SUMMARY OF NOMINATION INFORMATION IN HPO FILES
(REVISED 1/2000)

NAME: Princeton RR Station

COUNTY: Mercer

MUNICIPALITY: Princeton Borough

DATE OF LISTING
New Jersey Register: 3-17-1984
National Register: 9-29-1984

NOMINATION FORM
Nomination form (if there are continuation sheets, please indicate number)
- First page (#1-6)
- Description (#7)
- Significance (#8)
- Last Page (#9-11)

SHPO Signatures
USGS Map
Site Plan
Tax Map
Floorplan
Photo Index Map
Historic Maps

Photographs (Indicate number)
- Exterior
- Interior
- Streetscapes
- Outbuildings
- Historical
- Negatives
- Contact Sheet
- Photo Inventory

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
N.J.H.S.I.# Draft Nomination
Newspaper/Magazine Articles Correspondence
HABS Contextual Data
Other (please specify)

STAFF MEMBER: Tony Krouse
DATE: 8-1-2000

UPDATES:
STAFF
DATE
STAFF
DATE
NEW JERSEY TRANSIT
RAILROAD STATION SURVEY

1. IDENTIFICATION

A. Name: Common Princeton Historic
   Line: NE Corridor (Pennsylvania)

B. Address or location:
   University Place
   Princeton, NJ
   (ca. 400' E. of Alexander St.)

C. Owner's name: NJ Transit
   Address: Newark, NJ

D. Location of legal description: Recorder of Deeds, Mercer County Courthouse, 209 South Broad Street, Trenton, N.J. 08607

E. Representation in existing surveys: (give number, category, etc., as appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HABS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELRR Improvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY&amp;LB Improvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainfield Corridor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NR (name, if HD) Princeton H.D.</td>
<td>6/28/75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJSR (name, if HD) Princeton H.D.</td>
<td>10/29/73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJHSI (#)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northeast Corridor

Modernization Study: site plan X floor plan X aerial photo
other views X photos of NR quality? X

2. EVALUATION

A. Determination of eligibility: SHPO comment? (date )
   NR det.? (date )

B. Potentially eligible for NR: yes X possible __ no __
   individual __ thematic X

C. Survey Evaluation: 130/165 points
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

3. DESCRIPTION--COMPLEX IN GENERAL

Describe the entire railroad complex at this site; mention all buildings and structures, with notation of which are not historic. Check items which apply and discuss in narrative:

Moved buildings (original location, date of and reason for move)

Any non-railroad uses in complex (military recruiting, etc.)

Known threats to complex or individual structures

Surroundings: urban suburban X scattered buildings open space

X residential woodland agricultural industrial

X downtown commercial highway commercial X other (specify) University campus to NE

Relationship of station grade to track grade:

X Station and track grade at same level ___Station at street grade, track depressed

Station spans track ___Track elevated above street grade, multi-level station

# of tracks: 1 + siding

Pedestrian access across tracks:

___Pedestrian bridge: ___at street grade ___elevated

___Pedestrian/vehicular bridge: ___at street grade ___elevated

___Tunnel

X None provided

Discuss character of vehicular and pedestrian approaches to complex; landscaping; relationship to parking. Refer to, and key with, site plan.

The Princeton complex is located on a relatively open site at the S edge of the Princeton University campus. It consists of a 1/2-story stone station, tracks, platform and canopy aligned generally N-S and a 1/2-story stone freight house, located ca. 150' S of the station. There is small parking lot (1) SW of the Freight House, while additional parking is available along University Place (2) to the NW, W and SW. Pedestrian access is unrestricted. Bordering the tracks on the E is a high hedge, which visually separates station and campus. Both station and shelter are in Collegiate Gothic style.
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

3. DESCRIPTION—PLATFORMS AND CANOPIES

_X_ Inbound  400' asphalt platform, edged discontinuously with an iron pipe rail. There are (2) original incandescent fixtures mounted on cast iron poles.

____ Outbound

____ Between tracks

Nature and extent of existing original material and alterations: roof type, material, supports; freestanding or attached to building; seating; lighting; signage; other.

The inbound canopy at Princeton is 17 bays long, the S six of which are attached to the E facade of the Freight House. At its N end the canopy is attached to the E facade entry to the station. A very shallow gabled roof with a wood frame is supported on a single row of wood columns with wood brackets and concrete bases. Tie beams have shaped ends. An incandescent lighting fixture with circular metal shade hangs from the framing in each bay. Hanging E of the Freight House door is a board sign (red, gold type and border). Materials appear original.
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, site plan.
Account for original materials and finishes where different from existing.

Station ___ Shelter ____ Freight House ______ Other ______ (specify)

General architectural description, including style, shape, roof type, # stories, # bays, orientation to track, location of entrances, etc.

The station at Princeton, located W of the tracks, consists of a 1½-story rectangular block, 5 bays long and 3 wide, with a gabled roof, its ridge paralleling the tracks. Walls are coursed ashlar with limestone trim; roofing is slate. The E and W facades are essentially identical, each containing central paired doors surmounted by paired 12 pane windows in a transverse gable end and flanked on either side by (from the center) a triple grouping and a double grouping of windows. Windows are 9 pane transom over 12 pane horizontal casement, while doors are 9/2 panel. The S facade contains three windows and the N, a door with transom and 2 windows.

Although some openings are boarded, materials appear original.
FACILITY NAME  Princeton

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR) CONT.

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility.

Station  x  Shelter  Freight House  Other  (specify)

EXTERIOR MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Existing, if different</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural system:</td>
<td>bearing wall/frame roof</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation:</td>
<td>stone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base course:</td>
<td>tooled granite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls:</td>
<td>coursed ashlar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim:</td>
<td>limestone, surrounds, sills, gable end</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>coping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doors:</td>
<td>9/2 panel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofing:</td>
<td>slate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soffit:</td>
<td>copper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows:</td>
<td>12 pane casement with 9 pane transom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting:</td>
<td>incand. fixes.</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage:</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage:</td>
<td>copper gutters and downspouts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>copper canopy over entry (W)</td>
<td>missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>chimney with rectangular base, polygonal pot, ashlar with limestone trim (E side of roof)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheets for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, floor plan.

Station x Shelter _____ Freight House _____ Other _____ (specify)

General architectural description of all spaces, including original materials and finishes, if known, any remodeling, etc.

The spaces of the Princeton station are on one level. The central half of the block comprises the Waiting Room, while the S quarter comprises the Ticket Office, and the N quarter, a short hall with the Ladies' Room to the W and Men's Room to the E. The Men's Room is accessible only from an exterior door in the N facade, and the basement, from an exterior stairway adjoining the E facade. The Waiting Room has a terrazzo floor, paneled wainscot and plastered walls and ceiling. The ceiling is barrel vaulted with a groin vault in the center on axis with the doors. Other rooms have similar finishes although wainscots are beaded matched board in the Ticket Office and marble panels in the Rest Rooms. Trim consists of molded board. All materials, with the exception of lighting fixtures, (see schedule) appear original.
### Facility Name: Princeton


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station - Room and Finish Schedule</th>
<th>Number of Rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waiting Room</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number on Floor Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing, if different</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Floors:** terrazzo (gray) marble border (beige)
- **Base:** marble (beige)
- **Wainscot:** wood paneling, stain
- **Walls:** plaster (yellow paint)
- **Ceiling:** plaster, barrel vault, groin vault in center (yellow paint)
- **Trim:** wood molded architraves, surrounds, sills, stain
- **Doors:** 9/2 panel; 1/1 to office, stain
- **Seating:**
  - (2) double matched board benches
  - (2) single matched board benches, stain
- **Seating:**
  - (2) single matched board benches, stain
- **Lighting:**
  - (3) hang. incan. fix. w/ glass urn shades
  - (4) incan. fix. attached to ticket window (1 missing)
  - surrounds
- **Other:**
  - (4) cast iron radiators
  - (4) marble sills at ticket window
  - Princeton bicentennial logo (brown) S wall
  - (1) free standing phone booth
  - (2) wall mounted phone booths (N)
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ROOMS 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME Ticket Office</td>
<td>NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original</td>
<td>Existing, if different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floors: board (W) terrazzo (gray, E)</td>
<td>linoleum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stain or varn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base: board (W) marble (beige, E)</td>
<td>(green paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wainscot: vert. match, board (W) marble (beige, SE cor.)</td>
<td>(green paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls: plaster</td>
<td>(lt. green paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling: plaster, coved (attic entry)</td>
<td>(beige paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim: wood molded surrounds, chairrail, cornice molding, stain or varn.</td>
<td>(green paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doors: (1/1)</td>
<td>(green paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seating: none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting: incand. fixes.</td>
<td>(2) hang. fluor. fixes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: (3) cast iron radiators, built-in cabinets, counter (N)</td>
<td>(3) hang. flour. fixes. over ticket window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sink (E wall near SE corner)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONT'D.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ROOMS</th>
<th>NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>Men's Room</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Floors: | | Original |
|---------|------------|
| Base:   | | | |
| Wainscot: | | | |
| Walls: | | | |
| Ceiling: | | | |
| Trim: | | | |
| Doors: | | | |
| Seating: | | | |
| Lighting: | | | |
| Other: | | | |

Existing, if different: 

-5A
RR 1109-
Survey # 1-6
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONT'D.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ROOMS</th>
<th>NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>Ladies' Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Floors: terrazzo (gray) marble border (beige)  
Base: marble (beige)  
Wainscot: marble (beige)  
Walls: plaster  
Ceiling: plaster  
Trim: wood molded surrounds  
Doors: (1/1)  
Seating: none  
Lighting: incand. fix.  
Other: marble partitions  
cast iron radiator (W)  

Existing, if different

10 Floors: terrazzo (gray) marble border (beige)
Base: marble (beige)
Wainscot: marble (beige) wood paneling (E)
Walls: plaster (yellow/blue/beige paint)
Ceiling: plaster (yellow/white paint)
Trim: wood molded surrounds (brown paint)
Doors: (1/1)
Seating: none
Lighting: incand. fix. (1) ceiling mounted fluor. fix.
Other: marble partitions  
cast iron radiator (W)

new toilets  
doors missing  
1 of 3 toilets missing
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR) CONTD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION - ROOM AND FINISH SCHEDULE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ROOMS</th>
<th>NUMBER ON FLOOR PLAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME Basement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Existing, if different</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Floors: poured concrete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base: none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wainscot: none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls: coursed rock face ashlar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling: poured concrete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim: none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doors: 3 panel</td>
<td>(gray paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seating: none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting: hang. incand. fix.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: (7) 6 pane windows</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The freight house at Princeton, located W of the tracks and ca. 150' S of the station, consists of a 1½-story rectangular block, 6 bays long and 3 wide, with a gabled roof, its ridge paralleling the tracks. Adjoining the N end is a 1½-story transverse block, three bays wide and one deep. It too has a gabled roof. Walls are coursed ashlar and the roof, slate. Trim is concrete and gable ends have heavy concrete coping. The E facade contains a central door (originally double leaf, but now single leaf, with a clapboard surround). N of center are a window, another door, and another window, while S of center are two paired windows, a freight door, and a single window. The W facade contains two central paired windows flanked on either side by (from the center) a double leaf freight door and a single window, and on the N only, a small 1/1. The transverse block projects beyond the W facade line and contains one window on the S and two on the W. The S facade contains three windows, while the N contains two, and a central door sheltered by a bracketed hood. There are also windows in the gable ends, all of which are boarded over. A wood frame platform adjoins the main block on the W and S. An octagonal stone chimney rises from the E side of the roof. All materials appear original.
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (EXTERIOR) CONT'D.

Fill out separate sheet for each building at facility.

Station _____ Shelter _____ Freight House X Other ____ (specify)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXTERIOR MATERIALS AND SYSTEMS:</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Existing, if different</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural system:</td>
<td>bearing wall, frame roof</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation:</td>
<td>probably stone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base course:</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls:</td>
<td>coursed ashlar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trim:</td>
<td>concrete sills, lintels, coping; stone:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>voussoirs, shaped rafter ends, wood:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>brackets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doors:</td>
<td>4/2 panel</td>
<td>one altered with clapboard surround</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofing:</td>
<td>slate, copper flashing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soffit:</td>
<td>matched board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows:</td>
<td>6/1; 1/1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting:</td>
<td>soffit mounted incand. fixs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signage:</td>
<td>std. Pa. RR, painted board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage:</td>
<td>copper gutter and downspout</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>wood frame platform (W &amp; S)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. DESCRIPTION - BUILDINGS (INTERIOR)

Fill out separate sheets for each building at facility. Refer to, and key with, floor plan.

Station_____ Shelter_____ Freight House X Other_______(specify)

General architectural description of all spaces, including original materials and finishes, if known, any remodeling, etc.

NOT ACCESSIBLE
The Princeton station and Freight House are good examples of the Collegiate Gothic style adapted to the functions of an early twentieth century rail terminal facility. In form and materials they are consistent with many of the buildings on the Princeton University campus nearby. Construction of the station coincided with a burst of Collegiate Gothic construction by the University following a decision by the Trustees in 1896 that future buildings would be in the English Gothic style. This transformation was led by noted "archaeological Gothic" architect Ralph Adams Cram who was the University's supervising architect from 1904 to 1927 (Greiff, 169, 174-175). The complex is unusual in that it was built with high level platforms. At most suburban stations on the Pennsylvania line, platforms were rebuilt at a later date. It is also a terminal, located at the N end of a branch line which joins the mainline at Princeton Junction, three miles to the SE, and is served by a shuttle train (locally known as the "dinky"). Until its consolidation with the New York Central line, the Pennsylvania operated through train specials via the branch line to Princeton University football games. A special train yard was once located E of the station near the stadium. In virtually original condition the complex continues to serve large numbers of commuters. The Freight House is used as a taxi office.

* Shand was chief engineer, Broad Street station, Philadelphia. The buildings may have been designed by others in his office. The builder was Matthews Construction Co. (Lipp, p. 19)
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

6. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal boundary description (if Block/Lot not available)

Boundary is outlined on the site plan.

Acreage: ca. ¾ acre
UTM coordinates: Zone: 18/Easting: 528900/Northing: 4465740
USGS Quad Princeton Scale 1:24 000

7. REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHIC:
Lipp, Delmar, "A Short History of the Princeton Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad," paper presented 1939; pub. in Princeton History, Vol. II.

ICONOGRAPHIC:
Photos: (1865 & 1918 stations) postcard, Timothy J. McMahon collection, Fair Haven, NJ.
Plans, Princeton Station, Conrail, Philadelphia, PA.

8. PHOTO

Negative index # 1327 or NJT photo # -- slide # 1-6
Date 1978 Photographer Richard Browne Assocs.
Loc. of negative NJ Transit Direction of view: Station from south
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

9. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

A. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

i. Associated with important events or broad movements in history
   nationally ____(30)
   state-wide _____(25)
   locally ___(20) rail link for Princeton U.

ii. Representative of significant changes in railroad history and/or technology
   rare _____(30)
   unusual ___(25)
   common ___(10)

   ___(50) early example of high level platform

iii. Original station on site

iv. Representative of a line's standard design

v. Constructed prior to 1900

vi. Junction station

vii. Former long-distance service

viii. Other

   ___(10) terminal

ix. Less than 50 years old

B. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

i. STYLE Collegiate Gothic
   a. Example of a particular architectural style (check one)
      Outstanding _____(50)
      Excellent _____(40)
      Very good ___(30)
      Good ___(20)
      Fair ___(10)

   b. Rare survivor of style
      nationally _____(20)
      state-wide ___(15)
      locally ___(10)

   c. As example of railroad architecture
      rare _____(30)
      unusual or early ___(15)
ii. ARCHITECT (check one)
   a. building by architect important
      nationally (25)
      state-wide (20)
      locally (15)
   b. building designed by railroad and is known
      or appears to be the work of the supervising
      architect or engineer or chief designer (20)
   c. building designed by railroad and is known
      or appears to be the work of the staff (5)
   d. architect identified but not considered
      to be of special importance (5)

iii. OVERALL ARCHITECTURAL QUALITY (check one)
   a. Outstanding composition, siting, or
      craftsmanship (40)
   b. Notable composition, siting, or craftsmanship,
      or possessing especially picturesque or unusual exterior detailing (25)
   c. Possessing some detail(s) of particular
      interest and/or quality (15)
   d. Average quality or interest (5)

iv. SPECIAL QUALITIES
   a. Noteworthy overall interior design or
      detailing (15)
   b. Some noteworthy interior detailing
      (5)
      (interior not accessible)
   c. Part of cohesive complex
      1) station and freight house (5)
      2) more than two buildings (10)

v. CONSTRUCTION
   a. Noteworthy example of particular
      construction method (30)
   b. Rare or early survivor of particular
      method (20)
   c. Interesting example of method (5)
CRITERIA CONT.

C. CONDITIONS

i. INTEGRITY

a. Original condition ______(40)
b. Alterations and/or additions, beneficial ______(30)
c. Alterations and/or additions, not detrimental ______(20)
d. Minor detrimental alterations and/or additions, not affecting overall integrity X (10) canopy removed

e. Detrimental alterations and/or additions, reversible at considerable expense ______(-25)
f. Detrimental alterations and/or additions, essentially irreversible ______(-75)

ii. PHYSICAL CONDITION

a. Excellent ______(10)
b. Good X (5)
c. Fair ______(0)
d. Poor ______(-10)
e. Severely deteriorated ______(-25)

iii. RELATIONSHIP TO COMMUNITY

a. Pivotal building ______(40)
b. Integral part of townscape X (30)
c. Compatible with townscape ______(20)
d. Unrelated to townscape ______(0)
e. Incompatible ______-30)

iv. SUITABILITY FOR ADAPTIVE USE

a. Excellent X (30)
b. Very Good ______(25)
c. Good ______(20)
d. Average ______(15)
e. Possible, with difficulty ______(10)

75

TOTAL 165
FACILITY NAME: Princeton

Attach copy of site plan
continuation sheets attached

FORM PREPARED BY: Richard Meyer

Date: July, 1981

HERITAGE STUDIES, INC.
RD 4 Box 864, Mapleton Road
Princeton, N.J. 08540
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NEW JERSEY TRANSIT
RAILROAD STATION SURVEY

1. IDENTIFICATION

A. Name: Common Princeton Historic

B. Address or location:
   University Place
   Princeton, NJ
   (ca. 400' E. of Alexander St.)

C. Owner's name: NJ Transit
   Address: Newark, NJ

The Princeton complex is located on a relatively open site at the S edge of the University campus. It consists of a 1½-story stone station, tracks, platform and canopy aligned generally N-S and a 1½-story stone freight house, located ca. 150' S of the station. There is small parking lot (1) SW of the Freight House, while additional parking is available along University Place (2) to the NW, W and SW. Pedestrian access is unrestricted. Bordering the tracks on the E is a high hedge, which visually separates station and campus. Both station and shelter are in Collegiate Gothic style.

The inbound canopy at Princeton is 17 bays long, the S six of which are attached to the E facade of the Freight House. At its N end the canopy is attached to the E facade entry to the station. A very shallow gabled roof with a wood frame is supported on a single row of wood columns with wood brackets and concrete bases. Tie beams have shaped ends. An incandescent lighting fixture with circular metal shade hangs from the framing in each bay. Hanging E of the Freight House door is a board sign (red, gold type and border). Materials appear original.

The station at Princeton, located W of the tracks, consists of a 1½-story rectangular block, 5 bays long and 3 wide, with a gabled roof, its ridge paralleling the tracks. Walls are coursed ashlar with limestone trim; roofing is slate. The E and W facades are essentially identical, each containing central paired doors surmounted by paired 12 pane windows in a transverse gable end and flanked on either side by (from the center) a triple grouping and a double grouping of windows. Windows are 9 pane transom over 12 pane horizontal casement, while doors are 9/2 panel. The S facade contains three windows and the N, a door with transom and 2 windows.

Although some openings are boarded, materials appear original.
The spaces of the Princeton station are on one level. The central half of the block comprises the Waiting Room, while the S quarter comprises the Ticket Office, and the N quarter, a short hall with the Ladies' Room to the W and Men's Room to the E. The Men's Room is accessible only from an exterior door in the N facade, and the basement, from an exterior stairway adjoining the E facade. The Waiting Room has a terrazzo floor, paneled wainscot and plastered walls and ceiling. The ceiling is barrel vaulted with a groin vault in the center on axis with the doors. Other rooms have similar finishes although wainscots are beaded matched board in the Ticket Office and marble panels in the Rest Rooms. Trim consists of molded board. All materials, with the exception of lighting fixtures, (see schedule) appear original.

The freight house at Princeton, located W of the tracks and ca. 150' S of the station, consists of a 1½-story rectangular block, 6 bays long and 3 wide, with a gabled roof, its ridge paralleling the tracks. Adjoining the N end is a 1½-story transverse block, three bays wide and one deep. It too has a gabled roof. Walls are coursed ashlar and the roof, slate. Trim is concrete and gable ends have heavy concrete coping. The E facade contains a central door (originally double leaf, but now single leaf, with a clapboard surround). N of center are a window, another door, and another window, while S of center are two paired windows, a freight door, and a single window. The W facade contains two central paired windows flanked on either side by (from the center) a double leaf freight door and a single window, and on the N only, a small 1/1. The transverse block projects beyond the W facade line and contains one window on the S and two on the W. The S facade contains three windows, while the N contains two, and a central door sheltered by a bracketed hood. There are also windows in the gable ends, all of which are boarded over. A wood frame platform adjoins the main block on the W and S. An octagonal stone chimney rises from the E side of the roof. All materials appear original.

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPLEX (ARCHITECTURAL/HISTORICAL):

Architect Alexander C. Shand* source (plans) Date 1918 Source (plans) Alteration dates Source
Style Collegiate Gothic
# passenger trains/day (present) 56 in 1980 Peak (#, Yr.) 56 in 1980
NO Original station on site 47 in 1941
Present station replaced 1865 building (Lipp, p. 19) 33 in 1916
which stood ca. ½ mile to the N.

The Princeton station and Freight House are good examples of the Collegiate Gothic style adapted to the functions of an early twentieth century rail terminal facility. In form and materials they are consistent with many of the buildings on the Princeton University campus nearby. Construction of the station coincided with a burst of Collegiate Gothic construction by the University following a decision by the Trustees in 1896 that future buildings would be in the English Gothic style. This transformation was led by noted "archaeological Gothic" architect Ralph Adams Cram who was the University's supervising architect from 1904 to 1927 (Greiff, 169, 174-175). The complex is unusual in that it was built with high level platforms. At most suburban stations on the Pennsylvania line, platforms were rebuilt at a later date. It is also a terminal, located at the N end of a branch line which joins the mainline at Princeton Junction, three miles to the SE, and is served by a shuttle train (locally known as the "dinky"). Until its consolidation with the New York Central line, the Pennsylvania operated through train service via the branch line to Princeton University football games. A special train yard was once located E of the station near...