

WASHINGTON

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Berwyn Suburban Station
and/or common Burlington Suburban Station

2. Location

street & number 6801 West Windsor Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Berwyn NA vicinity of congressional district sixth
state Illinois 012 code county Cook code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Burlington Northern Railroad
street & number 176 East Fifth Street
city, town Saint Paul NA vicinity of state Minnesota 55101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Recorder
street & number 118 North Clark Street
city, town Chicago state Illinois 60602

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Structures in Cook County (Berwyn)
has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date April 1975 federal state county local
depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation, 400 South Spring St.
city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date 1917

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on West Windsor Avenue, the Berwyn train station is a one story rectangular building of masonry construction topped by a massive hipped roof with flared eaves. The roof extends to the east and west on the north (or track) side of the station where it is supported by timber posts and covers the train platform. Masonry walls rest on a concrete foundation, and are composed of rubble stone wainscot with limestone belt course and red face brick laid in running bond. A wooden fascia board and dentils edge the tops of the walls. Windows, for which the belt course serves as a sill, are double hung with 1/1 light wooden sashes and transoms with small square panes. Doors are wooden panelled.

The north, or principle, facade faces the railroad tracks. It is ten bays wide with a handsome bow window just east of center. The rectangular plan of the station is basically symmetrical (excepting the placement of the bow window) with a square waiting room at either end (east and west). Two restrooms, a ticket office, and express room are grouped in the center of the station between the waiting rooms. Interior walls are plaster with tongue and grooved wooden wainscoating and chair rails. Ceilings are plaster for the most part and tongue and grooved wood in the express room. Flooring is vinyl-asbestos tile in the two waiting rooms and wood in the express room and ticket office.

The Victorian interior fabric of the building remains essentially intact although presently the west waiting room is not in use. Structurally the edifice is much like it was in 1917 when, 27 years after being erected, the station was moved 15ft. north and a western, or "Women's", waiting room was added. (Two restrooms and a basement stair were also probably constructed at this time). The new Women's waiting room was joined sensitively to the existing structure using identical materials and matching the details and placement of the openings in the east waiting room, creating a mirror image. To accommodate the alteration the roof was modified slightly.

Since 1917 only minor changes have been made to the structure. (Slate shingles have been replaced by asphalt, and interior lighting has been modernized). As a result the Berwyn station retains much of its original Victorian character with a trackside canopy, vintage benches, platform lamps, and a platform of common paving brick set in a herring bone pattern.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 Built 1890 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Berwyn train station (ca. 1890) is historically significant locally, for the role it played in the development of the town of Berwyn (providing suburban service to Chicago), and nationally as a surviving example of the flourishing of the railroad industry in America which observed its greatest decade from 1880 to 1890 when the station was constructed. Just as the growth of America in the latter half of the 19th century may be credited to the tremendous expansion of the country's railroads, so the growth, and in fact establishment of the community of Berwyn, may be attributed to the building of the brick and stone station.

In 1890 the Burlington and Quincy Railroad worked with two enterprising real estate developers, Charles E. Piper and Wilbur J. Andrews, to build a train station and establish a community nine and one-half miles west of Chicago. The name "Berwyn" was chosen at random out of a Pennsylvania Railroad time table. Advantages of Chicago suburbs such as Berwyn were vigorously promoted by the Burlington and Quincy. They advertized that these respites were "Out of reach of the smoke and grime and dust, and yet completely in touch with the city, [with] hundreds and hundreds of beautiful homes along the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad."*

The railroad transported people, goods, and commerce to Berwyn and was the catalyst for its development. The community grew rapidly around the new station. Erected near it were the town's first fire and police stations, town hall, churches, and early businesses. This type of railroad inspired expansion was happening not only in Berwyn and the Chicago area, but also nation-wide and many stations were built at the end of the 19th century. Serving merely the Chicago-Riverside segment of Burlington's suburban line, there were 14 stations. Today, of these 14 original stations only the Berwyn remains. For 90 years the brick and stone edifice has stood as an integral part of the community of Berwyn, retaining much of its Victorian fabric and character, and standing as a symbol of the spirit of an era past.

* The Burlington Railroad. Suburban Homes along the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R.R., 1895.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Berwyn Beacon, 6/6/30, 4/10, 22, 24/31, 5/22, 29/31, 6/12/31, 9/-
 The Burlington Railroad. Suburban Homes along the Chicago, Burling
 Quincy R.R., 1895.

The Berwyn Life Bicentennial Issue, Sept. 1976.

C.B.&O. R.R., Office of Engineer of Buildings, drawings Jan. 23, 1923 a

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Berwyn Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	4	3	4	1	1	0	4	6	3	1	3	5	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot E in Berwyn, a sub. of Blocks 4, 5, 12, 13, 20, 21, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36
 and 39 in LaVergne, a sub. of Section 31, Township 39 North, Range 13, East
 of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

1. Terry McManmon
 name/title 2. Susan Horst Mori and Wilbert R. Hasbrouck
 1. Berwyn Historical Society
 organization 2. HISTORIC RESOURCES date 10/13/80
 1. 3500 South Euclid 1. 666-2233
 street & number 2. 711 South Dearborn Street telephone 2. 922-7211
 1. Berwyn 1. Illinois
 city or town 2. Chicago state 2. Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date 1/2/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

DATE DETERMINED FEB 26 1982

Name

Location

Berwyn Suburban Station

Berwyn
Cook County

Also Notified

NPS Regional Office: Midwest/Ann Arbor Office
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1522 K Street, NW
Suite 430
Washington, DC 20005

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. David Kenney
Director, Department of Conservation
State Office Building
400 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)272-3504.