590/940 4740/700 (see map for location)