

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 25 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot

other names/site number Illinois Central Railroad Depot; Flora Railroad Depot

2. Location

street & number Vernon Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Flora ☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Madison code 89 zip code 39701

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.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul September 18, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

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.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Edson A. Beall 10/31/95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
Name of Property

Madison County, Mississippi
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/rail-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other:railroad vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood & concrete
walls wood
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Period of Significance

circa 1883-1945

Significant Dates

circa 1883

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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:

Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
Name of Property

Madison County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	7	5	2	6	8	0	3	6	0	3	6	6	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
Zone			Easting						Northing						
4															

☐ See 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 Michelle Weaver/Architectural Historian & Richard Cawthon/Chief Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date August 4, 1995

street & number Post Office Box 571 telephone 601/359-6940

city or town Jackson state Mississippi zip code 39205-0571

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 City of Flora, Mayor Earl Harper

street & number Post Office Box 218 telephone 601/879-8686

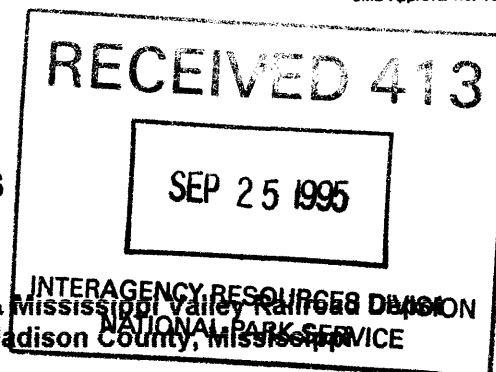
city or town Flora state Mississippi zip code 39071-0218

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1

Located between the tracks of the Illinois Central Railroad and Main Street, at the east end of downtown Flora, the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot, also known as the Illinois Central Railroad Depot or the Flora Railroad Depot, is a one-story, rectangular frame building. Built about 1883, the depot rests on a timber piling foundation and is sheathed in board-and-batten siding. A raised platform formerly wrapped around the northern portion of the depot but has since been removed. Its former position is indicated by a horizontal plank. The building is surmounted by a gable-on-hip, asphalt-shingled roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, decorative knee braces, and an exterior, brick chimney. The windows, all of which are surrounded by a decorative architrave and topped with drip-caps, are filled with double-leaf, two-over-two, louvered shutters over two-over-two, double hung sash. The southern gable is finished with board-and-batten siding and the northern gable is finished with staggered-butt, decorative shingles and a circular ornament.

The eastern elevation faces the Illinois Central Railroad track and is divided into seven bays by the spacing of the brackets. The first bay (from the south) contains a single window and the second bay contains a projecting, 3-sided observation bay which has one window on each of its three sides. The third bay contains a single-leaf, four-panel door surmounted by a two-light transom. The fourth bay contains a doorway which is filled with transomed, single-leaf, five-panel door. A two-panel, diagonal beaded-board, sliding, freight door fills the sixth bay. The fifth and seventh bays have blank walls.

The northern elevation has two bays. At the center of this wall there was formerly a freight door, which has been infilled with plywood and now contains a small, single-leaf, one-panel, non-historical door, accessed by a set of concrete steps. The southern elevation has two bays, each containing a window.

The western elevation is also divided into seven bays by the brackets. The first and third bays (from the north) are blank walls and the second bay has a projecting brick chimney. The fourth and fifth bays are filled with single-leaf, five-panel doors surmounted by two-light transoms. The fifth bay also contains an exterior ticket window filled with a stationary, single-light sash with drip-caps, which has been infilled but retains original, vertical, metal bars within the sash. The sixth bay contains a transomed, single-leaf, four-panel door and the seventh bay contains a window identical to those found on the other elevations.

The interior depot is divided into two areas by a change in floor level. The areas were originally a freight/baggage room to the north and a waiting room to the south. The walls of the interior are now finished in modern panelling and carpeting and asbestos tiles cover the floor. Sheetrock covers the arched ceiling.

The Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The only major modifications to the depot have been the infill of the freight door at the northern end and the removal of the raised floor in the waiting room and subsequent replacement with a concrete slab at grade. Cosmetic changes in the interior have not greatly affected the integrity of the structure. The City of Flora has received an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act grant from the Mississippi Department of Transportation for the restoration of the depot. The proposed project will rehabilitate the depot in accordance with the US Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* with the cooperation of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
Flora, Madison County, Mississippi

The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot in Flora is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of transportation, representing the importance of rail transportation in the establishment and development of the town of Flora. Its period of significance extends from about 1883, the approximate date of its construction, to 1945, fifty years prior to the current date.

Located roughly half-way between Jackson and Yazoo City, Flora was established as a station on the original Jackson to Yazoo City line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad when it was laid out in 1882. A post office was established in 1883, and the town was incorporated in 1893. Through the next several decades the town flourished as a local trade center and cotton shipping point for the western part of Madison County. In 1918, the amount of cotton shipped from Flora totaled 9,983 bales. The town's economy declined during the Great Depression, but revived during World War II when an Army ordnance plant was built nearby. Flora remains a small town today, with a population of 1,482 in 1990.

The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, a subsidiary of the Illinois Central Railroad, was chartered in 1882 for the purpose of building and operating a rail line between Jackson, Mississippi, and Yazoo City, Mississippi. Construction began in 1882 and the route was opened on May 1, 1884.² Within the next two decades the Y&MV expanded, by construction and by acquisitions, throughout the Delta area of Mississippi and southward through Vicksburg and Natchez and into Louisiana, linking New Orleans with Memphis and becoming one of the largest and most important railroads in Mississippi, with 1,024 miles of trackage by 1905.³ It appears, however, that the original line between Jackson and Yazoo City was operated around the turn of the century directly by the Illinois Central itself, instead of the Y&MV, though by the 1920s it was again under Y&MV management.⁴ The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad ceased to have a separate identity when it was merged into the Illinois Central Railroad on July 1, 1946.⁵

The depot building at Flora was apparently built about 1883, at the same time that the railroad was being built. Throughout the years that Flora prospered as a railroad town, this building was the center of its transportation-related commerce.

The railroad offices in the Flora Depot closed in 1971, after which time the building was remodeled for other uses. It is now owned by the Town of Flora. The town intends to rehabilitate the building to house a visitors center and offices for the Police Department and the Chamber of Commerce, using funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).⁶

¹ Roy Thomas, "Roots can be traced to railroad," *Yazoo Herald* (March 16, 1991).

² Carlton J Corliss, *Main Line of Mid-America: The Story of the Illinois Central* (New York: Creative Age Press, 1950), p. 240.

³ Dunbar Roland, "Railroads," in *Mississippi* (Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907), volume 2, pp. 510-511.

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Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
Flora, Madison County, Mississippi

Section number 8 & Page 3

8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

⁴ The Jackson to Yazoo City line is not included in an 1898 timetable for the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, though it appears on the timetable's route map as if it were an Illinois Central route without direct connection to the other Y&MV trackage. In Rowland's Mississippi (vol. 1, p. 715), Flora is said, in 1907, to be "... on the Yazoo City branch of the Illinois Central Railroad ..." Later the line through Yazoo City was connected with other Y&MV lines and appears on maps as a Y&MV route. On a map included in a 1926 timetable for the New Orleans Great Northern Railroad the Jackson to Yazoo City line is labeled as being part of the Y&MV.

⁵ Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, topical reference file on Railroads in Mississippi.

⁶ Town of Flora, Transportation Enhancement Program Application for Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot Renovation, February 7, 1995.

9 - BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corliss, Carlton J. *Main Line of Mid-America: The Story of the Illinois Central*. (New York: Creative Age Press, 1950). p 240.

Historic Resources Inventory Files. Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, topical reference file on Railroads in Mississippi.

Mississippi Landmark Files, Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Rowland, Dunbar. "Railroads," in *Mississippi* (Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907), volume 2, pp. 510-511.

Site visit, May 31 1995, by Michelle Weaver, Architectural Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Thomas, Roy. "Roots can be traced to railroad," *Yazoo Herald* (March 16, 1991).

Town of Flora, Transportation Enhancement Program Application for Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot Renovation, February 7, 1995.

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Continuation Sheet**

Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
Flora, Madison County, Mississippi

Section number 10 Page 4

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

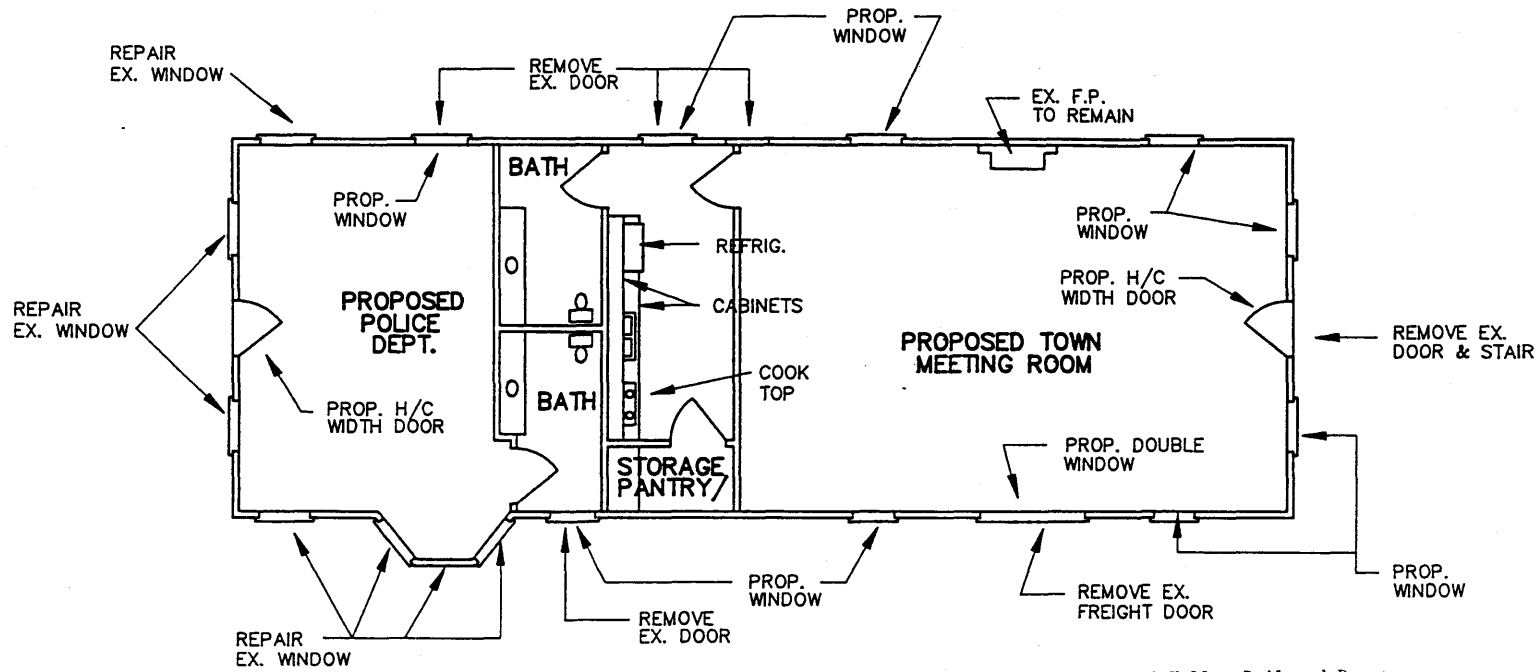
Verbal Boundary Description

A tract of land in the NW 1/4 of Section 16, T. 8 N., R. 1 W. of Choctaw Meridian, in the Town of Flora, Madison County, Mississippi, more fully described as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of the north line of Main Street and the westerly right of way line of the ICG RR Co., said right of way line being 150 feet westerly from and parallel with the centerline of said RR Co.'s main track; thence Northerly along said right of way line 190 feet; thence Easterly at right angles 125 feet, more or less, to a point 10 feet westerly from the centerline of said RR Co.'s most westerly side tracks, as measured at right angles; thence Southerly 10 feet westerly from and parallel with the centerline of said side track, 190 feet; thence Westerly at right angles 125 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the former Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot.



Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
Flora, Madison County, Mississippi

SCALE 1/8" = 1'



Yazoo + Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
(Illinois Central Railroad Depot or the Flora Depot)

Flora, Madison County, Mississippi

Michelle Weaver

April 1995

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Southern and western elevations, looking northeast

1 of 2



Yazoo + Mississippi Valley Railroad Depot
(Illinois Central Railroad Depot or the Flora Depot)

Flora, Madison County, Mississippi

Michelle Weaker

April 1995

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Southern and eastern elevations, looking northwest

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