

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kansas City Southern Railroad Depot (1923) in DeQuincy, Calcasieu Parish is an outstanding example of Mission Revival architecture and is one of the most architecturally significant railroad depots in the state. Now used as the DeQuincy Railroad Museum, it retains its characteristic Mission Revival features and has undergone only minor interior renovation.

The two-story building, which is practically a textbook example of its style, is characterized by the following elements:

- (1) stuccoed walls,
- (2) red Spanish tile roof,
- (3) round arched windows and arcade,
- (4) curvilinear gable parapets with copings of red tile, and
- (5) wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and heavy brackets.

Other original exterior features include brick wainscotting, "medallions" and urns with finial tops on the two major parapets.

The interior consists of an office flanked on one side by a waiting room and an arcaded patio and on the other by a second waiting room and a baggage room. Both waiting rooms retain their tile floors, plaster walls, brick wainscotting and ticket windows. The open patio area is completely original with its cement floor and brick string course forming the top of the built-in cement benches. The two upstairs rooms are indistinguished.

The only alterations appear to be the installation of carpet and asbestos ceiling tile in the office and the conversion of a restroom to a kitchen. None of these changes seriously detract from the building's significance as one of the most architecturally distinguished railroad depots in the state.

Specific dates	1923
Builder/Architect	Kansas City Southern Railroad

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

The DeQuincy Railroad Depot is important in the area of architecture on the state level as one of the largest and most architecturally pretentious railroad depots remaining in Louisiana.

In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, the major means of transportation in the nation was by train. Besides being the link between an individual town and the outside world, it was integral to the very economic existence of a community. Therefore, besides the seat of the government and the churches, the train depot was probably the most important building in any town through which the railroad passed. The architecture of the railroad stations reflected that importance and they ranged from grand neo-classical and Beaux Arts piles in the major cities to modest board and batten structures in smaller towns, many of which were literally created by the coming of the railroad.

Today a fair number of railroad depots remain in Louisiana. Most of these, however, are architecturally indistinguished village depots and are only locally important as reminders of the importance of the railroad in a particular town's history. Urban depots of the period were much larger buildings and had more than just a single story. Moreover, they were not just random collections of standard decorative features placed on a frame shed. They were consistently articulated with the vocabulary of a recognized historical style of architecture.

The DeQuincy depot is one of only three urban depots (as defined above) known to be extant in Louisiana. It is further distinguished by its superior Mission Revival styling, which makes it

one of the most architecturally pretentious depots in the state. Noteworthy features in this regard include its numerous arches, its four shaped gable pavilions (two of which are two stories), and its finial urns. Moreover, each of the two story pavilions has a recessed facade with its own curvilinear top which echoes the shaped gable. This gives the building a rich sculptural effect. Based upon the foregoing, it is clear that the DeQuincy depot is one of the most architecturally important depots in the state.

Historical Sketch:

About 1897, the Kansas City Southern (KCS) Railroad completed its track through DeQuincy and the first depot was built on this site. The line came down through Leesville and DeRidder and forked at DeQuincy with one route going south to Lake Charles and the other toward Beaumont and Port Arthur. It was this rail line that made possible the lumber boom in Calcasieu, Beauregard and Vernon Parishes.

In the early 1920's, the railroad company began a building campaign during which several stations along the KCS line in western Louisiana were either rebuilt or remodeled with varying degrees of Mission Revival features. This is the only one that is a full blown example of the style.

Bibliographical References

Research report compiled by the City of DeQuincy, on file at the Division of Historic Preservation.