REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES--COVER SHEET

Name of Property (Old) Rock Island Depot and Hotel

Location
1 East Railroad Street
(street and number)
Liberal, Kansas 67901
(city, town, or vicinity location)
Tract 1, Railroad Addition in the northwest quarter of Section 4, Township 35,
/legal description/
Seward County
(county)

Owner of Property St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company
Southern Pacific Transportation Company, One Market Plaza
(street and number)
San Francisco, CA 94105
(city, town, county)

National Register status:
date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review 8-10-81
date entered in National Register

Description: On the north side of the railroad tracks and east of Liberal's main street, Kansas Avenue, the old Rock Island Depot and Hotel buildings are near the southern boundary of the town's central business district.

Both buildings are similar Mission style designs. The depot, which is east of the former hotel, is distinguished by a central two-story cross-gable section between two one-story wings. The two-story hotel has a rectangular plan. Both buildings have concrete foundations, brick walls to the midline of the first story and stuccoed frame walls above to the eave. Gable ends terminate in a curvilinear parapet with stepped edges. The eaves are extended on exposed rafters and the gable roofs are covered with red clay tiles. All exterior woodwork is painted white. The most prominent feature is a one-story frame verandah on the east, south, and west sides of the hotel building. Both buildings have suffered from a lack of maintenance. The depot is particularly deteriorated and vacant. The first floor of the hotel building is used for railroad offices.
Significance  Built in 1910, the old Rock Island depot and hotel are two of the oldest surviving buildings associated with the early history of Liberal, Kansas. They also evidence the spread of a regional stylistic influence in the design of early twentieth century railroad buildings.

Form prepared by  Dale Nimz, Historic Preservation Department  date 8-14-81

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on 8-10-81.
I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

State Historic Preservation Officer  Date  Aug. 19, 1981