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CHICAGO, BURLINGTON AND QUINCY RAILROAD,  
OTTAWA PASSENGER STATION  
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
Corner of Walnut and Main streets  
Ottawa  
LaSalle County  
Illinois

HAER No. IL-73

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
CHICAGO, BURLINGTON AND QUINCY RAILROAD,  
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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor  
Corner of Walnut and Main streets  
Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.345480 N.4578720  
Quad: Ottawa

Date of Construction: 1913

Builder: Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad

Present Owner: Burlington Northern Railroad

Present Use: Offices

Significance: The Ottawa Passenger Depot displays several distinctive architectural features, including a hipped roof, projecting eaves, and detailed brickwork.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1985.

CHICAGO, BURLINGTON AND QUINCY RAILROAD,  
OTTAWA PASSENGER STATION  
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This Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad depot was built in 1913. At this time two railroads -- the Chicago Burlington & Quincy and the Rock Island Railroad -- and an interurban railway, the Chicago, Ottawa, & Peoria, provided Ottawa with passenger service. The Chicago Burlington & Quincy depot has a distinctive intersecting hipped roof with terra cotta tiles and finely crafted brickwork. This structure replaced an earlier wood-frame passenger depot. An adjacent wood-frame freight house was located on the corner of Main and Madison streets. Both of these late-nineteenth-century wood structures were demolished. Since Ottawa is no longer served by passenger rail, the old Chicago Burlington & Quincy depot is now used as offices by the Burlington Northern Railroad.

The depot is a one-and-one-half-story brick building (approximately 60' x 25') with a buff-colored, stretcher-bond brick walls, a cast stone water table and belt course, an intersecting hipped roof covered with terra cotta tile, and a concrete foundation. Prominent features of the depot are projecting eaves with a wood tongue-and-groove soffit, an interior brick chimney, and one-over-one-light, wood, double-hung, sash windows. The main entrances are located along the east and west facades, and the tracks extend along the west side of the building. Brick pavers extend from the west entrance to the tracks.

**SOURCES:**

Sanborn Map Co., Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1888, 1891, 1898, 1913, 1925).

Ottawa, Old and New: A Complete History of Ottawa, Illinois, 1823-1914 (Ottawa, IL: The Republican Times, 1912-1914, reprinted by Bireline Publishing Co., Newell, Iowa, 1984): 155.