

PH0670553

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED SEP 8 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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 Northwestern Depot of DeSmet  
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
5 D 25  
CITY, TOWN DeSmet VICINITY OF No. 1  
STATE South Dakota CODE 046 COUNTY Kingsbury CODE 077

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Chicago Northwestern Transportation Company  
STREET & NUMBER  
Box 201  
CITY, TOWN Mason City VICINITY OF STATE Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Kingsbury County Courthouse - Register of Deeds  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN DeSmet STATE South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
South Dakota Historic Sites Survey  
DATE  
September 1975  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Historical Preservation Center  
CITY, TOWN Vermillion STATE South Dakota

# 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 Chicago Northwestern Railroad Station of DeSmet is typical of small depots built during the early 1900's with its bell cast hip roof, red horizontal wood siding and floor plan. Limestone blocks from Lime Siding, Minnesota, serves as the building's foundation. A bay window with a gable roof appears at the center of the structure as does a small gable dormer on the opposite side. The remaining windows are double hung, rectangular in shape with four sashes and extend almost to the cornice of the building. Other openings include two passenger and two freight doors.

The depot is oblong in shape with the rear or freight portion being of a lesser height than the rest. The passenger part features two waiting rooms, one for the men and one for the women, separated by the agent's office. Dark brown vertical board appears on the interior walls while two pot belly stoves remain in tact along with much of the original furnishings.

DeSmet plans to buy the depot and make it into a museum emphasizing local history. In order to do this, the city will have to move the building about fifty feet to get it off railroad property. If this is not done, the depot will either be destroyed or left to decay.

# 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 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 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bridges & Building Department of

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the Chicago Northwestern Railroad

DeSmet's Chicago Northwestern Railway Depot is significant for two reasons. First, it provides a good example of the architectural design employed in small train stations which is important with the gradual reduction of these structures. Secondly, it symbolizes the importance railway transportation supplied to towns throughout South Dakota. For these reasons and the fact that the city plans to restore the structure and utilize it as a museum, the Depot should be placed on the National Register.

The station's construction began in June of 1905 with the Building and Bridge Department of the railroad doing the work. After many delays, the depot was ready to replace the old one in August of 1906 and continued to serve as a passenger and freight depot until around 1955 when the former ceased operations.

Many people consider the railroad the salvation of the city. For in the early days, the roads were almost impossible because of mudholes which were a result of a high water table which surrounded the city. Therefore, transportation was not only difficult but costly. The railroad provided a safer means of passage and a cheaper way of sending goods.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stimson, N. G., personal interview on September 15, 1975 with Scott Gerloff.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Longitude 97° 32' 50"

Latitude 44° 23' 09"

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

Scott Gerloff, Historical Preservation Assistant II

ORGANIZATION

Historical Preservation Center

DATE

December 1975

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

(605) 677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

# 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

*John J. Little*

TITLE

Director/Historical Preservation Center

DATE

9/2/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*12/17/96*

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*12/19/76*