

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Reading Railroad Station

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North Eighth Street

CITY, TOWN

Lebanon

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

16th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Lebanon

CODE

075

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

Plans for demolition  
or alteration are under  
consideration

**PRESENT USE**

<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lebanon County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

STREET &amp; NUMBER

400 South Eighth Street (Municipal Building)

CITY, TOWN

Lebanon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lebanon County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

400 South Eighth Street (Municipal Building)

CITY, TOWN

Lebanon

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical &amp; Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The design of the Reading Railroad Station in Lebanon consists of two separate sections which are connected by a large overhanging roof. The smaller, or the east section, was designed for use as a baggage room, telegraph office, and yardmasters' office. It is basically rectangular in plan, one-and-one-half stories in height, with a bellcast hipped gable roof and a two-story octagonal tower protruding above the roof on the northeast corner. Bellcast hipped gable dormers protrude also above the roof, two on both the north and south sides and one on the east side alongside the tower. This section measures approximately  $55\frac{1}{2}$  feet by  $32\frac{1}{2}$  feet while the tower, which protrudes somewhat from the corner measures about 14 feet across. Door openings are located similar to the dormers above, two on both north and south side, and one on the east side. Flat-arched window openings are located on all sides with five such bays on the first floor of the tower.

The larger, or west section, comprised the men's and women's waiting rooms, each approximately 30 feet by 30 feet. The main mass of this section measured approximately  $80\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length by  $32\frac{1}{2}$  feet in width. The most impressive feature of this section is a large octagonal tower located in the center of the north facade which rises approximately 70-80 feet above the station. The tower features four slit windows about halfway up on every other side, eight Gothic windows with lugsills near the top, moulded trim with brick and cut stone striped design, and octagonal bellcast roof. This section also features a bellcast hipped gable roof with dormers of similar style, one on either side of the tower, one on either side of a two-story, three-bay square protrusion on the south side, and one on the west side. The first floor of this area was designed as the women's rest room. A dormer is also located on the west side above a large semi-circular bay with five flat-arched windows. The entranceways flank either side of the tower on one side and also flank either side of the three-bay section on the other. On the east side of the main mass is a rectangular protrusion, designed for use as the men's rest room.

The east and west sections of the station are separated by an open waiting area, approximately 65 feet in length, which is covered by a large overhanging gable roof joined to the bellcast roofs on either end. The roof is supported by three posts on either side, each with large wooden brackets on all four sides. The brackets, which feature a granite base, extend around both sections of the station. Above the bracket arch runs a strip of moulding with dentils. The structure also features granite sills which run the length of the sections, a cut limestone water table, and cast-iron rainspouts.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wilson Brothers: Joseph M.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson

Bt 1858, the Lebanon Valley Railroad, which ran from Reading through Lebanon to Harrisburg, a distance of 54 miles, had come under the control of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. The Philadelphia and Reading line was incorporated by the Reading Company in 1896, and the Reading Railroad Station in Lebanon was built by the Company four years later in 1900.

The station was designed by the firm of Wilson Brothers and Company, Architects and Engineers, of Philadelphia. The station is one of the finest works of Joseph M. Wilson, the principal architect in the firm, which was also responsible for Machinery Hall at the Exposition of 1876, the Drexel Institute, and the Reading Terminal itself. The firm was quite prominent in railroad engineering and architecture with stations and shops on the Philadelphia and Reading, the Lehigh Valley, and the Central Railroad of New Jersey lines.

The station is a fine example of the adaption of architectural styles to railroad depots. The Reading station features an adaption of the Shingle style, which contributed the long, low-roofed silhouette, along with the unique, creative style of Wilson Eyre in the use of brick and stone in the striped design in the tower.



PENNSYLVANIA  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
GEOLOGIC SURVEY

NW  
KSBURG)

LEBANON QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA—LEBANON CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 LEBANON 15' QUADRANGLE

576° IV NE  
(BETHEL)

FREDERICKSBURG 5.1 MI.  
FREEPORT MILLS 1.9 MI.

2 380 000 FEET

383 76° 22' 30"

40° 22' 30"

The Reading Railroad Station



310 000  
FEET

MYERSTOWN 4.4 MI.  
READING 25 MI.

4467

4466