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May 21, 2003

**VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT**  
Surface Transportation Board  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
1925 "K" St., N.W., Room 504  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Attention:** Victoria Rutson

**RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No.171X), Union Pacific Railroad Company -  
Abandonment Exemption - In Washington County, IL (Sparta Branch  
from MP 41.1 at Coulterville, IL to the end of the track at MP 23.0  
near Hoyleton, IL), a distance of 18.10 miles**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket is the original and ten (10) copies of a Combined Environmental and Historic Report prepared pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1105.7 and §1105.8, with a Certificate of Service, and a transmittal letter pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1105.11.

Union Pacific anticipates filing a Petition for Exemption in this matter on or after June 12, 2003.

Sincerely,

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.  
Senior General Attorney

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

MAY 22 2003

Part of  
Public Record

Enclosures

01

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.  
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD  
101 N. Wacker Dr., Rm. 1920, Chicago, IL 60606-1718  
ph. (312) 777-2055 fx. (312) 777-2065

cc (w/ enclosures):

**State Clearinghouse (or alternate):**

Mr. Steve Klokkena  
State Single Point of Contact  
Office of the Governor  
State of Illinois  
107 Stratton  
Springfield, IL 62706

**State Environmental Protection Agency:**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
P. O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

**State Coastal Zone Management Agency  
(if applicable):**

Mr. Don Vonnahme, Director  
Department of Transportation  
Room 401 - Annex Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764

**Head of each County:**

Washington County Board  
245 North Kaskaskia Street  
Nashville, IL 62263

**Environmental Protection Agency  
(Regional Office):**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3  
One Federal Drive  
Federal Building  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

U.S. Army Engineer District, North Central  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

**National Park Service:**

William D. Shaddox  
Chief, Land Resources Division  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
1849 "C" Street, N.W., #MS2540  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
1902 Fox Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820

**National Geodetic Survey:**

National Geodetic Survey  
Edward J. McKay, Chief  
Spatial Reference System Division  
NOAA N/NGS2  
1315 E-W Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

**State Historic Preservation Office:**

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

---

Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY  
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --  
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
(SPARTA BRANCH)

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Combined Environmental and Historic Report

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY  
Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney  
101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 777-2055  
(312) 777-2065 FAX

Dated: May 21, 2003  
Filed: May 22, 2003

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY  
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --  
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
(SPARTA BRANCH)

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Combined Environmental and Historic Report

Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") submits this Combined Environmental and Historic Report pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) and 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d); respectively, for an exempt abandonment and discontinuance of service from milepost 41.1 near Oakdale to milepost 23.0 near Hoyleton, a distance of 18.10 miles in Washington County, Illinois (the "Line"). The Line traverses U. S. Postal Service Zip Codes 62263, 62268, and 62803.

A Notice of Exemption to abandon the Line pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 (no local traffic for at least two years) will be filed on or after June 12, 2003.

A map of the Line marked **Attachment No. 1** is attached hereto and hereby made part hereof. In January, 2001, UP anticipated the abandonment of the Sparta Branch from milepost 48.8 at Coulterville, Illinois to milepost 23.0 near Hoyleton and notified federal, state and local government agencies accordingly. In April, 2003, UP

renotified these agencies that UP intended to abandon a smaller section of the Sparta Branch (milepost 41.1 to milepost 23.0) and attached each agency's respective response in 2001, if any, in an effort to solicit any update deemed necessary by the agency. UP's letters to federal, state and local government agencies are marked **Attachment No. 2** and **Attachment No. 3**, respectively, and are hereby made a part hereof. Responses received to UP's letters to date are attached and sequentially numbered as indicated below.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT  
49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)

(1) **Proposed action and alternatives.** Describe the proposed action, including commodities transported, the planned disposition (if any) of any rail line and other structures that may be involved, and any possible changes in current operations or maintenance practices. Also describe any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Include a readable, detailed map and drawings clearly delineating the project.

**Response:** The proposed action involves the abandonment and discontinuance of service over the Sparta Branch from milepost 41.1 near Oakdale to milepost 23.0 near Hoyleton, a distance of 18.10 miles in Washington County, Illinois (the "Line"). There are no shippers on the Line, and no commodities have moved over the Line for over two years.

The Line was constructed by the Centralia & Chester Railroad between 1891 and 1893. The Line is laid with a combination of 90-pound and 112-pound jointed and 112-pound welded rail. There appear to be no reasonable alternatives to the abandonment. No local traffic has moved over the Line in the past two years, and there is no overhead traffic on the Line.

Based on information in UP's possession, the Line proposed for abandonment does not contain federally granted right-of-way. Only a small segment of the Line appears to be suitable for other public purposes. The part of the Line running through the town of Nashville, Illinois could be used for roadway and/or utility corridor purposes. Title to approximately half of the Line is reversionary in nature.

A map of the Line is attached as **Attachment No. 1**.

**(2) Transportation System.** Describe the effects of the proposed action on regional or local transportation systems and patterns. Estimate the amount of traffic (passenger or freight) that will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed action.

**Response:** There will be no effect on regional or local transportation systems and patterns and no diversion of traffic to other transportation systems or modes.

The Line has not been used for freight traffic for at least two years.

**(3) Land Use.**(i) Based on consultation with local and/or regional planning agencies and/or a review of the official planning documents prepared by such agencies, state whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, state the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

(iii) If the action effects land or water uses within a designated coastal zone, include the coastal zone information required by 49 C.F.R. § 1105.9.

(iv) If the proposed action is an abandonment, state whether or not the right-of-way is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 and explain why.

**Response:** (i) UP is unaware of any adverse effects on local and existing land use plans. Washington County, Illinois officials have been contacted. To date UP has received no response.

(ii) The Natural Resources Conservation Services has been contacted and stated that any effects of the proposed action on prime agricultural land are minimal. The NRCS response is attached as **Attachment 4** and hereby made part hereof.

(iii) The proposed abandonment is not within a designated coastal zone.

(iv) Portions of the right-of-way may be suitable for public streets or energy transmission. The title to the property is a combination of reversionary and nonreversionary.

**(4) Energy.** (i) Describe the effect of the proposed action on transportation of energy resources.

(ii) Describe the effect of the proposed action on recyclable commodities.

(iii) State whether the proposed action will result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency and explain why.

(iv) If the proposed action will cause diversions from rail to motor carriage of more than:

(A) 1,000 rail carloads a year, or

(B) an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year for any part of the affected line, quantify the resulting net change in energy consumption and show the data and methodology used to arrive at the figure given.

**Response:** (i) There are no effects on the transportation of energy resources in view of the absence of rail shipments on the Line.

(ii) There are no recyclable commodities moved over the Line.

(iii) There will be no change in energy consumption from the abandonment.

(iv)(A)(B) There will be no rail-to-motor diversion.

(5) **Air.** (i) If the proposed action will result in either:

(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 100% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least eight trains a day on any segment of rail line affected by the proposal, or

(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on any affected road segment, quantify the anticipated effect on air emissions. For a proposal under 49 U.S.C. §10901 (or §10505) to construct a new line or reinstitute service over a previously abandoned line, only the eight train a day provision in §§(5)(i)(A) will apply.

**Response:** There is no such effect anticipated.

(5) **Air.** (ii) If the proposed action affects a class 1 or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act, and will result in either:

(A) an increase in rail traffic of at least 50% (measured in gross ton miles annually) or an increase of at least three trains a day on any segment of rail line, or

(B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 20% (measured by carload activity), or

(C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles a day on a given road segment, then state whether any expected increased emissions are within the parameters established by the State Implementation Plan. However, for a rail construction under 49 U.S.C. §10901 (or 49 U.S.C. §10505), or a case involving the reinstatement of service over a previously abandoned line, only the three train a day threshold in this item shall apply.

**Response:** There will be no increase in rail traffic, rail yard activity, or truck traffic as a result of the proposed action.

(5) **Air.** (iii) If transportation of ozone depleting materials (such as nitrogen oxide and freon) is contemplated, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and spills; contingency plans to deal with

accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of ozone depleting materials in the event of a collision or derailment.

**Response:** The proposed action will not affect the transportation of ozone depleting materials.

(6) **Noise.** If any of the thresholds identified in item (5)(i) of this section are surpassed, state whether the proposed action will cause:

(i) an incremental increase in noise levels of three decibels Ldn or more, or

(ii) an increase to a noise level of 65 decibels Ldn or greater. If so, identify sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes) in the project area and quantify the noise increase for these receptors if the thresholds are surpassed.

**Response:** Not applicable.

(7) **Safety.** (i) Describe any effects of the proposed action on public health and safety (including vehicle delay time at railroad grade crossings).

(ii) If hazardous materials are expected to be transported, identify: the materials and quantity; the frequency of service; whether chemicals are being transported that, if mixed, could react to form more hazardous compounds; safety practices (including any speed restrictions); the applicant's safety record (to the extent available) on derailments, accidents and hazardous spills; the contingency plans to deal with accidental spills; and the likelihood of an accidental release of hazardous materials.

(iii) If there are any known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous materials spills on the right-of-way, identify the location of those sites and the types of hazardous materials involved.

**Response:** (i) The proposed action will have no detrimental effects on public health and safety.

(ii) The proposed action will not affect the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) There are no known hazardous material waste sites or sites where known hazardous material spills have occurred on or along the subject right-of-way.

(8) **Biological resources.** (i) Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects.

(ii) State whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

**Response:** (i) The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the proposed transaction and stated they do not have any concerns regarding real estate matters in the proposed abandonment. The Fish and Wildlife Service response is attached hereto as **Attachment No. 5** and hereby made part hereof.

(ii) The National Park Service has been contacted. To date UP has received no response.

(9) **Water.** (i) Based on consultation with State water quality officials, state whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

(ii) Based on consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state whether permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

(iii) State whether permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action. (Applicants should contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the state environmental protection or equivalent agency if they are unsure whether such permits are required.)

**Response:** (i) The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has been contacted. To date UP has received no response.

(ii) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted and determined that wetlands or waters of the United States are present within the project area,

and that any future activities planned for the site or adjacent areas may require a permit prior to beginning work. Upon approval of the proposed action, UP will consult with the Corps of Engineers District Office prior to commencing abandonment activities. The Corps of Engineers response is attached as **Attachment No. 6** and hereby made part hereof.

(iii) It is not anticipated there will be any requirements for Section 402 permits.

(10) **Proposed Mitigation.** Describe any actions that are proposed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, indicating why the proposed mitigation is appropriate.

**Response:** There are no known adverse environmental impacts.

**HISTORIC REPORT**  
**49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)**

(1) A U.S.G.S. topographic map (or an alternate map drawn to scale and sufficiently detailed to show buildings and other structures in the vicinity of the proposed action) showing the location of the proposed action, and the locations and approximate dimensions of railroad structures that are 50 years old or older and are part of the proposed action:

**Response:** See **Attachment No. 1.**

(2) A written description of the right-of-way (including approximate widths to the extent known), and the topography and urban and/or rural characteristics of the surrounding area:

**Response:** From milepost 23.0 to milepost 32.9 (St. Louis Street), the right-of-way is 50 feet wide, level to slight fill and primarily agricultural with approximately nineteen at grade crossings in this 9.9 mile segment. From milepost 32.9 to milepost 37.7 (Cordes Road), the right-of-way is 50 feet wide with the track being on a slight fill. This segment is agricultural mixed with residential areas. From milepost 37.8 to milepost 41.1

(Main Street), the right-of-way is generally 50 feet wide; however, there are three areas along this segment where it widens to 100 feet. The track is on level ground or slight to moderate fill. Adjacent uses are agricultural and some wooded areas.

(3) Good quality photographs (actual photographic prints, not photocopies) of railroad structures on the property that are 50 years old or older and of the immediately surrounding area:

Response: The Illinois Historical Preservation Office was provided with photographs of the fourteen railroad bridges included in the proposed action. A copy of the letter to the Historical Preservation Office and pictures is attached as **Attachment No. 7** and hereby made part hereof. The Illinois Historical Preservation Office stated that there was no objection to undertaking the proceeding as planned. A copy of the Preservation Office's response is Attached as **Attachment No. 8** and hereby made part hereof.

(4) The date(s) of construction of the structure(s), and the date(s) and extent of any major alterations to the extent such information is known:

Response: The bridges and their dates of construction are listed on the map, **Attachment No. 1**, and in the letter, **Attachment No 7**. Please note that the bridges at M.P. 41.7 and 45.5 are no longer included in that the proposed Notice of Exemption stops at M.P. 41.1.

(5) A brief narrative history of carrier operations in the area, and an explanation of what, if any, changes are contemplated as a result of the proposed action:

Response: See the preceding pages for a brief history and description. There have been no rail operations over the Line for at least two years. No changes in carrier operations are contemplated.

(6) A brief summary of documents in the carrier's possession, such as engineering drawings, that might be useful in documenting a structure that is found to be historic:

**Response:** UP believes there are no structures over fifty years old which can be found to be historic.

(7) An opinion (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) as to whether the site and/or structures meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (36 C.F.R. § 60.4), and whether there is a likelihood of archeological resources or any other previously unknown historic properties in the project area, and the basis for these opinions (including any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office, local historical societies or universities):

**Response:** At this time, UP knows of no historic sites or structures or archeological resources in the project area. Donald D. Snoddy, Historian, indicates that any archeological sites within the scope of the right-of-way would have been disturbed during the construction of the Line, and any salvage activities should not affect any previously undisturbed sites. Abandonment of the Line will have no impact on any prehistoric sites.

(8) A description (based on readily available information in the railroad's possession) of any known prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, environmental conditions (naturally occurring or manmade) that might affect the archeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes), and the surrounding terrain:

**Response:** Applicants do not have any such readily available information.

(9) Within 30 days of receipt of the historic report, the State Historic Preservation Officer may request the following additional information regarding specified nonrailroad owned properties or groups of properties immediately adjacent to the railroad right-of-way. Photographs of specified properties that can be readily seen from the railroad right-of-way (or other public rights-of-way adjacent to the property) and a written description of any previously discovered archeological sites, identifying the locations and type of the site (i.e., prehistoric or native American):

**Response:** Not applicable.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mack H. Shumate, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY  
Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney  
101 North Wacker Drive, Room 1920  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 777-2055  
(312) 777-2065 FAX

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
OF THE  
COMBINED ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC REPORT

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Combined Environmental and Historic Report in Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X), the Sparta Branch in Washington County, Illinois was served by first class mail on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2003 on the following:

**State Clearinghouse (or alternate):**

Mr. Steve Klokkenga  
State Single Point of Contact  
Office of the Governor  
State of Illinois  
107 Stratton  
Springfield, IL 62706

**State Environmental Protection Agency:**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
P. O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

**State Coastal Zone Management Agency  
(if applicable):**

Mr. Don Vonnahme, Director  
Department of Transportation  
Room 401 - Annex Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764

**Head of each County:**

Washington County Board  
245 North Kaskaskia Street  
Nashville, IL 62263

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**(Regional Office):**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3  
One Federal Drive  
Federal Building  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

U.S. Army Engineer District, North Central  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

**National Park Service:** William D. Shaddox

Chief, Land Resources Division  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, NE., Room 500  
Washington, D.C. 20002

**U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
1902 Fox Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820

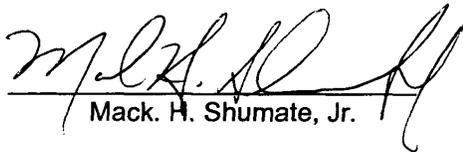
**National Geodetic Survey:**

National Geodetic Survey  
Edward J. McKay, Chief  
Spatial Reference System Division  
NOAA N/NGS2  
1315 E-W Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

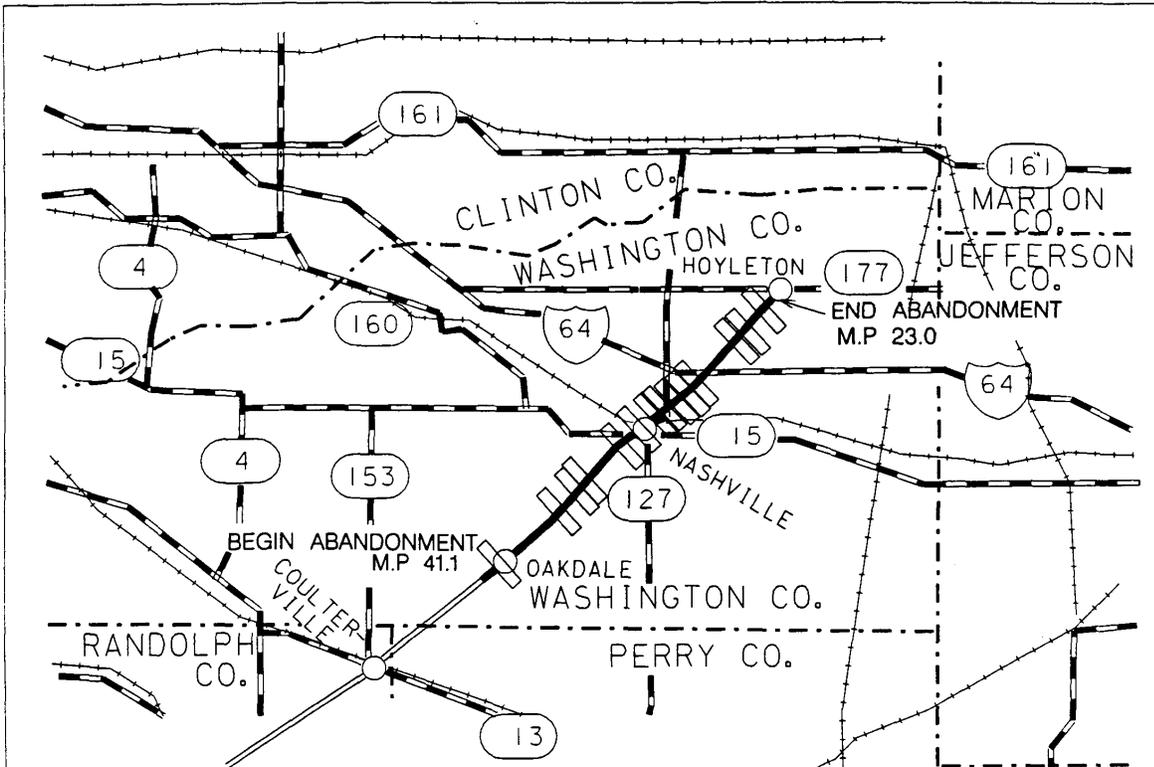
**State Historic Preservation Office:**

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2003.

  
Mack. H. Shumate, Jr.

# Attachment 1



BRIDGE NO.	BRIDGE TYPE	TOTAL LENGTH	DATE
23.8	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	34'-8"	1951
25.3	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	77'-7"	1950
25.5	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	34'-11".0'	1950
28.3	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	25'-1"	1910
28.6	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	96'-8"	1941
28.7	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	40'-8"	1941
28.9	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	64'-6"	1914
31.9	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	117'-8"	1910
32.8	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	61'-9"	1910
33.2	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	96'-2"	1939
37.5	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	26'-11"	1939
37.7	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	40'-8"	1939
38.5	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	90'-7"	1949
41.1	TIMBER PILE TRESTLE - OPEN DECK	54'-11"	1937

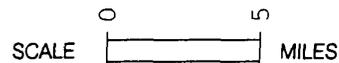
**SPARTA BRANCH**  
 MP 23.0 to MP 41.1  
 SPARTA BRANCH A TOTAL OF 18.10 MILES  
 IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, IL.

STATION	MILE POST	AGENCY
HOYLETON, IL.	23.20	NO
NASHVILLE, IL.	32.60	NO
OAKDALE, IL.	40.90	NO

### LEGEND

- UPRR LINES TO BE ABANDONED
- OTHER UPRR LINES
- OTHER RAILROADS
- 50+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURES
- PRINCIPAL HIGHWAYS

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD CO.  
 SPARTA BRANCH  
 INCL. 50+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURES



AB0014\_SPAT ADGN

Revised: April 8, 2003

# Attachment 2

## UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

R. M. (Bob) Grimaila  
Assistant Vice President-Environmental  
(402) 271-4344

L. A. (Lanny) Schmid  
Director Environmental Field Operations  
(402) 271-2262

J. R. (Joel) Strafelda  
Program Manager-Site Remediation  
(402) 271-6572



Mailing Address:  
Room 930  
1416 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68179  
Fax: (402) 271-4461

R. L. (Rick) Eades  
Director Environmental Field Ops-North  
(402) 661-6825

G. (Glenn) Thomas  
Director Environmental Field Ops-South  
(281) 350-7542

B. A. (Brock) Nelson  
Director Environmental Field Ops-West  
(916) 789-6370

January 9, 2001

File: Track Abandonment  
Sparta Branch, Illinois

State Clearinghouse:

Mr. Steve Klokkenga  
State Single Point of Contact  
Office of the Governor  
State of Illinois  
107 Stratton  
Springfield, IL 62706

State Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois Environmental Protection  
Agency  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

State Coastal Zone Management Agency

Mr. Don Vonnahme, Director  
Department of Transportation  
Room 401- Annex Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764

Head of each County

Randolph County Commissioners  
1 Taylor Street  
Chester, IL 62233

Washington County Board  
245 North Kaskaskia Street  
Nashville, IL 62263

Perry County Chairman  
P.O. Box 438  
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

Environmental Protection Agency  
(Regional Office)

U. S. EPA, Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 3,  
One Federal Drive  
Federal Building  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

U.S. Army Engineer District, North  
Central  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

National Park Service

William D. Shaddox, Chief  
Land Resources Division  
National Park Service  
800 Capitol Street, NE, Room 500  
Washington, D.C. 20002

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation  
Service:

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
1902 Fox Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820

National Geodetic Survey

Edward J. McKay, Chief  
Spatial Reference System Division  
National Geodetic Survey  
NOAA N/NGS  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282

RE: Proposed Abandonment of the Sparta Subdivision, in  
Washington, Perry and Randolph Counties, Illinois

Dear Sirs:

Union Pacific Railroad Company plans to request authority from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon its Sparta Subdivision from M.P. 48.8 at Coulterville, Illinois to the end of line at M.P. 23.0 near Hoyleton, Illinois. A map of the proposed track abandonment shown in black is attached.

Pursuant to the STB's regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, and the environmental regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.7, this is to request your assistance in identifying any potential effects of this action as indicated in the paragraphs below. If any adverse environmental impacts are identified, describe any actions that are proposed in order to mitigate the environmental impacts. Please provide us with a written response that can be included in an Environmental Report, which will be sent to the STB.

LOCAL AND/OR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES. State whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. State the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (And State Game And Parks Commission, If Addressed). State (1) whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects, and, (2) whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

STATE WATER QUALITY OFFICIALS. State whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or Local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. State (1) whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and (2) whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (OR EQUIVALENT AGENCY). (1) Identify any potential effects on the surrounding area, (2) identify the location of hazardous waste sites and known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way and list the types of hazardous materials involved, and (3) state whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action.

Thank you for your assistance. Please send your reply to Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Chuck Saylor, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE, 68179. If you need further information, please contact me at (402) 271-4078.

Yours truly,

Harry P. Patterson, P. E.  
Manager Environmental Field Operations

Attachment

# Attachment 3

CHARLES W. SAYLORS  
DIRECTOR-LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

1416 DODGE STREET  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68179  
(402) 271-4861



(402) 271-5625 (FAX)

April 14, 2003

**State Clearinghouse (or alternate):**

Mr. Steve Klokkena  
State Single Point of Contact  
Office of the Governor  
State of Illinois  
107 Stratton  
Springfield, IL 62706

**State Environmental Protection Agency:**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
P. O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

**State Coastal Zone Management Agency  
(if applicable):**

Mr. Don Vonnahme, Director  
Department of Transportation  
Room 401 - Annex Building  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62764

**Head of each County:**

Washington County Board  
245 North Kaskaskia Street  
Nashville, IL 62263

**Environmental Protection Agency**

**(Regional Office):**  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife:**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3  
One Federal Drive  
Federal Building  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

U.S. Army Engineer District, North Central  
111 North Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

**National Park Service:** William D. Shaddox

Chief, Land Resources Division  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, NE., Room 500  
Washington, D.C. 20002

**U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
1902 Fox Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820

**National Geodetic Survey:**

National Geodetic Survey  
Edward J. McKay, Chief  
Spatial Reference System Division  
NOAA N/NGS2  
1315 E-W Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

**State Historic Preservation Office:**

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, IL 62701-1507

Re: Proposed Discontinuance of the Sparta Branch from M. P. 23.0 near Hoyleton to M. P. 41.1 near Oakdale in Washington County, Illinois; STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 171X)

Dear Sirs:

On January 9, 2001 Union Pacific Railroad Company sent you a letter indicating the intent to request authority from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon its Sparta Subdivision from M.P. 48.8 at Coulterville, Illinois to the end of the line at M. P. 23.0 near Hoyleton, Illinois and we asked your assistance in identifying any potential effects of the action. Many of you responded that our proposed action would have no negative effect in your respective area of interest. Union Pacific did not go forward with its plans for the Sparta Subdivision in 2001.

Union Pacific again plans to request authority from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to abandon and discontinue service on a smaller portion of the Sparta Branch from M. P. 41.1 near Oakdale, to the end of the line at M. P. 23.0 near Hoyleton, in Washington County, Illinois. A map of the proposed track abandonment shown in black is attached.

Pursuant to the STB's regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 1152, and the environmental regulations at 40 C.F. R. Part 1105.7, this is to again request your assistance in identifying any potential effects of this action as indicated in the paragraphs below. We do not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts. However, if you identify any adverse environmental impacts, describe any actions that are proposed in order to mitigate the environmental impacts. Please provide us with a written response that can be included in an Environmental Report, which will be sent to the STB.

LOCAL AND/OR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES. State whether the proposed action is consistent with existing land use plans. Describe any inconsistencies.

U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE. State the effect of the proposed action on any prime agricultural land.

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (And State Game And Parks Commission. If Addressed). State (1) whether the proposed action is likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or areas designated as a critical habitat, and if so, describe the effects, and, (2) whether wildlife sanctuaries or refuges, National or State parks or forests will be affected, and describe any effects.

STATE WATER QUALITY OFFICIALS. State whether the proposed action is consistent with applicable Federal, State or Local water quality standards. Describe any inconsistencies.

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. State (1) whether permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. C. § 1344) are required for the proposed action and (2) whether any designated wetlands or 100-year flood plains will be affected. Describe the effects.

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (OR EQUIVALENT AGENCY). (1) Identify any potential effects on the surrounding area, (2) identify the location of hazardous waste sites and known

hazardous material spills on the right-of-way and list the types of hazardous materials involved, and (3) state whether permits under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1342) are required for the proposed action.

If you responded to our 2001 request, a copy of your response is attached. We will consider this response your current position unless you send a revised letter.

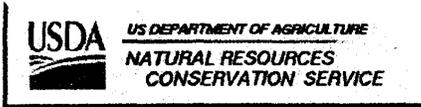
Thank you for your assistance. Please send your reply to Union Pacific Railroad, Mr. Chuck Saylor, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE, 68179. If you need further information, please contact me at (402) 271-4861.

Yours truly,

  
Charles W. Saylor

Attachment

# Attachment 4



424 E. Holzhauser Drive  
Nashville, IL 62263

Phone: (618) 327-8862, ext. 3

February 12, 2001

Union Pacific Railroad  
Mr. Chuck Saylor  
1416 Dodge Street, Room 830  
Omaha, NE 68179

Dear Mr. Saylor:

This letter is in response to the proposed abandonment of the Sparta subdivision, in Washington, Perry and Randolph Counties, Illinois. Any effects of the proposed action on prime agricultural land are minimal. If you have any questions, please call our office at 327-8862, ext. 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Wallace".

Diane Wallace  
District Conservationist

Cc: Bob McLeese, NRCS Champaign, IL

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-6964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

# Attachment 5

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building  
1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-4056

FWS/NWRS-RE - General

January 16, 2001

Mr. Chuck Saylor  
Union Pacific Railroad  
1416 Dodge Street  
Room 830  
Omaha, Nebraska 68179

Dear Mr. Saylor:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed abandonment of the rail line within the Sparta Subdivision, in Washington, Perry and Randolph Counties, Illinois.

We have researched our ownership in the vicinity and have determined we do not own any lands or interests in land in the vicinity of the proposed rail line abandonment. We do not have any concerns regarding real estate matters in the abandonment.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Carroll  
Senior Realty Officer  
Division of Realty

# Attachment 6



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1222 SPRUCE STREET  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

March 7, 2001

Regulatory Branch  
File Number: 200100840

Mr. Chuck Saylor  
Union Pacific Railroad  
1416 Dodge Street, Room 830  
Omaha, Nebraska 68179

Dear Mr. Saylor:

We have reviewed the information submitted by Mr. Harry Patterson, of Union Pacific Railroad, regarding a request for information concerning possible Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requirements for the proposed abandonment of the Union Pacific Railroad Sparta Subdivision from M.P. 48.8 at Coulterville, Illinois to the end of the line at M.P. 23.0 near Hoyelton, Illinois. The project is located in Washington, Perry, and Randolph Counties, Illinois and is in the watershed of the Kaskaskia River.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act assigns responsibility to the Secretary of the Army to administer a permit program to regulate the placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The placement of any dredged or fill material into waters of the United States below ordinary high water elevation, or in wetlands adjacent to these waters, must be authorized by a Section 404 permit.

Based upon a review of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographical map, and the National Wetland Inventory map, we determined that wetlands or waters of the United States are present within the project area. Since wetlands and waters of the United States are present at the aforementioned site, any future activities planned for the site or adjacent areas may require a permit from this office prior to beginning work. Therefore, once all information regarding the proposed project is complete, please contact this office for further consultation.

This determination is applicable only to the permit program administered by the Corps of Engineers. It does not eliminate the need to obtain other Federal, state or local approvals before beginning work.

This **jurisdictional determination** is considered a **preliminary** jurisdictional determination in accordance with final regulations published on March 28, 2000 (65 FR 16485-16503).

Enclosed is a *Notification of Administrative Appeal Options and Process and Request for Appeal* for your consideration and use. This determination cannot be appealed. The **jurisdictional determination** is valid for a period of five years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of this determination before the expiration date.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Litteken at (314) 331-8579. Please include the following identification number with any future inquiries regarding this project: 200100840.

Sincerely,



Susan L.J. Horneman  
Project Manager  
Illinois Permits Region

Copies Furnished:

Mr. Robert Dalton, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Mr. James Allison, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency



**SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT**

**REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS:** (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

**POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION**

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:  
**Craig Litteken**  
Project Manager  
Illinois Permits Region  
(314) 331-8579

If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:  
**Martha S. Chieply**  
Administrative Appeals Review Officer  
(601) 634-5820

**RIGHT OF ENTRY:** Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

<hr/> Signature of appellant or agent.	Date:	Telephone number:
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# Attachment 7

CHARLES W. SAYLORS  
DIRECTOR-LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES

## UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

1416 DODGE STREET  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68119  
(402) 271-4861



April 25, 2001

Historic Preservation Agency  
Thomas F. Schwartz, State Historian  
500 E. Madison  
Springfield, IL 62701-1028

RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No.171X), Union Pacific Railroad Company -  
Abandonment Exemption - In Randolph, Perry, and Washington Counties,  
IL (Sparta Branch from MP 48.8 at Coulterville, IL to the end of the track at  
MP 23.0 near Hoyleton, IL), a distance of 25.8 miles

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for your review are photographs of sixteen bridges, which are 50 years or older and which are located on the referenced rail line proposed for abandonment. The pictures were all taken from the north end of the respective bridge. The bridges are described as follows:

<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Year Constructed</u>
23.8	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 34 feet, 8 inches	1951
25.3	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 77 feet, 7 inches	1950
25.5	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 34 feet, 11 inches	1950
28.3	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 25 feet, 1 inch	1910
28.6	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 96 feet, 8 inches	1941
28.7	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 40 feet, 8 inches	1941

28.9	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 64 feet, 6 inches	1914
31.9	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 117 feet, 8 inches	1910
32.8	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 61 feet, 9 inches	1910
33.2	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 96 feet, 2 inches	1939
37.5	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 26 feet, 11 inches	1939
37.7	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 40 feet, 8 inches	1939
38.5	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 90 feet, 7 inches	1949
41.1	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 54 feet, 11 inches	1937
41.7	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 54 feet, 8 inches	1937
45.5	Timber Pile Trestle - Open Deck Total Length: 97 feet, 0 inches	1941

Please advise if you believe there is any historical significance to the bridges. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
 Charles W. Saylor  
 (402) 271-4861

M.P. 23.80



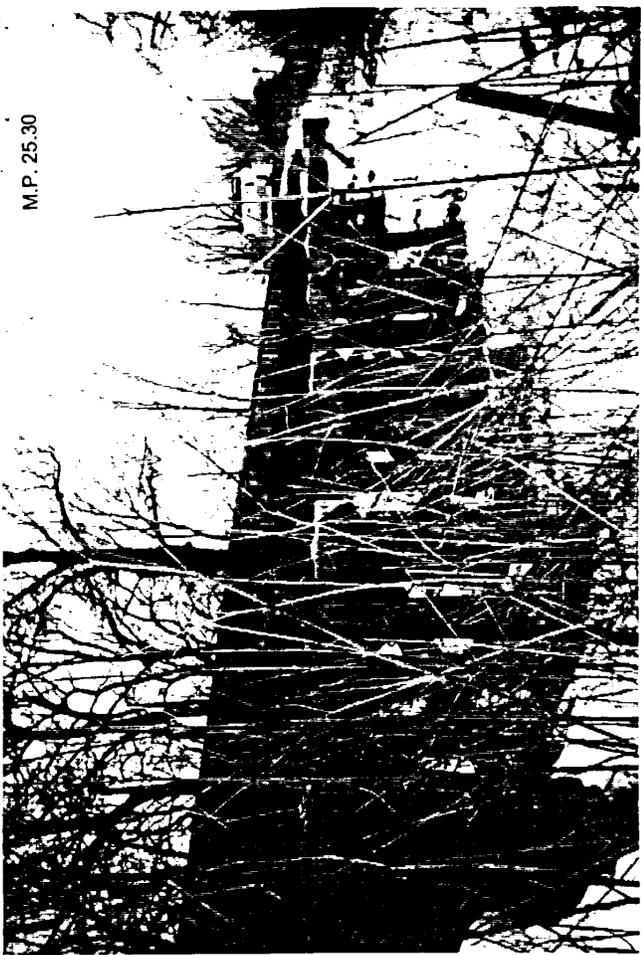
M.P. 23.80



M.P. 23.80



M.P. 25.30



M.P. 25.30



M.P. 25.30

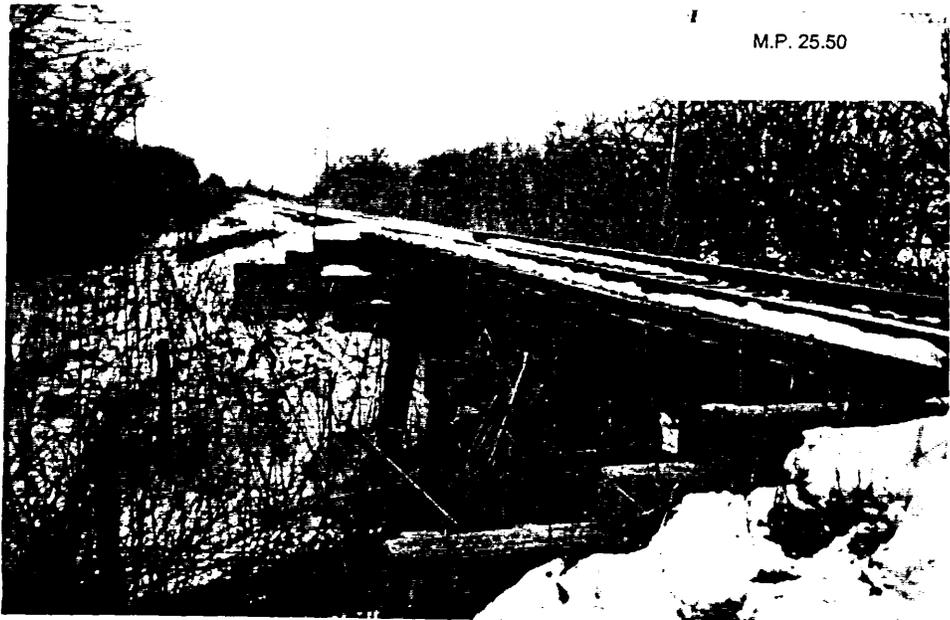




M.P. 25.50



M.P. 25.50

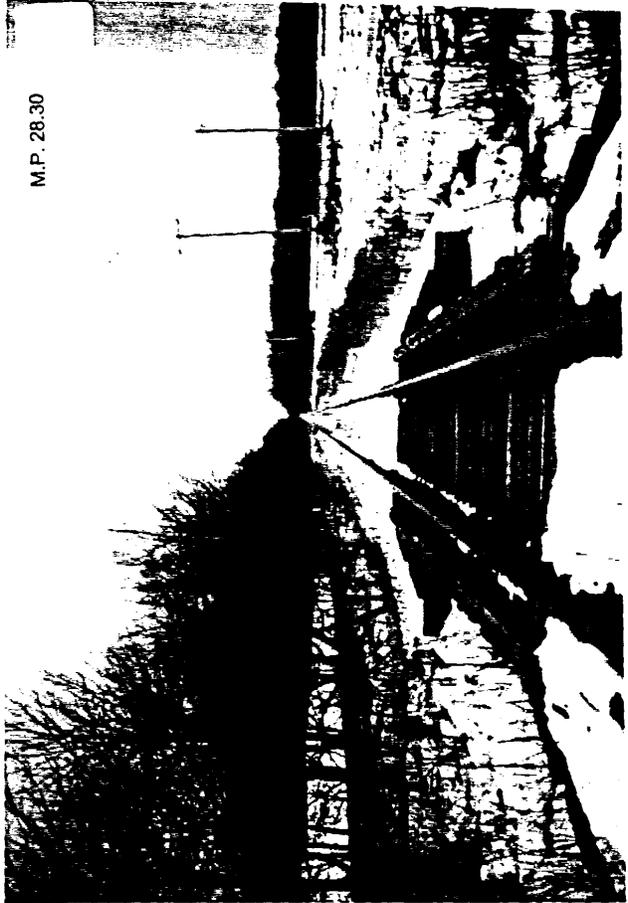


M.P. 25.50

M.P. 28.30

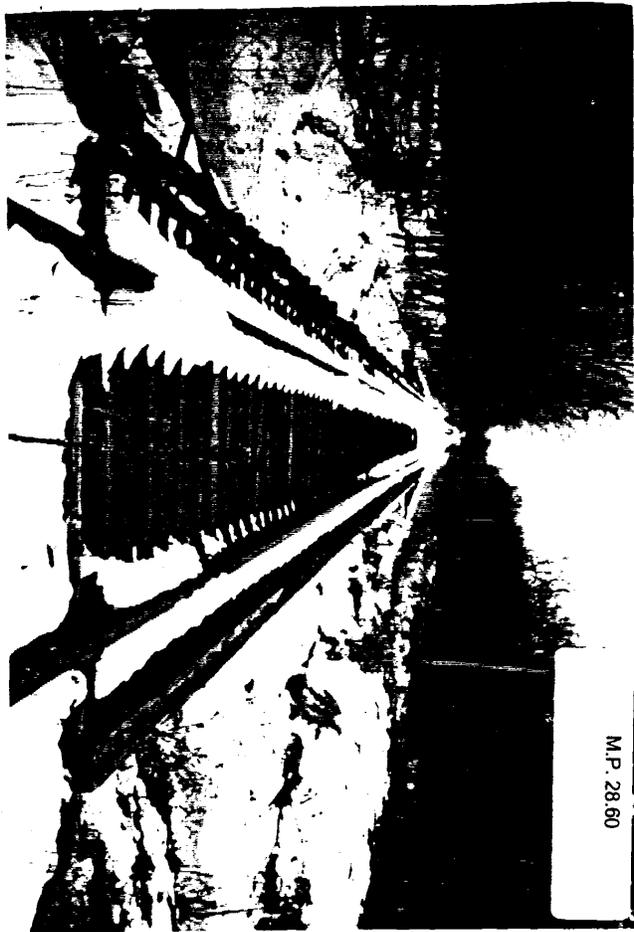


M.P. 28.30



M.P. 28.30





M.P. 28.70

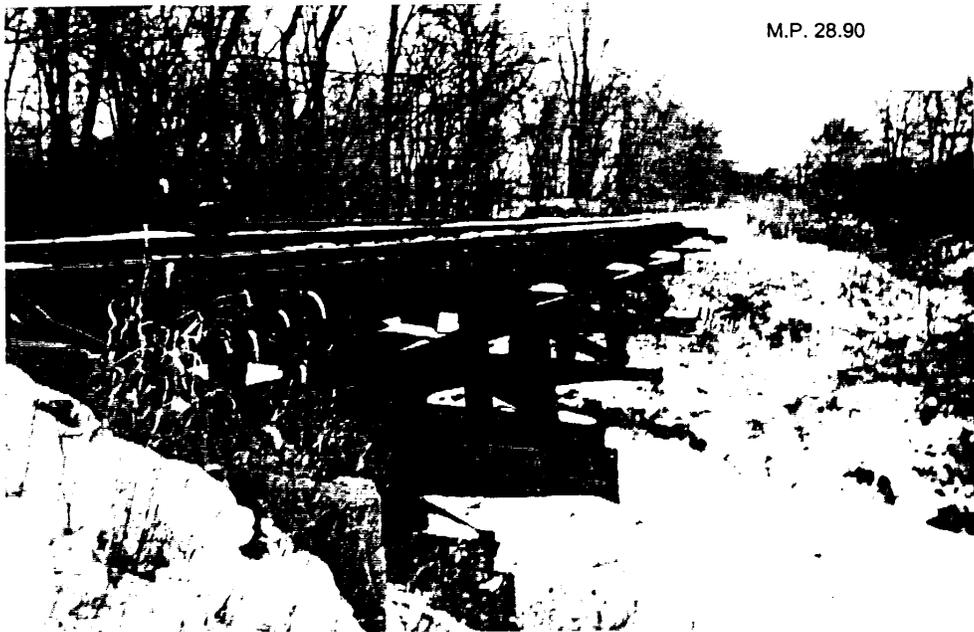
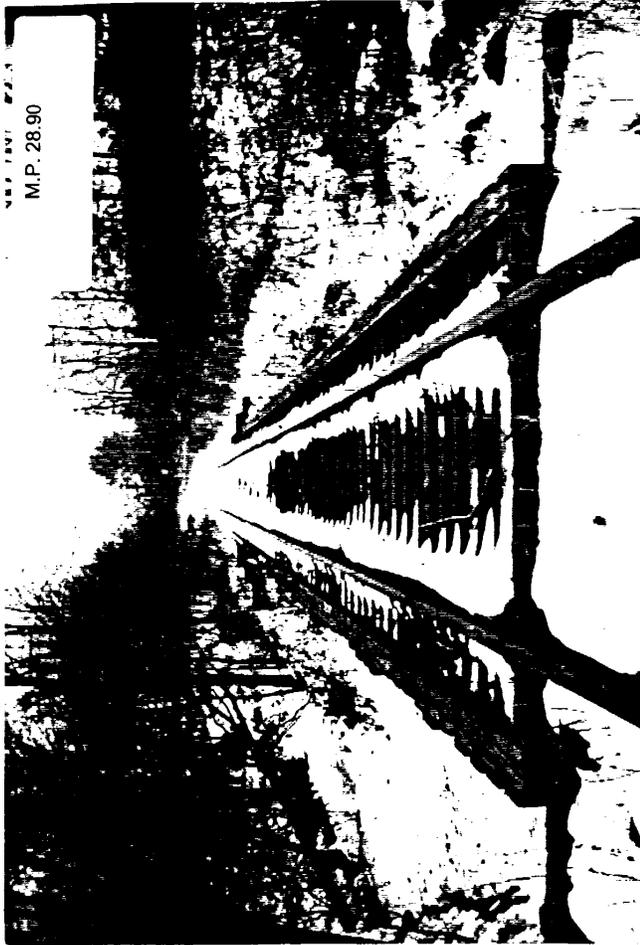


M.P. 28.70



M.P. 28.70







M.P. 31.90



M.P. 31.90



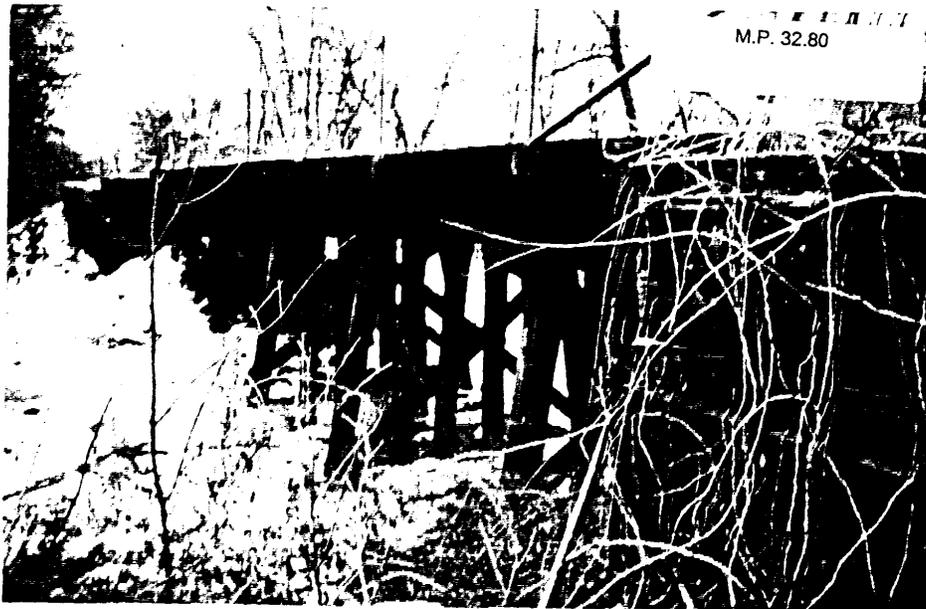
M.P. 31.90



M.P. 32.80



M.P. 32.80



M.P. 32.80



M.P. 33.20



M.P. 33.20



M.P. 33.20



M.P. 37.50



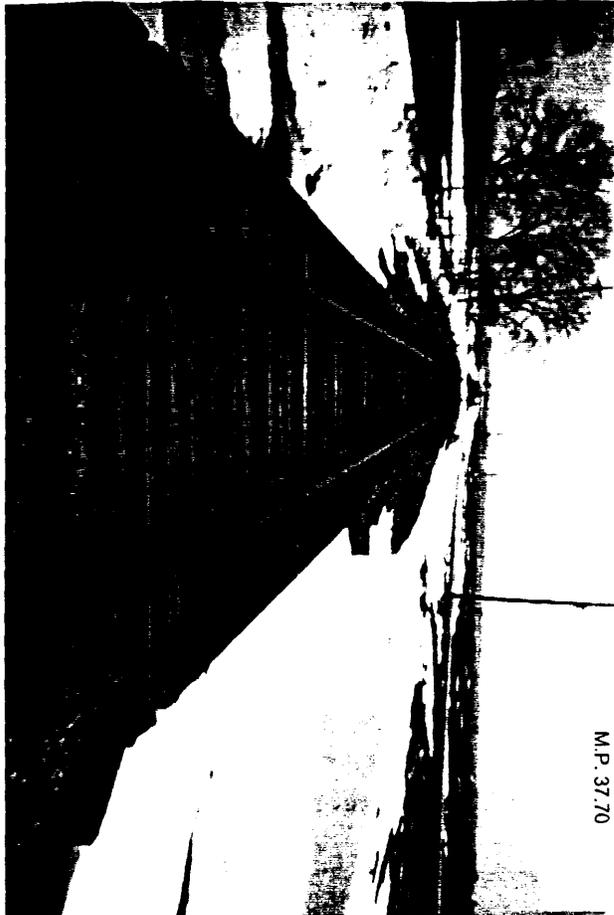
M.P. 37.50

M.P. 37.50

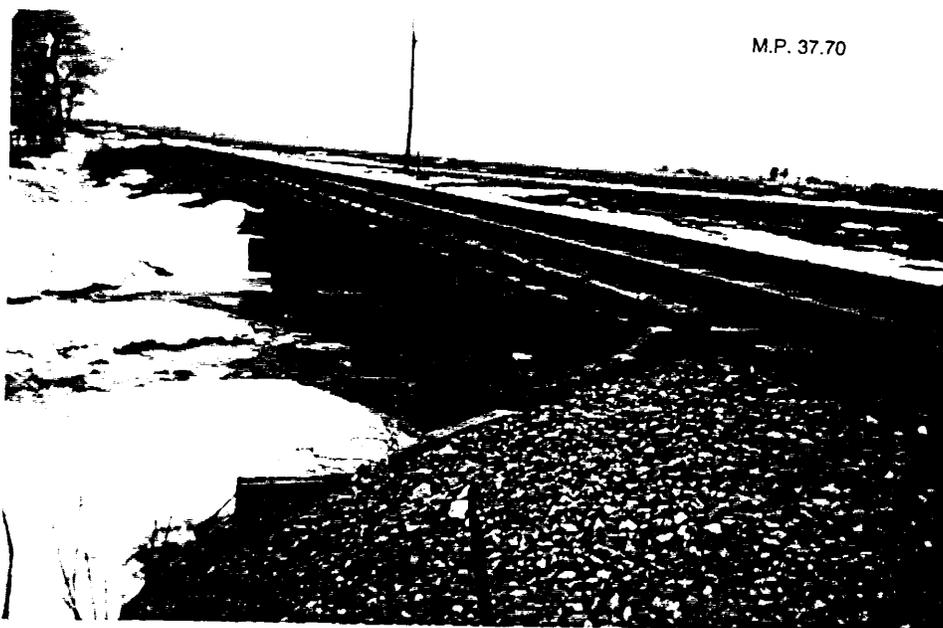




M.P. 37.70



M.P. 37.70



M.P. 37.70



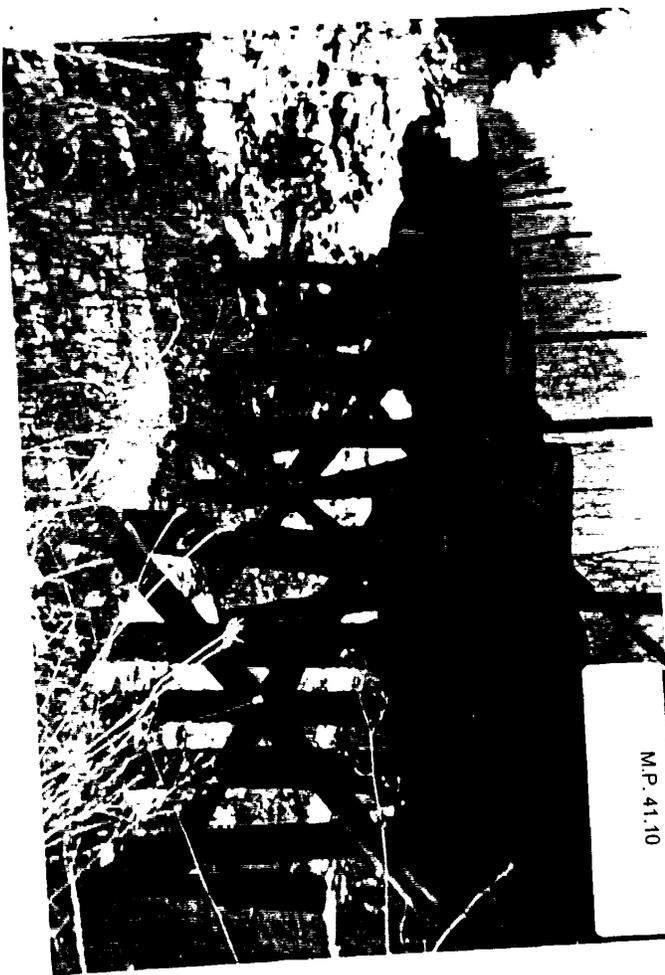
M.P. 38.50



M.P. 38.50



M.P. 38.50



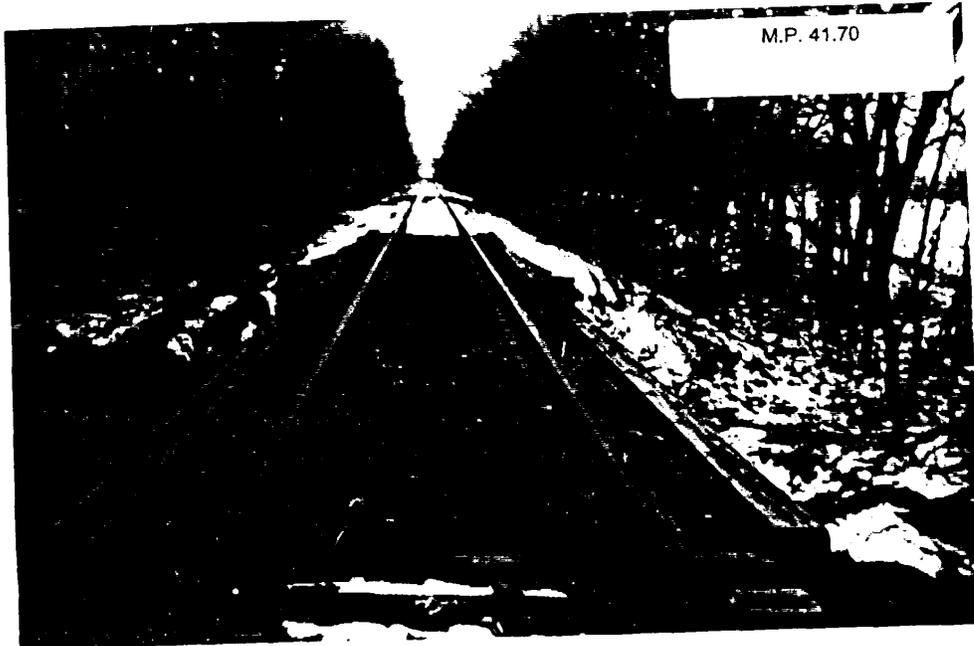
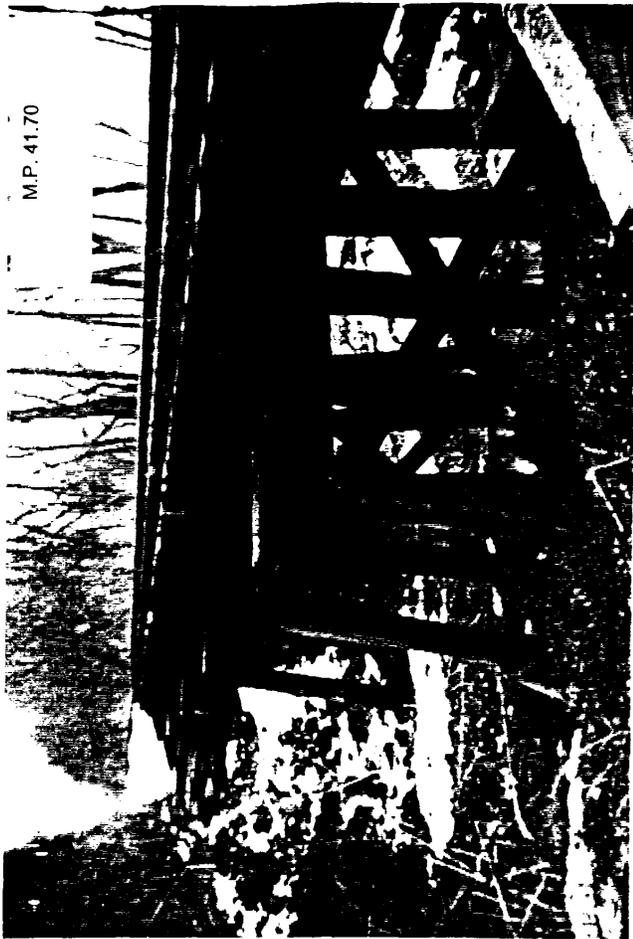
M.P. 41.10

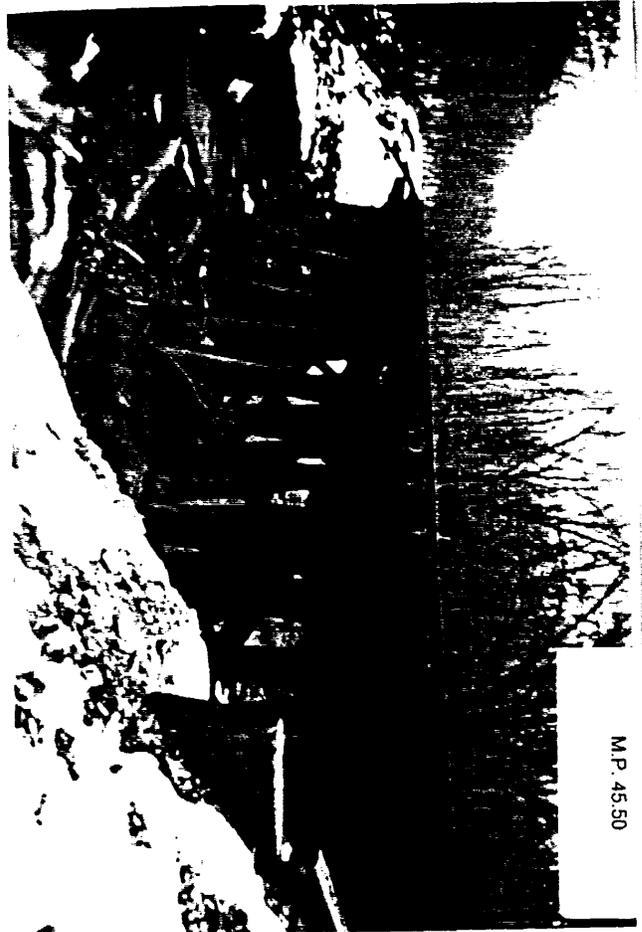


M.P. 41.10



M.P. 41.10





# Attachment 8



## Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

Various County

Randolph, Perry & Washington Counties

Union Pacific Railroad Company/Abandonment Exemption

Coulterville to Hoyelton/Sparta Branch

STB # - Docket AB-33 (Sub-No. 717X)

IHPA LOG #0104270020WVA

May 22, 2001

Charles Saylor  
Union Pacific Railroad Company  
1416 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68179

Dear Mr. Saylor:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted for the referenced project(s) in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4. Based upon the information provided, no historic properties are affected. We, therefore, have no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

Please retain this letter in your files as evidence of compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This clearance remains in effect for one year from date of issuance. It does not pertain to any discovery during construction, nor is it a clearance for purposes of the Illinois Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440).

If you have any further questions, please contact Cody Wright, Cultural Resources Manager, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701, 217/785-3977.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne E. Haaker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Anne E. Haaker  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

AEH: CW: am

Page 2

May 22, 2001  
IHPA LOG #0104270020WVA

Sparta Branch

1. MP 23.80 (STARTING)
2. MP 25.30
3. MP 25.50
4. MP 28.30
5. MP 28.60
6. MP 28.70
7. MP 28.90
8. MP 31.90
9. MP 32.80
10. MP 33.20
11. MP 37.50
12. MP 37.70
13. MP 38.50
14. MP 41.10
15. MP 41.70
16. MP 45.50 (ENDING)