

GREENSBURG RAILROAD STATION
Pennsylvania Railroad
Harrison Avenue
Greensburg
Westmoreland
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-249

HAER
PA
65-GREEB,
2-

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
GREENSBURG RAILROAD STATION

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HAER No. PA-249

Location: Harrison Avenue, Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1911

Builder: Pennsylvania Railroad
William H. Cookman, architect

Present Owner: unknown

Present Use: abandoned

Significance: A principal stop on the mainline of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Greensburg Station is now listed on the National Register.

Project Information: In February, 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Westmoreland County to identify the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

Compiler: Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

DESCRIPTION: The Greensburg Railroad Station consists of two buildings designed by William H. Cookman in 1910. Passenger Station: red brick, Flemish bond with stone quoins; one story with full basement; measures 115' x 49'; slate gable roof with dormers replaced with asphalt shingles; dormers have stone scrollwork on pediments; tall square brick clock tower with stone quoins and beltcourses; tower topped by copper domed roof and finial, ornamental parapets with center cartouche and corner finials at dome; tower originally held four clocks set in stone squares, clocks replaced with Pennsylvania Railroad insignia; labels over arched windows; over-hanging eaves with decorative roof brackets; street entrance enclosed by three-arch porte-cochere; one-over-one-light double-hung windows in pairs or triplets. Baggage Station: red brick, Flemish bond; one story; measures 59' x 26'; hipped roof with large round arched dormer with finials and two smaller round dormers; over-hanging eaves with decorative roof brackets.

An enclosed walkway passes between the two structures to steps leading to the covered waiting platforms. The walkway ends in a tunnel opening onto Harrison Avenue on the other side of the tracks. These two buildings are now vacant and deteriorating.

HISTORY: William H. Cookman constructed both the passenger and baggage stations in 1911. A covered passageway connects these two buildings. The first train arrived at Greensburg in 1852, and in the coming years Greensburg became a principal stop on the mainline of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1977 the Greensburg railroad station was listed on the National Register.

Sources:

Roy, Laura and Susan M. Zacher, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form." August 1977, unpublished document available at the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

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Saylor, Roger B. The Railroads of Pennsylvania. State College: Pennsylvania State University, 1964.