United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received NOV 2 6 1985

date entered TFG 2 6 1985

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

1. Nam	1e	¥			
historic Readi	ing Railroad Pass	senger Station	ı, Tamaqua		
and or common	N7.E				
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	Off West Broad and Berwick Str		209) Betv	veen Railroad	N/A not for publication
city, town Tam	nagua	N/A	icinity of		
state Pennsyl	vania	code 42	county ^S	Schuylkill	code 107
3. Clas	sification				
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition n/an process 1/aceing considered	Accessib	cupied in progress le	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	X museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	erty			
name Borough	of Tamaqua				
street & number	320 East Broad	Street			
city, town	Tamaqua	N <u>/A</u> vi	cinity of	state	Pennsylvania
5. Loca	ation of Le	egal Des	criptio	n	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. So	huylkill Coun	ity Courtho	ouse, Recorder of	Deeds
street & number	Second and La	urel Boulevar	rd		
city, town Pott	sville			state	Pennsylvania
6. Rep	resentatio	n in Exi	sting S	Surveys	
title N/A			(Reading F	Railroad Station, perty been determined e	HUD, December 17, 19 ligible? X yesno
N/A	1			N/A federal sta	ite county local
depository for su	M/A urvey records				
city, town	N/A			state	N/A

7. Description

Condition Example 2	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one X original site		
good gair	ruins unexposed	X altered	moved date N/A	e.go# 1000 176	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Reading Railroad Station, Tamaqua is an Italianate style brick building, essentially one story with T-shaped plan, red sandstone foundation, regular fenestration, bracketed cornice low hip roof. Although the building includes an original depot section (1874) and two principal additions (1880, 1885) the station is unified in design and materials. It is located on the edge of Tamaqua's downtown business district.

The earliest section of the station consisted of a one and one-half story central pavilion (concourse) flanked symmetrically by one story three bay wings (ladies' and mens' waiting rooms). In 1880 the building was given a T-shaped plan by the addition of a one story, four bay section to the rear (west) of the concourse followed by a smaller two bay extension. (An early 1880s glass plate negative at the Tamagua Historical Society shows the rear of the building at this phase of the development as well as a magnificent roundhouse which no longer survives). Plan dimensions for these portions of the station are approximately 80' x 22' for the original building and 60' x 22' for the rear addition.

In 1885 a freight-house section was added to the northern end of the depot extending the main elevation by five bays to a total length of 131 feet. The roof of the freight house is slightly lower than the depot and has broad projecting eaves supported on arched braces. This projecting shelter was continued along the eastern elevation of the original depot. Later the overhang at the rear of the freight-house was enclosed with wood construction creating additional office and storage space.

Stylistically the station bears hallmarks of the Italianate style of architecture including low hip roof, bracketed cornice and regular fenestration with architrave lintels and bracketed sills. When first constructed the building was a symmetrical composition. Although later additions disrupted this symmetry, the building remained unified in design through repetition of bay units and basic forms established in the original design.

Exterior walls of the original building and two additions are compartmentalized by the use of projected brick courses suggesting a high base, pilasters separating bays and frieze. Wall openings include large four over four sash windows with dip cap stone architraves and bracketed sills, and tall panelled doors with transoms.

The building has metal roofing on 70% of its roof surface and tar paper roofing covering the remaining area.

The interior of the station features hardwood floors in most sections (floor of the freight-house is concrete), wainscoting and plastered walls. Originally the station had piped gas for lighting. This was replaced by electricity but the piping is still visible. The building was originally heated by fireplaces but these were discontinued and eight original chimnies were taken down in the 1920s when the building was converted to steam heat.

A fire several years ago of suspicious origin fortunately was isolated to the area known as the men's waiting room. Destroyed were two original doors, five windows, the wainscoting and wood trim, as well as the plastered walls and ceiling. The floor is quite sturdy and intact except for a few char marks. The overhead beams and roof supports are charred and blackened but still strong, and the beams need only minor repairs at their eastern ends for reinforcement and nailing surface. Blackened were the walls and ceiling of the adjoining concourse plus some wood trim and about 8 feet of wainscoting burned. Outside the fire damaged six overhanging arches and the roof area above. These arches are still functional and strong, except for their charred appearance. A professional plasterman and wood-worker indicate no problem in restoring this damaged area to original specifications. The Tamaqua Historical Society, Inc. has been working on the Station to make it once again a showplace of the community.

8. Significance

X 1800–1899	agriculture _X architecture		law literature literatury music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater X transportation other (specify
Specific dates	1874, 1880, 1885	Builder/Architect U	nknown	202 R010AU11

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reading Railroad Passenger Station in downtown Tamagua played a significant role in local transportation. This station was the point of origin for passenger trains travelling from Tamaqua to cities throughout eastern Pennsylvania. It was also an important way station in the Reading Railroad system providing the meal stop-over on the line between Philadelphia and Williamsport. The Tamaqua station was one of six intermediate size stations constructed by the Reading Railroad between 1872 and 1876 (only the Tamaqua and the Topton Stations survive). Architecturally the Italianate style building depicts the functional requirements and handsome styling of small town railroad stations of the Victorian period.

The Reading Railroad built the Tamaqua station in 1874 to replace an earlier, smaller station that had burned to the ground. Construction of this station was also part of the Reading Railroad's plan to expand its holdings in the anthracite coal fields. When it built the Tamaqua Station in 1874, the Reading Railroad built a cone-shaped, large-stall engine house close to the station. The railroad company similarly spent enormous sums of

money on holdings throughout the anthracite region.

The new Tamaqua Station became an important center in local transportation. One of the station's primary roles was providing local residents with a direct rail line to cities in eastern Pennsylvania. Passenger trains ran from Tamaqua to such cities as Philadelphia, Reading, Mauch Chunk, and Williamsport. Judging from the number of passenger trains leaving Tamaqua, the station handled a significant volume of passengers. In 1874 22 trains or 11 round trips originated daily from Tamaqua. At the high point of passenger traffic in 1904, passenger service from Tamagua numbered 34 trains or 17 round trips daily.

The Tamaqua Station also played an important role on the Reading Railroad's Philadelphia to Williamsport run. As far back as 1877 the station had a restaurant to serve passengers. By 1884 the station and restaurant provided the meal stop-over for through service between Philadelphia and Williamsport. Only a few of the larger stations in eastern Pennsylvania had such restaurants. For instance, even the passenger station in Mauch Chunk, which was an important railroad transportation center in northeastern

Pennsylvania, had no restaurant facilities.

The Tamaqua Station also served other important functions in local transportation. The freight-house section of the station handled shipments of goods for local residents. The freight-house was operated initially by the Reading Railroad and later by the American Express Agency and the Railway Express Agency. The station also provided a collection and shipping point for United States Post Office mail. The East Penn Traction Company opened an office in a back portion of the freight-house when it began a Lansford-Tamaqua-Pottsville trolley car run at the turn of the century. Thus the Tamaqua station played various roles in local transportation.

The station's importance in local transportation gradually declined after the turn of the century. Competition from trolleys, buses, and automobiles grew after the peak in passenger traffic in 1904. Because of this competition, the Williamsporter, which ran between Philadelphia and Williamsport, was withdrawn in 1949. The last passenger train left Tamaqua station in 1963. The railroad used the station for administrative purposes between 1963 and 1980, and then sold the station to the Borough of Tamaqua.

9. Major Biblio	graphical F	Reference	S
iudson Coal Company. The	Story of Anthracit	e. Scranton, P.	A: Coal Company
Print, 1932 ewis, Edward A. <u>Reading</u> (See Continuati		n. Strasburg,	PA: Baggage Car Publishing, 197
10. Geographi	cal Data		
Acreage of nominated property _	1.59 Acres		
Quadrangle name Tamaqua UTM References			Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
A 1 8 4 5 0 5 4 0 7 Zone Easting No.	16 012 41910 porthing	B Easti	ng Northing
دليا لياً ا		□ □	
E		F	
xtending north 587.41 fe eet to Berwick Street fo 16.66 feet. Boundary th List all states and counties f	et. Then circles t llowing a walkway s en goes north aroun	he base of the routh for 244.19 d the Bell Teler ng state or county	walkway from W. Broad Street, nountainside west for 449.22 feet to West Broad Street, east phone property for 176.97 feet & boundaries east for 118.11 feet.
state N/A	code N/A	county N/A	code NA
state N/A	code N/A	county N/A	code N/A
11. Form Prep	ared By		
name/title Michael Havris	chak, President		
organization Tamaqua Histor	rical Society, Inc.	date At	agust 17, 1985
street & number ^{C/O} 18 West V	Vater Street	telephoi	ne (717) 645-4404
Coaldale		state I	Pennsylvania
12. State Hist	oric Preserv	ation Off	icer Certification
The evaluated significance of this	property within the state	is:	
national	state X		
As the designated State Historic 665), I hereby nominate this propaccording to the criteria and proc	erty for inclusion in the Na edures set forth by the Na	tional∖Register and co	eservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– ertify that it has been evaluated
title Dr. Larry E. Tise, S	State Historic Prese	ervation Officer	date /1/19/85
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this pro	perty is included in the Na	tional Register	
1 Selver	7 Frotan	-	date $12-26-85$
Keeper of the National Regist	er attack	al Register	,
Attest:			date
Chief of Registration			

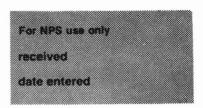
GPO 911-399

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Tamaqua, Schuylkill Co.

Continuation sheet Reading Railroad Passenger Stem number

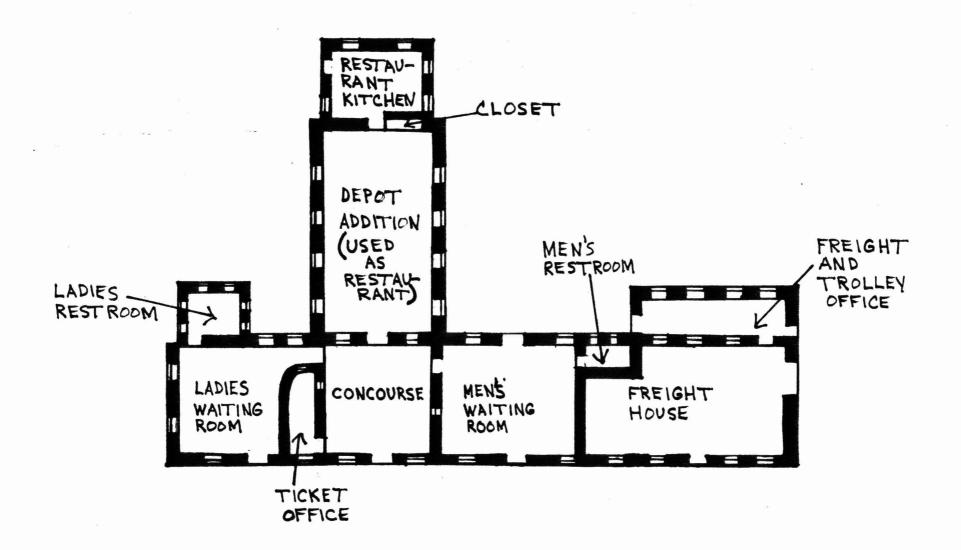


Page 2

Since 1980 the station has been vacant. It has received minor maintenance and repairs but stands in need of more extensive rehabilitation or restoration.

The building rests on land which has been advertised for development; therefore its future is uncertain.

The Tamaqua Railroad Station recalls the significant role of railroads in local life and commerce. It also shows the ability of rail companies, such as the Reading, to provide distinctive and stylish facilities to handle an expanding volume of business.



FLOOR PLAN - 6-12-84

READING RAILROAD PASSENGER STATION, TAMAQUA, PA.

NOT TO SCALE DOOR: WINDOW

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

rm date entered

Reading Railroad Passenger Station, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

2

For NPS use only

received

- Munsell, W.W. The History of Schuylkill County. New York, Munsell & Co., 1881
- National Railway Publication Co. <u>Traveler's Official Railway Guide</u>.
 New York, July 1874, February 1884, November 1894, January 1905, May 1914, January 1925, July 1934, June 1944, May 1954, and November 1964 Research books found in the Archives of the Pennsylvania State Railroad Museum at Strasburg, Pa.
- Scherer, Paul "Excerpts from Tamaqua's Past, Tamaqua, Pa., Private Print by Author, Volume I, No. 7, 1980, Found in Tamaqua Historical Society, Inc. Files
- Interviews and Research by Consultant to the Tamaqua Historical Society, Inc., George Hart of Jim Thorpe, Pa. (Former Railroad Curator of The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.)
- Interviews and Research by Consultant to the Tamaqua Historical Society, Inc., John Gunsser of Jim Thorpe, Pa. (Curator and Authority on Victorian Architecture, Asa Packer Mansion at Jim Thorpe, Pa.)

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Schuylkill County	Passenger Statio	on—Tamaqua				
PENNSYLVANIA				Working No	NOY 2	6 1985
				Fed. Reg. D	Date 2/3/8/	7
				Date Due:		1/10/86
resubmission			Entered in th	Action:	RETURN	12-26-85
nomination by perso	n or local governmen	t	National Regi	sten	REJECT	
owner objection	•		20,02,020,03		ency:	
☐ appeal						
Substantive Review:	sample	request	appeal		NR decision	
Reviewer's comments:						
				Bacom /Cri	teria	
					terra	
				Date		
				see c	continuation sheet	
Nomination returned for						
	substantive re	easons discussed belo	ow			
1. Name						
2. Location						
3. Classification						
Category	Ownership Public Acquisit	ion	Status Accessible	Pr	resent Use	
4. Owner of Property						
5. Location of Legal Des	cription					
6. Representation in Exi	sting Surveys					
Has this property been de	etermined eligible?	☐ yes ☐] no		,	
7. Description						
Condition		Check	one	C	heck one	
excellent	deteriorated		altered	_	original site	
good	ruins	L alte	ered	L	moved date	
fair	unexposed					
Describe the present and	original (if known) p	hysical appearance				
summary paragraph						
completeness						
☐ clarity						
alterations/integrity						
dates boundary selection						
Douting y selection						

8. Significance			
Period Areas of	Significance—Check and justi	fy below	
Specific dates Statement of Signific	Builder/Archi- cance <i>(in one paragraph)</i>	tect	
□ context	a reas checked nce to the resource ntegrity to significance		
9. Major Bibliograpi	nical References		
10. Geographical Da	nta		
Acreage of nominate Quadrangle name UTM References	ed property	-	
Verbal boundary des	scription and justification	,	
11. Form Prepared	Ву		*
	reservation Officer Certificaticance of this property within	•	
	vation Officer signature		
title	date		
13. Other			
☐ Maps ☐ Photographs ☐ Other			
Questions concerning	g this nomination may be dire	ected to	•
Cianad		D	
Signed		Date	Phone:



Reading Railroad Passenger Station, Tamaqua

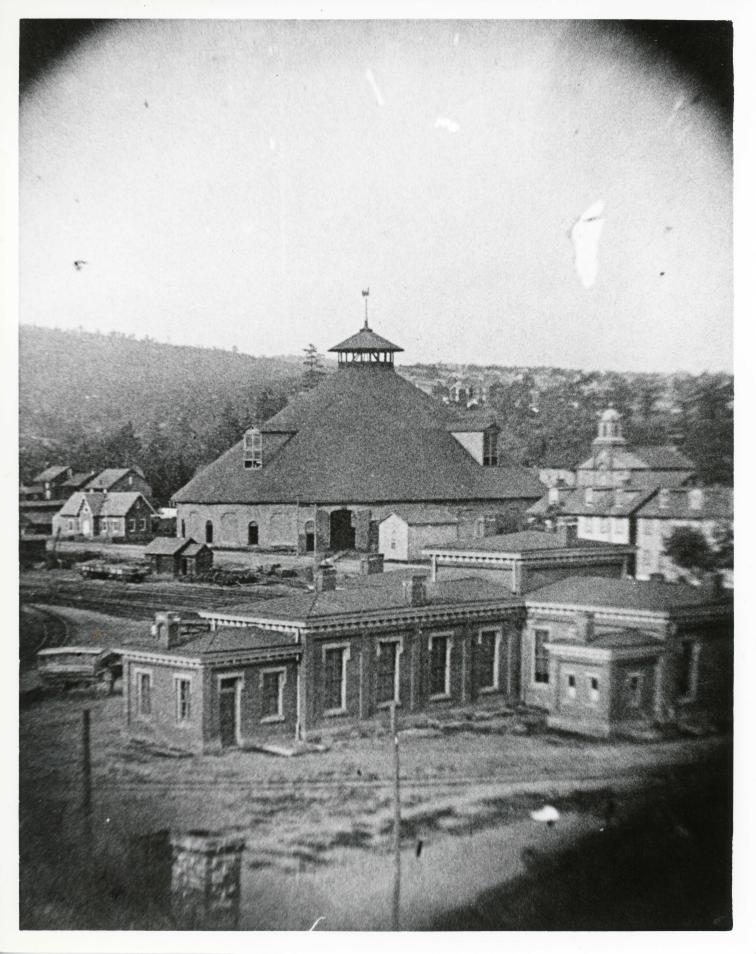
Schuylkill County PD: Circa 1912

NL: Tamaqua Historical Society Inc.

PV: Interior view of the restaurant

in the depot addition of the

Tamaqua Railroad Station



Reading Railroad Passenger Station, Tamaqua

Schuylkill County PD: Early 1880's, Glass Plate Neg.

PC: Bailey Studios, Tamaqua

NL: Tamaqua Historical Society, Inc.

PV: Close-up view of Station and Roundhouse from the southwest showing west side of Station Beard Collection Negative 2



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK
18 WEST WATER STREET
COALDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218
NEGATIVES ON FILE: Treemagne
PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984

VIEW OF STATION FROM SOUTH LOOKING NORTH AND SHOWING EASTERN SIDE.

Mindows restored. Covered windows awaiting restoration (glass, putty, etc.)



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK 18 WEST WATER STREET COALDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218
NEGATIVES ON FILE 2 Jamagua
PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984

VIEW OF STATION FROM NORTH END LOOKING SOUTH TOWARD WEST BROAD STREET FROM THE RAILROAD TRACKS.



PHOTO BY AL SWORD

56 W. CATAWISSA STREET NESQUEHONING, PA 18240 (717) 669-9136

Reading Railroad Passenger Station,

Schuylkill County

PD: July 25, 1985

PC: Al Sword

NL: Tamaqua Historical Society Inc.

PV: Rear view of the Station looking west showing on the right, the depot addition; in the middle, the depot; and on the left, the freighthouse.



PHOTO BY AL SWORD

56 W. CATAWISSA STREET NESQUEHONING, PA 18240

(717) 669-9136

Reading Railroad Passenger Station, Tamaqua

Schuylkill County

PD: July 25, 1985

PC: Al Sword

NL: Tamaqua Historical Society Inc.

PV: View of freighthouse from northeast corner.



PHOTO BY AL SWORD

56 W. CATAWISSA STREET NESQUEHONING, PA 18240

(717) 669-9136

Reading Railroad Passenger Station, Tamaqua

Schuylkill County

PD: July 25, 1985

PC: Al Sword

NL: Tamaqua Historical Society Inc.

PV: View of north-end of freighthouse



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK
18 WEST WATER STREET
COALDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218
NEGATIVES ON FILE Tamaqua
Historical Society, Loc
PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984

REAR VIEW OF STATION FROM THE WEST FACING EAST SHOWING MEN'S WAITING ROOM. ARROWS INDICATE BLACKENING FROM FIRE AND WINDOWS DESTROYED.



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK
18 WEST WATER STREET
COALDAGE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218
NEGATIVES ON FILE: 3 Tamagua
Higherical Society True
PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984

Men's Naiting Swom Section
VIEW OF STATION FROM EAST SHOWING
FRONT OR TRACKSIDE OF BUILDING.
ARROWS INDICATE AREAS DAMAGED BY
FIRE, THE OVERHANGING ROOF ARCHES
AND ROOF AREA.

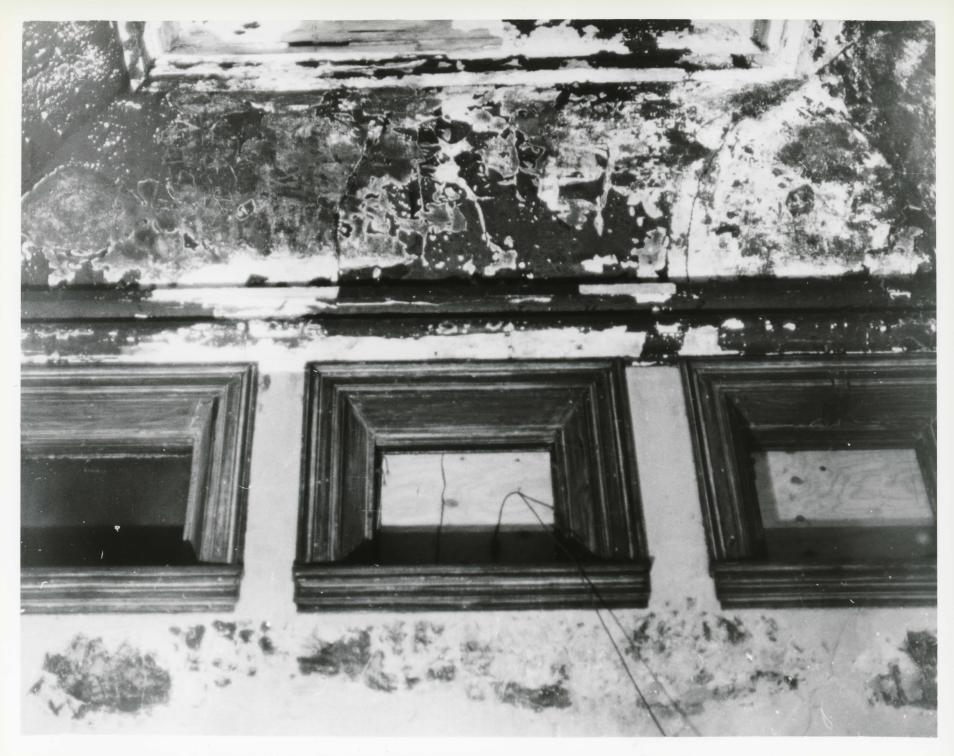


VIEW OF DAMAGED WOODWORK AND PLASTER IN MEN'S WAITING ROOM.

READING RAILROAD PASSENGER STATION TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK 18 WEST WATER STREET COALDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218

PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984
NEGATIVES ON FILE Tamanua
(tistorical society, Inc.



PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK 18 WEST WATER STREET COALDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218

PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984 NEGATIVES ON FILE Tamageea

I tistorical society, Inc.

VIEW SHOWS SCRAPED BLACKENED WALLS AND CEILING AREA AND WINDOWS IN CONCOURSE PRIOR TO CLEANING AND REPAINTING.



VIEW OF TWO FIRE DAMAGED OVERHANGING ROOF ARCHES AND ABOVE ROOF.

READING RAILROAD PASSENGER STATION TAMAQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHAEL HAVRISCHAK 18 WEST WATER STREET COALDALE, PENNSYLVANIA 18218

PHOTO TAKEN: APRIL 26, 1984
NEGATIVES ON FILE: Tamaqua
Hhistorical Societa

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION BUREAU FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BOX 1026 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17108-1026

November 18, 1985

National Register of Historic Places US Dept. of Interior Carol Shull, Chief of Registration P.O. Box 37127 Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Re: NR Nomination Forms

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination forms are being submitted/resubmitted for your review and response:

see attached sheet

The proposed action is:

XX listing in the National Register

determination of eligibility (owner objection)

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please call us at (717) 783-8947.

Sincerely

reg Ramsey, Chief

Division of Preservation Services

GR:sk

- 1. Marshallton Historic District, Chester County
- 2. Schuylkill Historic District, Philadelphia County
- 3. Anoatok, McKean County
- 4. Frank C. Scherer Wagon Works, Philadelphia County
- 5. Homestead Pennsylvania Railroad Station, Allegheny County
- 6. Armstrong Tunnel, Allegheny County
- 7. Allegheny County Owned River Bridges Thematic Group, Allgheny County
- 8. Hollidaysburg Historic District, Blair County
- 9. Jervis Gordon Grist Mill Historic District, Pike County
- 10. Grundy Mill Complex, Bucks County
- 11. Reading Railroad Passenger Station, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County
- 12. Joseph Richardson House, Bucks County