

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 Downing Railroad Depot

historic Downing Railroad Depot

and/or common Depot Museum

2. Location

street & number City Park, 1 Block W of State Road A not for publication

city, town Downing vicinity of

state Missouri 63536 code 29 county Schuyler code 197

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Downing

street & number City Hall

city, town Downing vicinity of state Missouri 63536

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Schuyler County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Lancaster state Missouri 63548

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1981 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources

Office of Historic Preservation

city, town P.O. Box 176 state Missouri 65201

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The elongated gable roof extends the full length of the combination passenger & freight railroad station, capping the projecting rectangular ticket bay in the center of the N facade and extending over the brick platform to form a wide overhanging eave. This eave is supported on ornate cross stickwork brackets accented by drop pendants & circular members in the upper V of the joint (See photos 3 & 4 for details). These brackets are distinctly different. Decorative pressed metal shingles, which are original to the building, continue to cover the roof. Vertical board & batten siding with horizontal tongue & groove panels below sheath the exterior wall surfaces. Carved segmentally arched hoodmolds top the attenuated double hung four-over-four windows & the transoms of the single leaf entrances in the passenger (W) section of the depot. These are repeated on the S facade in the center office section, but those on the N facade of this section do not have the ornate lintels. On both the N & S facades of the (E) freight section there are large sliding doors. The building now rests on a cement block & concrete foundation. The platform of "Purinton Paver" bricks was removed from the original site & reset in the herringbone pattern along the N & W facade and on the West end of the S facade. The only addition to the exterior of the depot is the bell which sits astride the ridge of the roof.

Interior details remain intact & include the schedule board, beaded wainscoting & lightly molded millwork. Between the passenger section & the office section is an open ticket window with plain surrounds and a shelf on each side supported on curved consoles. Built-in cabinets & shelving remain in the office area. These two sections have finished platform along the E wall. Bricks form the floor in this area.

The depot is now used as a museum. Primitive tools & farm equipment are housed in the E section with display cases, artifacts, photos & memorabilia located in the W section. The center section is a storage area. Located in a park setting, the depot now sits less than 1/4 mile from the railroad tracks on a hill & faces N. It is in the SW part of the rural community of Downing. Outbuildings include a small wooden outbuilding to the SE; a restroom facility & the small city jail, which has been moved to this site, to the E of the depot; and a gravel parking area & metal storage shed to the N.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 April, 1872 **Builder/Architect** Keokuk & Western Railroad County

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Downing Depot is significant for several reasons: 1) it is the initial building associated with the city of Downing & the depot was important to the area as it grew into a trade center, 2) it is one of 2 remaining depots within a county which was once dotted by railroad centers, 3) and it plays a significant role in the preservation effort of Schuyler County.

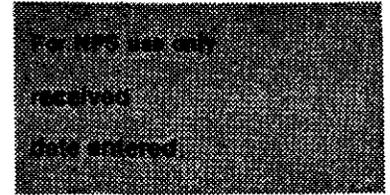
Downing quickly became the hub for the area along the Keokuk & Western Railroad line which ran from Keokuk, Iowa to Red Oak, Iowa. In 1872, James Prime, an early settler donated the land to plat the City, for the railroad rightaway & for the depot. By April of that year, the new structure began serving the needs of the community. People were coming and going, agricultural products such as tobacco & livestock were shipped to points east, and those much needed supplies, thenews, and all forms of entertainment were brought to the frontier area. These factors made the Community of Downing a turn of the century boomtown with all the surrounding color & excitement. Almost everything & everyone came or went from Downing by train.

Numerous towns in Schuyler County were located on a railroad line and were the products of the railroad establishing a depot along the tracks at certain points. This is a typical format for early settlement patterns within the county and the Northeast area as a whole. Today the Downing Depot stands as 1 of the 2 remaining depots and the only one which is being preserved.

A railroad station was the door to the future and the entrance to the outside world for a small frontier community. This depot continued to serve through the years and today is still as much a part of the history of Downing as when trains were rolling through with passengers & freight. When the Burlington Northern Railroad announced that it has no further use for the depot, the entire Downing community became involved in plans to preserve the building. Due to the fact that the depot sat on the railroad property, this effort was given no choice but to move the building to assure its preservation. The City purchased the structure, moved it on August 17, 1976 to a new park site which is to the S & W of its original location, and established it as a museum, a form in which it could continue to play an important role to the community. Once moved, attics began to produce stored treasures. The Museum is well visited & used by both the community & interested individuals from across the United States. The depot is Downing's center of history, their one great building, and a source of community pride.

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DOWNING RAILROAD DEPOT

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Illustrated Historical Atlas of Schuyler County, Missouri

Edward Brothers of Missouri
Philadelphia, PA 1878

Personal interview with Inez Shaw, Depot Museum Coordinator

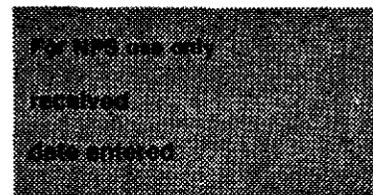
Platbook of Schuyler County, Missouri
Northwest Publishing Co.,
Philadelphia, PA 1898

Schuyler County Historical Society - Archival Files
W.P. Hall Museum
Lancaster, Missouri

Standard Atlas of Schuyler County, Missouri
George A. Ogle & Co.
Chicago 1916

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Continuation sheet Downing Railroad Depot Item number 10 Page 1

of the brick platform, extends E parallel to the platform to a point 10' E of the NE corner of the platform, then S on a line parallel to the E facade of the building to a point 20' S of the SE corner of the building, then W on a line parallel to the S facade to a point 10' W of the SW corner of the brick platform, then N on a line.. parallel to the platform to a point 10' N of the NW corner of the brick platform, then E 10' to the beginning point.

Continuation Sheet Item number 11 Page 1

2) Inez Shaw, Downing Depot Museum Coordinator
City of Downing

7/81
816/379-2508
Missouri 63536

Downing

3) James M. Denny, Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

August 1982
314/751-4096

9. Major Bibliographical References

Downing Museum - Archival Files & Photographs
History of Adair, Sullivan, Putnam & Schuyler Counties, Missouri
Originally printed 1888, reprinted 1972; Stevens Publishing Co., Astona, IL
History of Schuyler County, Missouri; edited by Swanson & Ford
W.B. Rogers Printing Co., Trenton, Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~less than 1 acre~~

Quadrangle name "Downing, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	5	3	5	0	0	4	4	8	1	3	6	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

The building sits within the city limits of Downing, Missouri, in the SW corner of the town. It is approximately 1 block W of Highway A in the City Park. It faces N. The boundaries of the nominated building begin at a point 10' N of the NW corner

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1) Linda D. Harper, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission date 7/81

street & number Adair County Courthouse, P.O. Box 965 telephone 816/665-4615

city or town Kirksville state Missouri, 63501

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

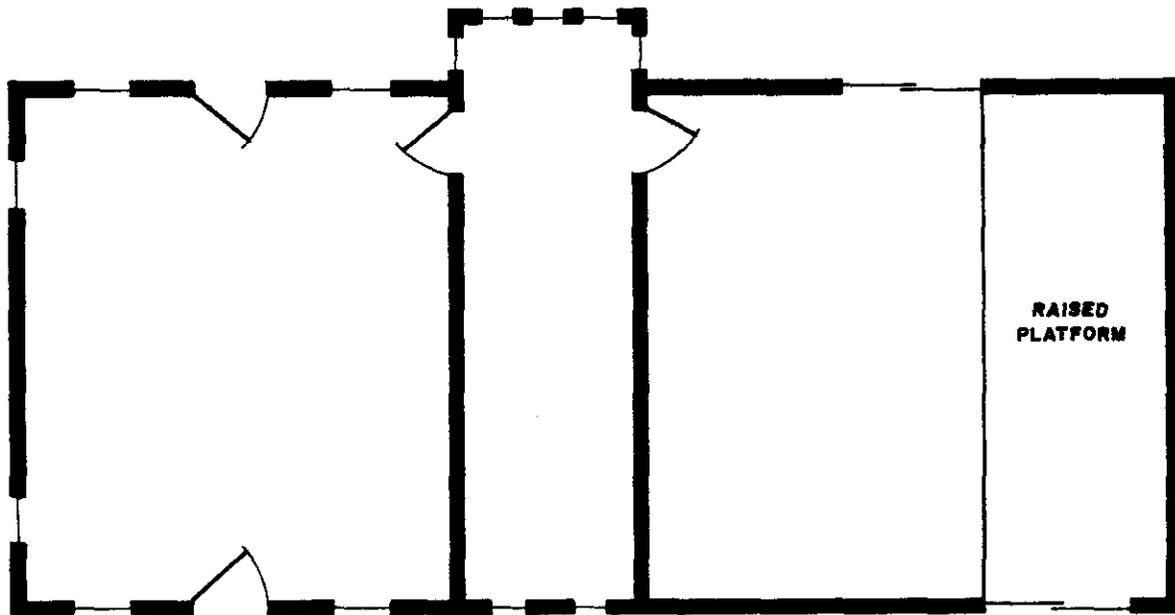
Chief of Registration

FLOOR PLAN

DOWNING RAILROAD DEPOT DOWNING, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE



Downing Railroad Depot
City Park, Downing, Schuyler County, Missouri
63536

Photographer: Richard Lacasse
October, 1980

Negative Location: Downing Railroad Depot
View from N
Photo 1 of 5



Downing Railroad Depot
City Park, Downing, Schuyler County, Missouri
63536

Photographer: Richard Lacasse
October, 1980

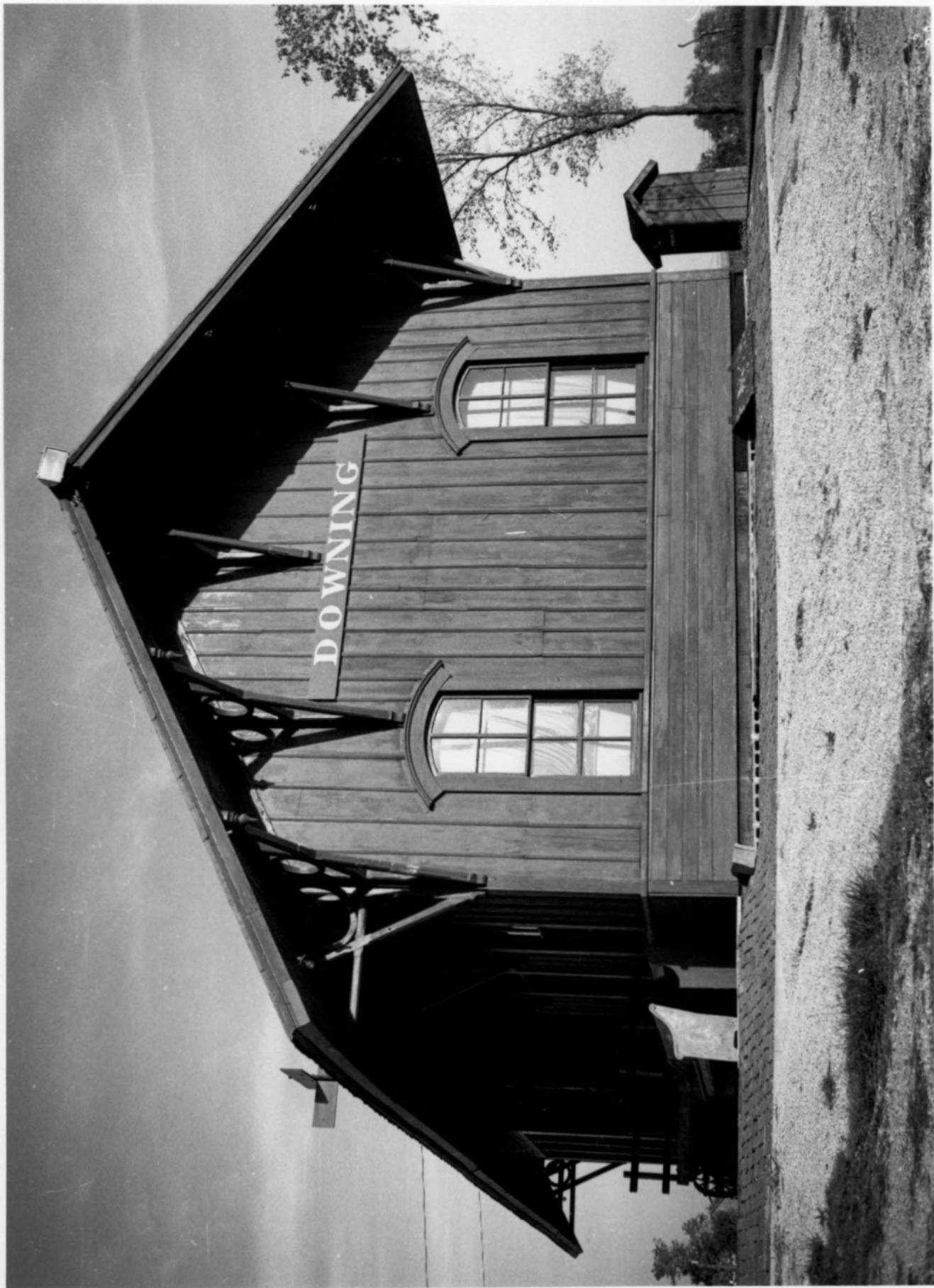
Negative Location: Downing Railroad Depot
View from NW
Photo 2 of 5



Downing Railroad Depot
City Park, Downing, Schuyler County, Missouri
63536

Photographer: Richard Lacasse
October, 1980

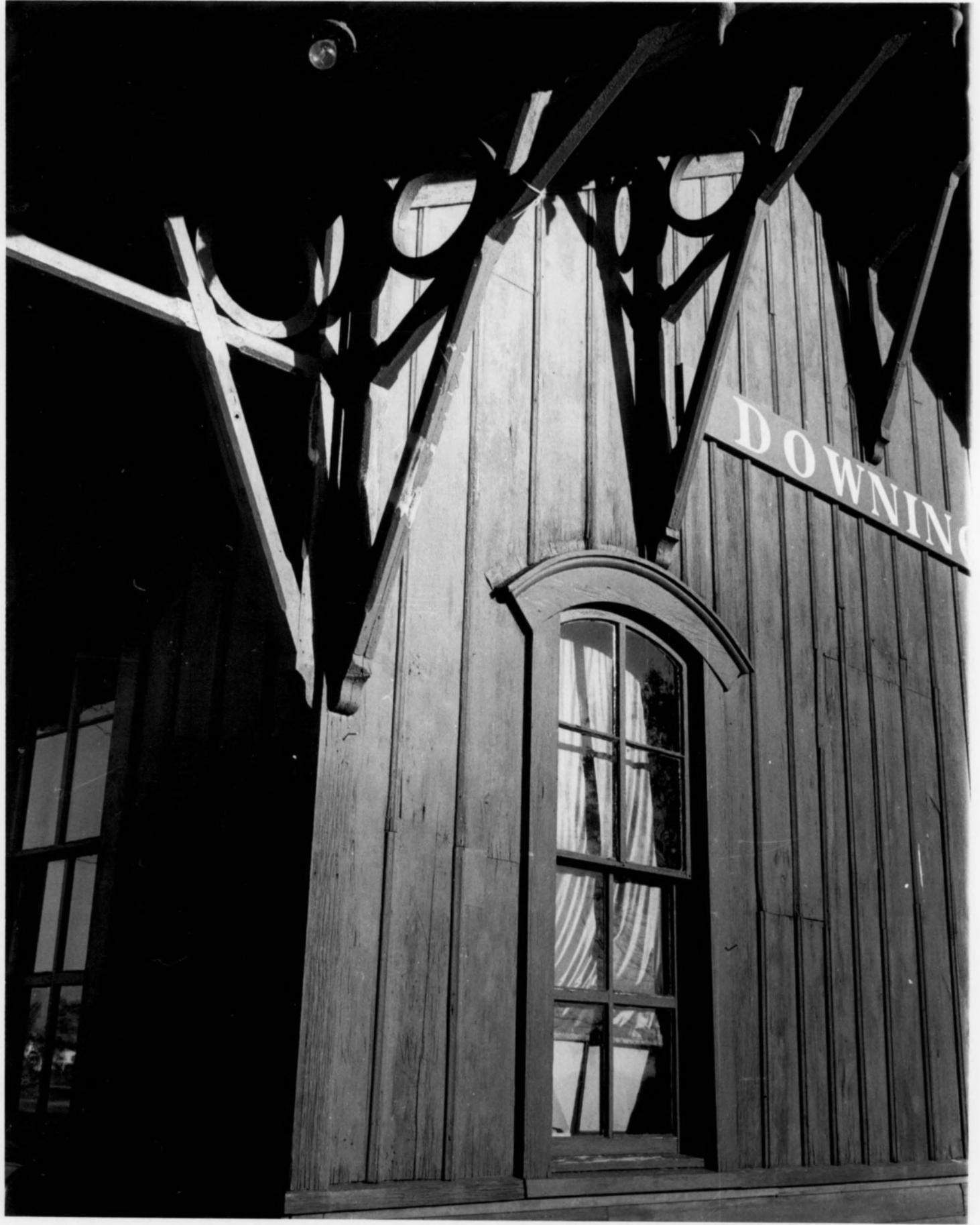
Negative Location: Downing Railroad Depot
View from SW
Photo 3 of 5



Downing Railroad Depot
City Park, Downing, Schuyler County, Missouri
63536

Photographer: Richard Lacasse
October, 1980

Negative Location: Downing Railroad Depot
View from NW, detail of brackets, sheathing &
window treatment
Photo 4 of 5



Downing Railroad Depot
City Park, Downing, Schuyler County, Missouri
63536

Photographer: Richard Lacasse
October, 1980

Negative Location: Downing Railroad Depot
Interior View, looking from passenger section
toward office & showing ticket window &
interior millwork

Photo 5 of 5



Jail Lock

PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

EXTRA PHOTOS

010
D pair



BURLINGTON NORTHERN DEPOT



