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N.J. Office of Cultural and Environmental Services, 109 W. State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08625 609-292-2023

Prepared by Heritage Studies, Inc. Princeton, N.J. 08540 609-452-1754

**RR 1102-**Survey # 9-1

NEW JERSEY TRANSIT

# RAILROAD STATION SURVEY

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

2.

✓ A.	Name: Common West Trenton <i>station</i> Line: Reading Historic
	Address or location:
	E. of Sullivan WayCounty: Mercer Municipality: Ewing Township Block & lot: part of 342 / 1
C.	Owner's name: N.J. Transit Address: Newark, N.J.
D.	Location of legal description: Recorder of Deeds, Mercer County Courthouse, 209 South Broad Street, Trenton, N.J. 08607
Ε.	Representation in existing surveys: (give number, category, etc., as appropriate)
	HABS HAERELRR ImprovementNY&LB Improvement
	Plainfield CorridorNR(name, if HD)
	NJSR (name, if HD)
	NJHSI (#)
	Northeast Corridor
	Local (date )
	Modernization Study: site plan $\chi$ floor plan $\chi$ aerial photo
	other views X photos of NR quality? X
EVALL	JATION
Α.	Determination of eligibility: SHPO comment? (date ) NR det.? (date )
В.	Potentially eligible for NR: yes_X_possible no
	individual thematicX
C.	Survey Evaluation: <u>130/150</u> points 140

#### **RR 1102-**Survey # 9-1

-2

## 3. DESCRIPTION--COMPLEX IN GENERAL

Describe the entire railroad complex at this site; mention all buildings and structures, with notation of which are not historic. Check items which apply and discuss in narrative:

Moved buildings (original location, date of and reason for move)
Any non-railroad uses in complex (military recruiting, etc.)
Any unusual railroad building types, such as crew quarters, etc. (specify)
Known threats to complex or individual structures

Surroundings: \_\_\_\_urban X\_suburban X\_scattered buildings \_\_\_\_open space \_\_\_\_\_Xresidential \_\_\_\_woodland \_\_\_agricultural X\_industrial \_\_\_\_other (specify)

Relationship of station grade to track grade:

X Station and track grade at same level \_\_\_\_\_Station at street grade, track depressed \_\_\_\_\_Station spans track Track elevated above street grade, multi-level station

# of tracks: 2 + siding

Pedestrian access across tracks:

\_\_\_\_Pedestrian bridge: \_\_\_\_at street grade \_\_\_\_elevated \_\_\_\_Pedestrian/vehicular bridge: \_\_\_at street grade \_\_\_\_elevated

Tunnel

None provided

Discuss character of vehicular and pedestrian approaches to complex; landscaping; relationship to parking. Refer to, and key with, site plan.

The West Trenton complex consists of a 2-story, red brick station in Georgian Revival style with attached steel frame canopy, a similar 1-story shelter also with attached steel frame canopy, platforms on either side of the tracks, and a concrete-lined pedestrian tunnel connecting the sides. The complex is located on a spacious site at the S. edge of the community. Tracks are generally aligned N-S. There are parking lots SE of the station (1) and N. of the shelter (2). Pedestrians may approach the platform from the lots, station or shelter, or via stairs (A,B) from Sullivan Way to the S. of the complex. Landscaping consists of several informal plantings of mature trees along the slopes W. and S. of the platforms.

Presently the station and shelter are not in use.

-3 **RR 1102** Survey # 9-1

## 3. DESCRIPTION--PLATFORMS AND CANOPIES

X Inbound 656' asphalt and concrete platform

X Outbound 556' asphalt and concrete platform

Between tracks

Nature and extent of existing original material and alterations: roof type, material, supports; freestanding or attached to building; seating; lighting; signage; other.

The two canopies at West Trenton consist of riveted steel frame roofs with wood decks and copper flashing, supported on single rows of steel columns and steel brackets. The inbound canopy is in three sections: seventeen bays adjoin the shelter on the N., six adjoin on the S., while the portion adjoining the E. facade is cantilevered from the wall. N. of the shelter the canopy nearly doubles in width for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bays to accommodate the stair to the subway, and is enclosed on the W. and N. by multi-paned window walls. Likewise, the outbound canopy is divided: sixteen bays adjoin the station on the N., five are attached to its W. facade, and ten adjoin on the S. There are no gutters. Materials appear original.

RR 1102-Survey # 9-1

### 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, site plan. Account for original materials and finishes where different from existing.

Station X Shelter Freight House Other (specify)

General architectural description, including style, shape, roof type, # stories, # bays, orientation to track, location of entrances, etc.

The West Trenton station, designed in Georgian Revival style and located E. of the tracks, consists of a central brick two-story block with a hipped slate roof, its main ridge paralleling the tracks. There are very shallow central gabled projections on both the E. and W. facades. Adjoining the block on the N. and S. are symmetrical, one-story wings with their own hipped slate roofs. The W. facade contains a central door above which is a tribe sash grouping. Flanking these elements on either side and at either level are pairs of 6/6s. The S. wing contains a door and two 6/6s, while the N. contains a bay with a window on each of three sides. Except for the bay, which is replaced by a pair of 6/6s, the configuration of the E. facade is the same but in reverse. The N. facade contains a freight door, a pedestrian door, and a 6/6. with a 4/4 on the second floor. The S. facade contains a 4/4 on the second floor and two six-pane casements below. A simple rectangular brick chimney rises inside the N. wall of the block. There are no alterations.

-4

-4A **RR 1102-**Survey # 9-1

FACILITY NAME West Trenton

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR) CONTD. Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility. Station  $\chi$  Shelter Freight House Other (specify) EXTERIOR MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS: Original Existing, if different Structural system: bearing wall, steel frame roof Foundation: poured concrete Base course: brick, Flemish bond, red Walls: brick, Flemish bond, red wood door surround with pilasters, urn glazed terra cotta drip molding, string course, keystones, cartouche, relief, and frieze cornice, brick voussoirs, flat arch Trim: Doors: 1/1 panel, double Roofing: slate \_\_\_\_\_ Soffit: none \_\_\_\_\_ 6/6 Windows: Lighting: incan. fixs. \_\_\_\_\_ std. Reading, painted board Signage: terra cotta gutters and copper gal. leaders Drainage: leaders Other:

RR 1102-Survey # 9-1

-5

FACILITY NAME

West Trenton

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheets for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, floor plan.

Station <u>x</u> Shelter Freight House Other (specify)

General architectural description of all spaces, including original materials and finishes, if known, any remodeling, etc.

Not Accessible

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, site plan. Account for original materials and finishes where different from existing.

Station Shelter X Freight House Other (specify)

General architectural description, including style, shape, roof type, # stories, # bays, orientation to track, location of entrances, etc.

The shelter at West Trenton also designed in the Georgian Revival style and located W. of the tracks consists of a brick, one-story rectangular block, three bays wide and one deep, with a hipped slate roof, its main ridge paralleling the tracks. A central double leaf one panel door with transom faces the tracks. Windows are 6/6 sash (most are boarded). Materials appear original.

-4

		0
FACILITY NAME West	Frenton Sur	-4A <b>RR 1102-</b> vey # 9-1
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILD	INGS (EXTERIOR) CONTD.	
Fill out separate s	heet for each building at facility.	· .
StationShel	terX_Freight HouseOther	(specify)
EXTERIOR MATERIALS	AND SYSTEMS:	•
	<u>Original</u>	Existing, if different
Structural system:	bearing wall, steel frame roof	
Foundation:	poured concrete	
Base course:	brick, Flemish bond, red	
Walls:	brick, Flemish bond, red	
Trim:	glazed terra cotta drip molding keystones, cornice; brick voussoirs, flat arch	
Doors:	1/panel with transom	
Roofing:	slate	
Soffit:	none	
Windows:	2/2, 4/4, 6/6	
Lighting:	metal lanterns, incan. fixs. flank door	
Signage:	std. Reading paint board	<u> </u>
Drainage:	terra cotta gutters and copper leaders	gal. leaders
Other:	rect. brick chimney, terra cotta trim	

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#### RR 1102-Survey # 9-1

-5

## 4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheets for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, floor plan.

Station Shelter X Freight House Other (specify)

General architectural description of all spaces, including original materials and finishes, if known, any remodeling, etc.

Not Accessible

#### 5. SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPLEX (ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL): Chief Engineer and Architect, Reading RR Source plans Date 1930 Source plans Source plans Style <u>Georgian Revival</u> # passenger trains/day (present) <u>4 (NJT)</u> Peak (#, Yr.) <u>20 (through)</u> <u>No</u> Original station on site 32 (SEPTA) in 1980 39 (local) in 1941 Replaced Trenton Junction station, designed by Frank Furness. 32 (through) 16 (local) in 1916

The West Trenton station is a good example of the Georgian Revival style adapted to the functions of a modern medium-sized suburban station. It was built as part of a grade separation and electrification project which effected many of the suburban lines of the Reading system. Located in the western suburbs of the state capitol, this station has always served as the terminus for one of these commuter branches but in 1930 it became the terminus for electrification on the mainline as well. Until the late 1950's it was also a junction station for a short line to downtown Trenton. However, as early as the 1930s bus service had begun to replace many of the less patronized midday runs. Presently the station is closed and the future of passenger service on this line is uncertain. The complex itself appears to be in nearly original condition.

## 6. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal boundary description (if Block/Lot not available)

Boundaries are outlined on the site plan.

Acreage: c. 4 acres UTM coordinates: Zone: <u>18</u>/Easting: <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>/Northing: <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> USGS Quad <u>Pennington</u> <u>Scale</u> <u>1:24</u> <u>000</u>

#### 7. REFERENCES

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC:** 

plans, West Trenton station, Conrail, Philadelphia, Pa.

ICONOGRAPHIC:

plans, Ibid.

photos: (1930) Dillenbeck, Clark and George I. Wright, brochure to commemorate the opening of electrified lines to Doylestown, West Trenton and Hatboro, Reading RR, 1930, n.p. (Philadelphia Public Library)

(n.d.) postcards, Timothy J. McMahon Collection, Fair Haven, N. J.

(n.d.) Railroad Collection, Philadelphia Public Library

(n.d.) Middleton, William D., When the Steam Railroads Electrified, Milwaukee, Kalmbach Publishing Co., 1974, p. 307.

#### 8. PHOTO

Negative index #	1176 or NJT photo	#slide #9-1
Date 1978		Richard Browne Assocs.
Loc. of negative	NJ Transit	Direction of view: Station from East

# 9. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

## A. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

i. Associated with important events or broad movements in history

nationally	(30)
state-wide	(25)
locally	(20)

ii. Representative of significant changes in railroad history and/or technology

	L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L	rare unusual common	(30) (25) X(10)	grade separation and electrificatior
iii.	Original station on site		(15)	
iv.	Representative of a line's standard o	lesign	(10)	
۷.	Constructed prior to 1900		(15)	
vi.	Junction station		<u>X</u> (10)	
vii.	Former long-distance service		(10)	
viii.	Other		(10)	commuter terminal
ix.	Less than 50 years old		(-30)	
			•	30

B. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

i. STYLE Georgian Revival
 a. Example of a particular architectural style (check one)

Ь.	Rare survivor of style	Outstanding Excellent Very good Good Fair	(50) (40) (30) (20) (10)
υ.	Kare survivor of style	nationally state-wide locally	(20) (15) (10)
c.	As example of railroad	architecture	

rare (30) unusual or early (15)

13

# FACILITY NAME: West Trenton CRITERIA CONT.

ii.		HITECT (check one)			
	a.		nally(25) -wide(20) ly(15)		
	b.	building designed by railroad and is kn or appears to be the work of the superv architect or engineer or chief designer Clark Dille	ising $\underline{\chi}$ (20)		
•	c.	building designed by railroad and is kn or appears to be the work of the staff	own		
		architect identified but not considered to be of special importance	(5)		
iii.	a.	RALL ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY (check one) Outstanding composition, siting, or craftsmanship	(40)		
		Notable composition, siting, or crafts- manship, or possessing especially picturesque or unusual exterior detaili			
	c.	Possessing some detail(s) of particular interest and/or quality		terra cotta	trim
	d.	Average quality or interest	(5)		
iv.	a	IAL QUALITIES Noteworthy overall interior design or detailing Some noteworthy interior detailing	(15) (5)		
		( X interior not accessible)			
	с.	Part of cohesive complex 1) station and shelter 2) more than two buildings	<u> </u>		
<b>v.</b> (	CONST a.	RUCTION Noteworthy example of particular construction method	(30)		
	b.	Rare or early survivor of particular method	(20)		
	с.	Interesting example of method	(5)		

**RR 1102=** -10 Survey # 9-1

CRITERIA CONT.

- C. CONDITIONS
  - i. INTEGRITY

	a.	Original condition	<u>    X  (40)</u>
	b.	beneficial	(30)
	c.	Alterations and/or additions, not detrimental	(20)
	d. e.	Minor detrimental alterations and/ or additions, not affecting overall integrity Detrimental alterations and/or additions, reversible at considerable	(10)
	f.	expense Detrimental alterations and/or additions,	(-25)
	1.	essentially irreversible	(-75)
ii.	PHYS	SICAL CONDITION	
		Excellent Good Fair Poor Severely deteriorated	(10) (5) (0) (-10) (-25)
iii.	REL/	ATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY	
	a. b. c. d. e.	Compatible with townscape Unrelated to townscape	(40) (30) (20) (20) (0) (
iv.	SUI	TABILITY FOR ADAPTIVE USE	
	с.	Excellent Very Good Good Average Possible, with difficulty	(30) (25) (20) (15) (10)

60





Attach copy of site plan

. .....

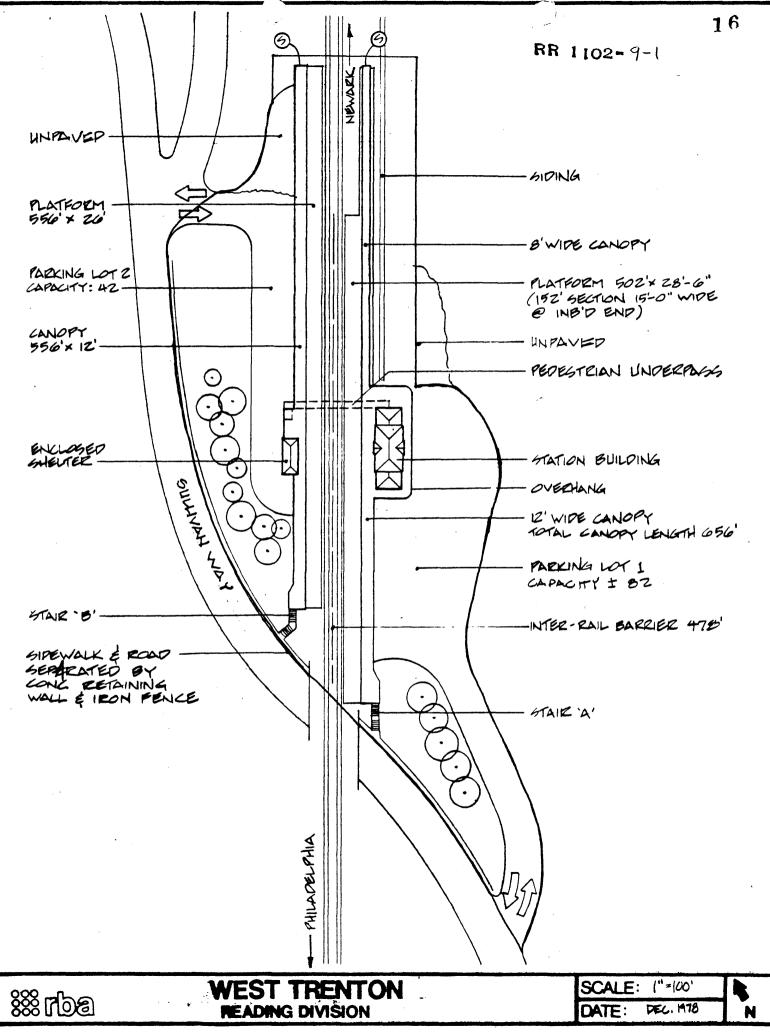
continuation sheets attached

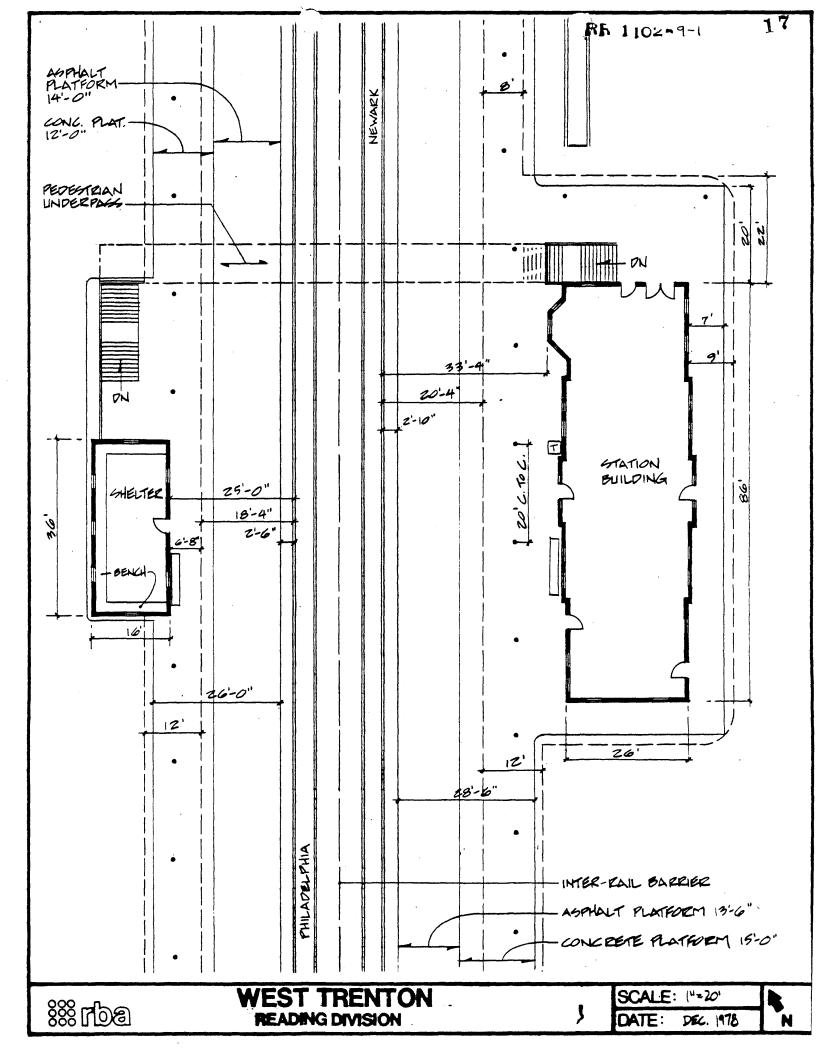
FORM PREPARED BY: Richard Meyer

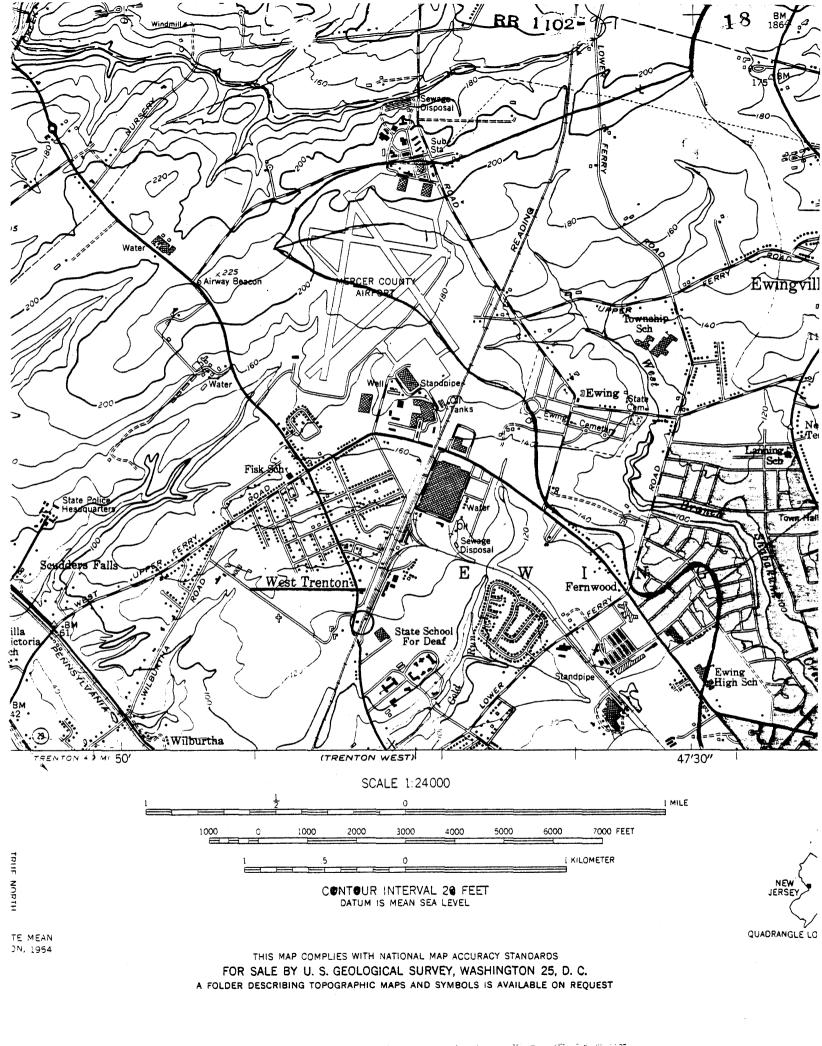
Date: August 1981

HERITAGE STUDIES, INC. RD 4 Box 864, Mapleton Road Princeton, N.J. 08540 609-452-1754

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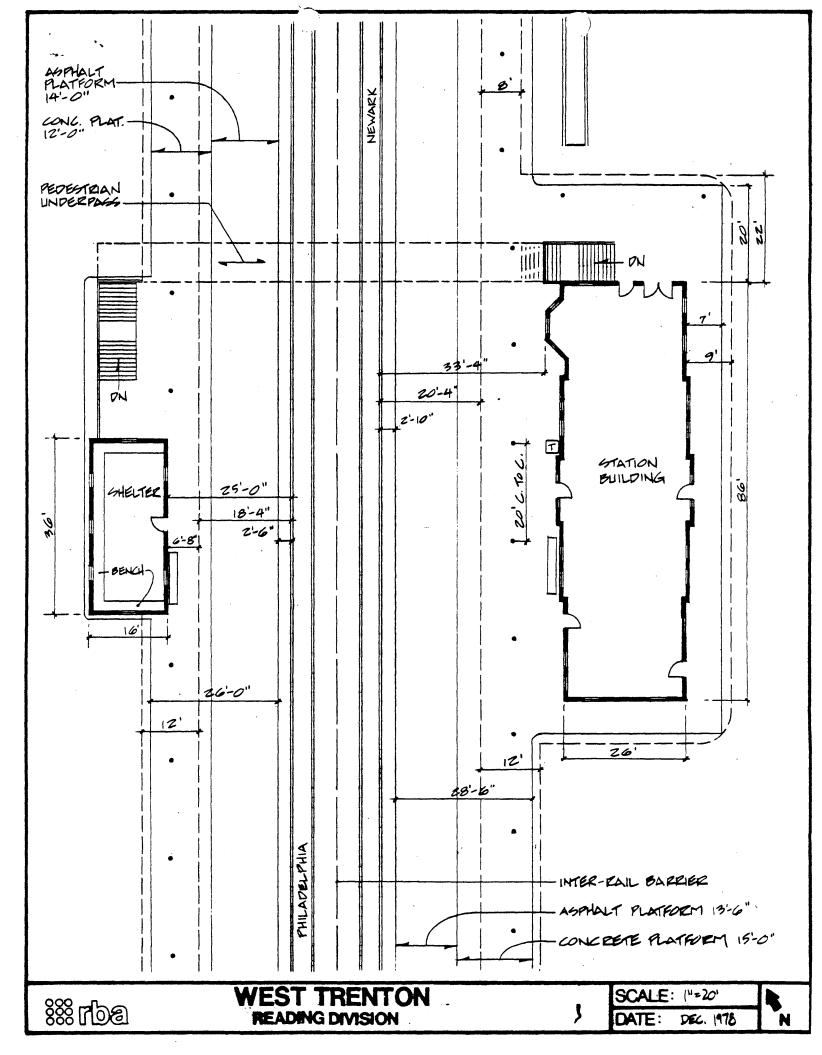
# > SUMMARY

٠.

Station:	West	Trenton	Line:	Reading Line
<u>Index:</u>		Site Base at 1" = 100' Floor Plan at 1" = 20'	Fiel	d Survey Conducted November, 1978
	3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	Platform and Canopies Station Building Track Crossings and Ba Parking Access and Cir Information System Notes on Community 8	rriers rculation & Security A	
<u>    X    </u> Informati			ptation _	X Detailed Field Photographs
	Sta Pro Sur Ser Tri Co TO Co His Scł	rial Photograph at 1" = ation Location Plan from oposed Taking Lines of 9 mmer 1970 Ground Surve otember 1974 Survey - N -State Aerial Photo Surv nrail Data Survey for St PICS or Traffic Improve mmunity Renewal Plans storical File for Station hedule of Trains and Bus her *	USGS maps 00 Day Opt ey of Rail Po NJ DOT (De vey of Rail I ration ments Plann for Station	ion Station Parcels wrking – NJ DOT ept. of Commuter Services) Parking 1970
		Лау 1977 – All Day (We o Category: <u>6</u>	·	
Agent:	No	Hrs / Day s:	- ····································	

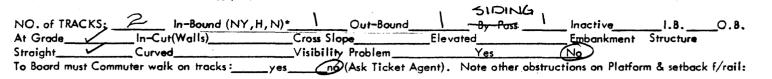
Rehabilitated (10 years or less) & Description:

\* Zoning Map 1976 Mercer County Land Use Report Mercer County Public Transportation Maps Mercer County Bus Schedules Mercer County Utilities Sketch Plan



# 3 PLATFORMS & CANOPIES

	)	•	
~	VILLE	TRENTON	
Station:	VVED	INFILION	



PLATFORMS	IN-BOUND SIDE	OUT-BOUND SIDE	ISLAND BET'N TRACK
Length X Width	<u>656 × 23-6</u>	<u>556 x 26'-0"</u>	X
Height Above Top of Rail	<u> </u>	<₫"	
Platform Material	APHALT & CONCRETE	ADDHALT & CONCERTE	
Edge Material	TREATED WOOD	TREATED WOOD	
Safety Line, Material	VEY no_WHITE	VESTRO_WHITTE	yes/no
Guardrail (Locate)	yes/no *	yes no X	yes/no
In-cut/Retaining Walls			·
Lighting – Type, O.C.,Setback f/rail	HOUDER LANDRY	INCAND. UNDER CANOPY	
Seating-Mat'l & Qty .	_ GANG BENCH (10)	GANG BENCH 12	
Stairs: (ramps used: A	vert.rise width	vert.rise width	vert.rise width
yes / no ) B Locate: C	13-5" 8-0"		
			10.0 I \

CONDITION/LOCATION - (platform, lighting, stairs, guardrails, retaining walls. Note apparent poor conditions only)

PORTIONS OF LONCRETE PLATFORM ARE SPALLED AND HAVE WEED OVERGROWTH ( PHUTOS 45, 8, 25, 31, 39, 10)

\* NO GUGEDRAIL, BUT CURBING BETWEEN LOT & PLATFORMS continue on back of page \_\_\_\_

CANOPY/OVERHANC		OUT-BOUND SIDE	ISLAND BET'N TRACK
Length x Width Height (Lowest)	<u> </u>	<u>556 x 12-0"</u> 12'-0"	X
Setback from Rail	20'4"	\&-4"	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Structure w/Spacing	EBEAMS/LEOUS BRICH, 20.1		22' <u>~</u> .
Setback-Rail to Support	26-10"	/ 25'0"	
Deck Material		W007	
Roofing	LINKNOWN	LINKHOWN	
Shape	Slope / Gable / Flat	FLAT	
Drainage	LEHTER DRAINS TO J" & ME		·L PIPE .
Lighting	INCAND. 40' 0.6.	INCAN. 20' O.C.	

CONDITION (Note apparent poor conditions only):

CANOPY WOOD DECK 15 WEATHERED \* CANOPY ± 12' WIDE SOUTH OF STATION

			$\supset$	/		$\mathcal{T}$		
4 3	STATION	BUILDI	NG 🗹					
					- *	STATION:	WEST TREN	TON
In-Bou	und (NY, H, N)	In-Use NO	; Out-Bound	In-Use				O.B.
Relatio	on of Main to Track (u	nder, over, le	Relatio	n of Entry to St	reet KAVEL	I.B	O.B.	
Roof C	)verhang – width: or and Entry Stairs, Rar	-O" TIPICAL	Locatio	n: (refer to Floo	or Plan)	to Floor Plan &	lebal for gross-refer	
a)	) width	vertical	rise		b) width		vertical rise	
c)	width N/A	vertica	rise		_d) width		vertical rise	
EXTE	ERIOR MATERIAL	S AND SYST	EMS:					, .
Found	ation <u>CONCE</u>	TE	· ·	Door	s	>	·	
	ourse_ <u>PEKK</u>		(photo)		Deck			
Walls_ Trim	WOOD & LONC	ente			ing <u> </u>	<u>E</u>		
Windo	ws - operable - res	/ no;					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Structu	ural System (consultar	nt)						
Draina	ge GALV. DOW	N SPOUTS	BUILTI	N (INTHER	25			
	ERIOR ROOM AN				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
NOT	ACCESSIBLE	Floor	Base	W/Cot	Walls	Ceiling	Ceiling Hgt.	Ligi
J	Jaçe	11001	Dase		WOIIS	Cennig		-
	aiting RoomS.F.		TEREAL		PLANT.	PAG	NOT PETER	<u>F140</u>
	icket Office Iens Toilet	CONC.	WOOD.	WOOD_	PLAST.	PLAST.	NOT DETER.	1110
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A. Co	oncessions and Business	Other:						
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R W	aiting Room Seating: umber of Public Phone:	describe (abota):	1-0H F	LATECEM			Cupuchy	
B. Wa C. Nu	aiting Room Seating: umber of Public Phone:	describe (photo): s and Locations:	1- ON F		ion of visibility	, I.B		
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B. We C. Nu D. Inc E. De F. Is G. Ar	aiting Room Seating: umber of Public Phone: dicate Visibility of <u>ap</u> escribe visibility for su passage from the static re public toilets, telep	describe (photo): s and Locations: proaching trains rveillance for we on to platforms sh shones and other	I- OH F from waiting o aiting rooms w neltered: yes station conver	irea, and direct ith and without / no (photo c niences identific	ogents: escription ed: yes / no	.).	О.В	
B. Wa C. Nu D. Ind E. De F. Is G. Ar H. Ar	aiting Room Seating: umber of Public Phone: dicate Visibility of <u>ap</u> escribe visibility for su passage from the static re public toilets, telep e lockers provided: y	describe (photo): s and Locations: proaching trains rveillance for we on to platforms sh ohones and other es / 10; trash	I – OH F from waiting o aiting rooms w neltered: yes station conver receptacles:(	irea, and direct ith and without / no (photo c niences identific yes no , la	agents: escription ed: yes / no cation: waiting	.). 3 room #	О.В	
B. We C. Nu D. Inc E. De F. Is G. Ar H. Ar P	aiting Room Seating: umber of Public Phone: dicate Visibility of <u>ap</u> escribe visibility for su passage from the static re public toilets, telep re lockers provided: y ulatform 1.B. (NY) #	describe (photo): s and Locations: proaching trains rveillance for we on to platforms sh ohones and other es / 10; trash	I – OH F from waiting o aiting rooms w neltered: yes station conver receptacles:(	irea, and direct ith and without / no (photo c niences identific yes no , la	agents: escription ed: yes / no cation: waiting	.). 3 room #	О.В	
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# 4a STATION BUILDING\_

STATION: WEST TERNITON

Record Photograph\_\_\_\_\_197\_\_\_

LTER

SI

#### CONDITION: \*

Exterior (indicate board-up areas; locate elements being described using floor plan/photos) (Consultant)

Foundations:

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Walls/Doors/Windows:

Stairs:

Roof/Drainage:	OVERHANC	15 AND	5044173	DEE	DETERIORATING
	AND F	ROTTED.	· •		

Other

Interior (locate elements by room; photograph poor conditions)

Walls/ Doors/Windows:

INTERIOR NOT

ALLESSIBLE

Floor:

Ceiling:

Stairs:

\*Note: Indicate apparent poor conditions only, not routine maintenance conditions.

# **8 Community & Security Aspects**

 Describe the setting of the station in terms of the activity in the surrounding area (land use and condition described in section 6). Describe the visibility of the station and site from surrounding areas of streets in terms of security through surveillance. Describe screening and shielding (note #6, page 4) and shadows, nooks and crannies, and other hiding places).

The station is located in a well-landscaped, semi-rural area, near state agency complexes, factories, apartment complexes and single family detached housing.

The station area is set among trees on top of small hill removed from sight of the main road. However, the station and platforms are open and visible from the immediately surrounding area.

There are few hiding places except in the trees on the outbound side. The overall area is dark.

Note: CON RAIL police maintain offices in the second floor of the station building but usage and frequency of patrol is unknown.

 Is the station out of the "main stream" of pedestrian/vehicular activity, or is it part of the fabric of life in the community? Do non-commuters walk through the station building or use any part of the station facilities/site to shorten their path to a final destination; to shop; to conduct business such as banking (refer to #4 Station Building/ Interior Space \_\_\_\_\_):

There is no non-commuter pedestrian activity because of the location of the station. Vehicular activity during the day occurs, with cars traveling to the plastiglass factory.

3. Vandalism: Graffiti - none / (ow)/ medium / high; location:

Property damage - none / () / medium / high (describe):

Parking meters

4. Question the ticket agent about vandalism problems.