

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 3 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Midland Branch Railroad Depot, ~~Southern Pacific Railroad Depot~~

and/or common Eunice Railroad Depot

2. Location

street & number First and North Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Eunice N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county St. Landry Parish code 097

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	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	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 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number corner of Court and Landry Streets (no specific address) P. O. Box 750

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA 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 moveddate N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Midland Branch Railroad Depot (1894) is a single story frame structure located on the west side of the Missouri Pacific railroad line near the center of the town of Eunice. Despite extensive alterations, the depot is of such importance in the history of Eunice that it merits listing on the National Register.

As originally built, the depot consisted of a passenger terminal with a side tower and a three bay freight terminal with a platform. In the 1940's the passenger terminal was shortened, the tower was eliminated, and the freight depot was shortened to two bays. As a result, the present building is about 65% of its original size.

The depot retains the following historic features:

- (1) the basic configuration with the passenger terminal appended to the freight terminal;
- (2) the gablet roof which extends out beyond the walls on brackets;
- (3) the clapboard surfaces of the building;
- (4) the exposed (Stick Style) framing boards and the decoratively cut brackets which spring from them;
- (5) most of the original transoms, doors, and windows, though much of the glass has been broken;
- (6) the original sliding beaded board doors in the freight terminal; and
- (7) most of the original flooring and interior woodwork in the passenger terminal.

Since the 1940's the freight platform has collapsed through rot.

Assessment of Integrity:

Although the depot has lost a few of its distinguishing features, it still looks like a late nineteenth century railroad depot and could certainly not be mistaken for anything else. Because of this, the depot still conveys the presence of the Midland Branch Railroad and the associated role of the Duson brothers in founding the town. The fact that the depot is the primary resource associated with Eunice's founding makes it singularly important. However, the depot derives additional importance from the fact that there is very little else left in the downtown area to recall the early days of Eunice. (The town has been largely rebuilt since World War II.) Hence, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the depot is so important that even a major loss of integrity would not be sufficient to make it ineligible for the Register.

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 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 1894 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Midland Branch Railroad Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Midland Branch Railroad Depot is locally significant in the area of exploration/settlement because it is the primary resource associated with the founding of the town of Eunice.

In 1894, C. C. Duson and his brother W. W. Duson, founders of the town of Crowley, persuaded the Southern Pacific Railroad to construct a twenty-four mile branch line northward into the Prairie Faquetaigue area from the main line of the railroad at Midland. The Prairie Faquetaigue was a fertile area upon which cattle, rice, and cotton were raised. The construction of the branch line eliminated the need for area farmers and ranchers to transport their goods over rutted dirt roads to railroad depots at Oberlin and Opelousas where delivery could be made to markets.

Construction of the depot, which served as the northern terminus for the branch line, started on or about August 18, 1894, and was completed shortly after September 22, 1894. In an effort to secure the development of the new railhead as a town, attract new residents to the community, and sell town lots, the Duson brothers promoted a public auction of land. On September 12, 1894, bidders from New Orleans, Lafayette, and Crowley boarded a specially chartered train of the Southern Pacific Railroad for the excursion to Eunice. At Eunice the auction was conducted from atop a flat car positioned at the site of the almost completed depot. The Eunice speculative venture succeeded financially and ultimately the town grew to become the third largest town in the parishes of St. Landry and Acadia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nomination form prepared for City of Eunice by Greg LeGros, Hamilton and Associates, 461 Bertheaud Avenue, Opelousas, LA 70570. Based upon research in primary sources such as Eunice News archives, courthouse records, etc.

Copy of original broadside advertising September 12, 1894 public auction to be held at depot.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/8 acre

Quadrangle name Eunice, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	5	5	6	1	5	0	3	3	7	3	4	5	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

See sketch map.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	National Register Staff	Assisted by owner (Item 4) and Matt Vernon, Eunice News, POB 989
organization	State of Louisiana	Eunice, LA 70535 (318-457-3061)
date	October, 1982	

street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone	504-342-6682
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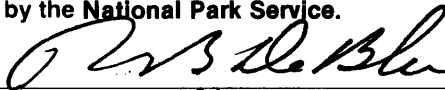
city or town	Baton Rouge	state	LA 70804
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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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	
title	State Historic Preservation Officer
date	January 31, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/3/83


Keeper of the National Register

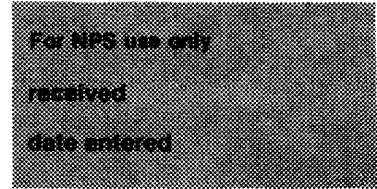
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

4. Owners

Building owned by: City of Eunice
P. O. Box Drawer 1106
Eunice, LA 70535-1106

The Honorable Curtis Joubert, Mayor
(318) 457-7389

Land owned by: Southern Pacific Transportation Company
Attn: V. O. Tekell, Area Engineer
220 Jefferson Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

EUNICE RAILROAD DEPOT
EUNICE, LA.
(Midland Branch RR Depot)

Site boundaries ARE PARALLEL
TO BLDG. FACADES, DISTANCES
AS SHOWN, ON NORTH, WEST AND
SOUTH SIDES. THE EASTERN BOUNDARY
FOLLOWS THE RR LINE.

