National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Louisville and Nashville Combine Car Number 665
other names/site number 'Jim Crow Car'/ NE-410

2. Location

street & number 136 South Main Street
city or town New Haven
state Kentucky code Ky county Nelson code 179

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO Executive Director

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
- **Private**
- **Public-local**
- **Public-State**
- **Public-Federal**

**Category of Property**
- **Building(s)**
- **District**
- **Site**
- **Structure**
- **Object**

**Number of Resources within Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sites</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Structures</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objects</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

- \( \text{N/A} \)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

- \( \text{0} \)

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
- **Transportation-Rail Related**

**Current Functions**
- **Work in Progress**
  - **Transportation-Rail Related**

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
- **Other**

**Materials**
- **Foundation** \( \text{N/A} \)
- **Walls** \( \text{Wood-Plywood} \)
- **Roof** \( \text{Wood-Plywood} \)
- **Other** \( \text{Metal-Steel} \)

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets
L & N no. 665

Nelson, Ky

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

3. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bibliography

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kentucky Railway Museum
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: N/A

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jonathan V. Parrent
organization: Murray State University
date: July 21, 1997
street & number: P.O. Box 9
phone: 502-762-6586
city or town: Murray
state: Ky
zip code: 42071

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name: Kentucky Railway Museum
street & number: 136 South Main Street
telephone: 502-549-5470
city or town: New Haven
state: Ky
zip code: 40051-0240

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
L & N No 665 Jim Crow Car Descriptive Statement

Louisville and Nashville combine car no 665, previously numbered 865, is a unique combination of a railroad car having two passenger seating sections divided by a baggage compartment. Its nickname, the Jim Crow Car, is derived from the segregated seating of its passenger sections. This car is one of only two wood side, steel frame cars of this type, and the only one available for preservation in the world.

Number 665 was built by the American Car Foundry of Jeffersonville, Indiana in 1913 from plans provided by the L & N railroad. A total of 48 passengers could travel in the car at one time in pairs of walk-over seats. The front passenger section measures 21’ 6” by 9’8” and the rear section is 15’6” by 9’8”. Dividing the sections, the baggage compartment is 29’11” long. The total length of the car is 77’ 6” and it weighs 104,300 pounds. Each passenger section had its own hopper restroom facility, intact today, that deposited waste directly on the track. Two cast iron stoves were provided in each section for heating, but only the open, single-paned windows provided relief from hot summer days, since there was no air conditioning system in the car. The color scheme of the car’s interior was yellow and treated wood. The car rode on four wheel number 34 trucks with 36” wheels and on a wheel base of 8’0”. Exterior colors of the car were yellow and red.

Of the seven integrity factors, no. 665 must possess integrity of location, setting, and association. While on track owned by the Kentucky Railway Museum, the car
maintains a high level of location and setting. Its deterioration doesn’t detract from its overall appearance because of this strong integrity of setting and location. Despite the fact that the car didn’t run on this section of track during its use, it nevertheless provides a strong integrity of association. Other rolling stock on the grounds adds to the complete significance of the car. Number 665 has remained primarily intact and upon inspection may be seen clearly as a segregated coach which maintains its integrity of materials as well.

The car’s primary material of construction, wood, has suffered a great deal of deterioration over the years. Repairs were made to the wooden walls of the car in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s but did not make any major modifications to the car’s original design. Interior features have also suffered from the same damage as the exterior. The original lighting and heating systems have remained sound however, and can be repaired fully with a minimal amount of effort. Rotten wood on the sides of the car will be removed and replaced, as will interior wooden features and windows. It will then be repainted in colors similar to the original L & N paint once on the car. Every repair made will only enhance the car’s integrity and will be in character with the car’s earlier appearance.
Louisville and Nashville passenger car number 665, a 'Jim Crow Car', meets National Register criterion A and is significant within the historic context "Race Relations and Segregation in Kentucky 1915-1960". L & N 665 aids in telling the important story of separation and racism in our nation. The car is representative of the era when rail travel was racially segregated and its construction provides an insight on the psyche of many Americans of the time.

Several accounts have been written of the segregated busing practices that took place during the 1960's, yet very little has been written on the years of segregation suffered in rail travel. Segregation of the rails officially took place with the passage of the Separate Coach Law on May 24, 1892. It stated, "Each compartment of a coach . . . divided by a good and substantial wooden partition, with a door therein . . . and shall bear in some conspicuous place appropriate words in plain letters indicating the race it is set apart for." With this legislation, all African-Americans passengers would henceforth be completely and totally separated from other passengers.

L & N 665 was built in 1913 by the American Car Foundry of Jeffersonville, Indiana. The L & N designed its interior specifically for the purpose of segregation. The two passenger sections are separated by a baggage compartment found in the car's center. When the train changed directions, the African-American passengers
would exit on one side, the whites on the other, and both would switch places. This insured that the white passengers would always be seated in the front of the car. Numerous branch lines of the L & N utilized no. 665 and its sisters at some point, including the Springfield Branch, the Glasgow Railroad, and the Maysville Branch.

Louisville and Nashville Railroad officials struggled with the issues of segregation for many years. While no. 665 offered seating and near equal accommodations for African-Americans, other cars failed to reach those standards. In 1919, the L & N was ordered by law to offer a coach specifically for African-American passengers on each train traveling from Louisville to Nashville. Railroad officials continued to show no respect toward African-American passengers however. They often would place drunk and unruly white passengers in the African-American coaches, further disrupting travel.

One of only two wood side and steel frame cars in existence, L & N no. 665 clearly illustrates the ends which people reached to maintain segregation of the races. Trains provided an important mode of transportation for many people, yet have not received the attention that other segregated methods of transportation have. The car offers a new approach to the study of racial interaction during the first half of this century. The car also appeared in the motion picture, *Raintree County*. The L & N donated the car to the Kentucky Railway Museum in 1958.
After restoration, the car will be an integral component of an exhibit describing the precarious relationship between African-Americans and the rail travel industry. African-Americans made numerous contributions to railroads all across the nation, in a variety of positions. They helped build the lines that trains traveled on and even the trains themselves. One prominent role African-Americans took in the rail industry was that of Porter. Many made a name for themselves as Pullman Porters, who were known nation-wide for their outstanding service to passengers. Despite what they supplied to the industry, they continued to face monumental struggles for equality and respect.
L & N no.665 Jim Crow Car

Bibliography


Knoeller, Tish. Personal Interview, September 1996.

Lusk, Karl. Personal Interview, September 1996.

Sulzer, Elmer. Ghost Railroads of Kentucky. (Indianapolis: Jones Company, 1968)


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is the former Louisville and Nashville Railroad tracks in New Haven, KY, which are the property of the Kentucky Railway Museum.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary selected consists of the rail line on which the car is placed. It is an appropriate boundary as the nominated resource is best understood in that context, its historic means of movement.
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97001343 Date Listed: 11/19/97

Louisville and Nashville Combine Car Number 665 Nelson KY
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR makes two technical corrections to the form by adding an acreage figure and redefining the boundary. In accordance with National Register guidance found in National Register Bulletin 16A (How to Complete the National Register Registration Form), p. 58, the boundary of the nominated property is defined as the railroad car itself, currently parked at 136 South Main Street in New Haven, Ky, and consists of less than one acre. The form is officially amended to make these changes.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
1. Louisville and Nashville no. 665 'Jim Crow Car'
2. New Haven, Kentucky
3. Dr. Bill Mulligan
4. July 1997
5. Forrest Pogue Oral History Institute, Murray, Ky.
6. Car exterior, facing South
7. N/A