



Resource Evaluation

DATE: 8/24/2020

STAFF: Virginia L. Bartos

PROPERTY: Lehigh Valley RR Manchester Roundhouse

MCD: V/Manchester

ADDRESS: 73 Merrick Circle

COUNTY: Ontario

PROJECT REF: 18PR04723

USN: 06945.000022

I. Property is individually listed on SR/NR:
name of listing:

Property is a contributing component of a SR/NR district:
name of district:

II. Property meets eligibility criteria.

Property contributes to a district which appears to meet eligibility criteria.

Pre SRB: **Post SRB:** SRB date:

Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

III. Property does not meet eligibility criteria.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Based on the information submitted, it is the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office that the Lehigh Valley Railroad Roundhouse at 73 Merrick Road in Manchester, Ontario County, NY is historically and architecturally significant as an excellent example of early twentieth century industrial construction specific to railroad use. The building is the classic half-round form, one-story in height with a clerestory, constructed of steel and concrete with brick. Multiple bays face toward the remnants of the associated railroad turntable. Many of the doors and windows are missing or boarded and much of the setting is compromised by the loss of the historic railyard; however, the resource retains integrity in terms of location, materials, workmanship, design and feeling. Aerial views indicate that some of the right of ways and shape of the railyard are still discernible.



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In the early 20th century, the Manchester yard was the largest Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) service yard for providing fuel (coal and diesel) and ash disposal, and was a maintenance center for freight cars, locomotives, track, and signal equipment. The Manchester Yard contained roughly 300 acres, comprising one of the largest rail support facilities in the country. Located primarily in the village of Manchester, it was a major employer for the community. The roundhouse was built in 1916, contained 30-bays and was in continuous service until ca. 1970 when it became a storage warehouse. Shortly afterwards, bankruptcy proceedings forced the Lehigh Valley to abandon the yards.

In 2018, the Preservation League of New York State placed the property on its “Seven to Save” list, stating

As industry evolves, historic industrial buildings are often abandoned. The Lehigh Valley Roundhouse has been vacant for over thirty years. Many of its related structures such as the coal dock, switch tower, and transfer house have been destroyed or lost ... Recently, the town of Manchester acquired the property and wants to make this site safe for future use.

The Seven to Save designation for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Roundhouse and related structures will assist Manchester and Ontario County in following environmental protocol while simultaneously considering historic preservation and sensitive rehabilitation measures. This designation will also bring awareness to this pivotal piece of transportation history in Western New York.

<https://www.preservenys.org/blog/seven-to-save-2018-19-edition>



Google Street view from Merrick Circle



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Division for Historic Preservation--Peebles Island State Park, PO Box 189, Waterford NY 12188

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