

MISSOURI, KANSAS & TEXAS RAILWAY,
BELLMEAD YARD, CAR FOREMAN'S OFFICE
Union Pacific Milepost 842.40
Bellmead
McLennan County
Texas

HAER No. TX-74-D

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Southwest System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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CAR FOREMAN'S OFFICE

HAER No TX-74-D

Location: Union Pacific Milepost 842.40
Bellmead, McLennan County, Texas

USGS Bellmead, Texas Quadrangle,
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
14.68063.349576

Date of Construction: 1930s

Present Owner: Union Pacific Railroad

Present Use: Abandoned

Statement of
Significance:

The Car Foreman's Office is situated on a slight promontory that provides unobstructed views of the entire Bellmead Yard, which serviced steam locomotives and switched rolling stock in the central Texas transportation hub. The one-story building, which is one bay in width and five bays in length, apparently was constructed during the 1930s. It was moved to the Bellmead Yard ca.1940 and remained in continuous service until the 1997.

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A. General Statement:

1. History: The Car Foreman's Office appears to have been erected during the 1930s at another site and moved to the Bellmead Yard ca. 1940. It remained in continuous service into the late 1990s. The facility was altered at indeterminate dates, with the addition of asbestos siding over wood siding and the addition of various modern interior finishes. Despite these changes, however, the building has retained its original form, fenestration, and some interesting details from the 1930s.
2. Architectural Character: The building is one bay in width, five bays in length, and one story in height. (See photographic documentation HAER No. TX-74-D-01-05 and HAER drawings, sheets 1 through 5).

B. Description of the Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: The building measures 20'-0" in width, 57'-0" in length, and is 15'-1-3/4" in height.
2. Foundations: The foundation is a board-formed concrete grade beam, which typically measures 5-3/4" in thickness and 9" in height.
3. Wall Construction: The wall construction is asbestos siding over wood siding over nominal-sized wood studs.
4. Structural System. Framing: The building is of balloon frame construction with nominal sized 2" x 4" wood studs, spaced at 16" centers. There was no access to the ceiling and roof framing; however, it is probably of nominally sized wood members, spaced at 16" and 24" centers.
5. Porches: There are three engaged porches. Two small entry porches are located at the southwest and northeast corners of the building. A large entry porch is located on the west side of the building. It features a free-standing sheet metal locker decorated with a nail-punched five-pointed star. There is also a decorative wood bulletin board case, with a pediment, and a wood and glass door.
6. Chimneys/Vents: Presumably, when the building was first built, there were masonry chimneys, which served metal flues for wood burning stoves. These were removed when the building was moved to the Bellmead Yard. There are metal vent stacks for the Toilets (106) and a heating unit in the Locker Room (102).

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7. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: Exterior doors at the Car Foreman's Office (100), Locker Room (102), Lunch Room (103), and Toilets (106) are wood, two-panel, and glazed with six lights each. They measure 2'-7" x 6'-7-3/4", and are 1-3/4" in thickness. They are simply cased in 4-1/2" wood trim. The door at the Tool Storage Room (104) and Water Heater Closet (105) are five-panel wood doors. They measure 2'-7-1/2" x 6'-8" and are 1-1/4" in thickness. The door at the Water Heater Closet (105) has fifteen 3/4" diameter ventilating holes that have been drilled through the lower panel. They have been spaced at centers ranging from 2-1/4"-to 3-1/4" centers and are in three rows.

b. Windows: Windows are six-over-six light wood sash throughout except for those located at the Locker/Toilet (107) and the Lunch Room (103), which are six light and three-over-three light sash, respectively. Six-over-six light sash measure 2'-10-1/2" x 5'-1-1/2"; six light sash measure 2'-9" x 1'-11-3/4"; and three-over-three light sash measures 2'-2" x 3'-5-1/2". All windows are simply cased with 3/4" x 4-1/2" wood trim and a vernacular wood drip cap.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering: The roof is hipped and is covered with composition shingles.

b. Cornice: The building's cornice is simply detailed with a wood barge board. There are eaves which project 3'-6" from the wall surface. They have been finished in vee groove ceiling board laid on exposed rafter tails.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First Floor: Entry is made into the Car Foreman's Office (100) from a door that is located in the southwest corner of the building. There are three work desks and communications equipment located in this room. The office provides access to a Toilet/Locker Room (107) and Office Storage (102) through two doorways in the north wall. A sink remains but the toilet has been removed and there is a wooden stall and wooden lockers that appear to date from the 1930s. A large entry porch on the west side of the building provides access to a Locker Room (102), Lunch Room (103) and Toilets (106). Entry into a Tool Storage Room (104) and Water Heater Closet (105) is provided by separate doors that are located at the northeast corner of the building.

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2. Flooring: The floor finish varies. It is 9" x 9" linoleum tile in the Car Foreman's Office (100), Office Storage (102) and Toilet/Locker Room (107). Concrete slab floors are located in the Locker Room (102), Lunch Room (103), Tool Storage Room (104), and Water Heater Closet (105). There is 1" octagonal ceramic tile in the Toilets (106).
 3. Wall Finish: The wall finish varies. There is 1/4" thick asbestos wall board that has been attached to the walls of the Car Foreman's Office (100) and Office Storage (102) that has been painted. Original 3-1/2" vee groove wall board is located in the Toilet/Locker Room (107). It has been used in the construction of four wood lockers, a toilet stall and stall door, and has been painted. The locker doors are of board-and-batten construction, are 1'-3-1/4" in width and have 1" diameter ventilation holes drilled into the top and bottom faces of the doors in a diamond pattern. They are spaced at varied centers ranging from 1" to 2", and each diamond pattern consists of twelve holes. There is a wood baseboard with shoe mold and molding that is 11-1/4" in height and 3/4" in thickness. Wall finish in the Locker Room (102) and Lunch Room (103) is modern 4'-0" x 8'-0" wood paneling and 4" x 4" ceramic tile. The wall finishes in the Tool Storage Room (104) and Water Heater Closet (105) are unpainted asbestos wall board.
 4. Doorways and Doors: Interior doors are wood, five-panel, measure 2'-7-1/2" x 6'-8", and are 1-1/4" in thickness. They are simply cased with 3-1/2" wood molding.
 5. Light Fixtures: The light fixtures are incandescent and fluorescent throughout.
 6. Heating: There is a gas heater that is located in the Car Foreman's Office (100), the Locker Room (102) and Lunch Room (103). In addition, individual window units also provide air conditioning in the Car Foreman's Office (100), The Locker Room (102) and the Toilets (106).
 7. Hardware: Original door hardware is intact throughout.
- D. Site:
1. General Setting: The building is located on a slight promontory that provides unobstructed views of the entire Bellmead Yard. The site slopes in two directions – both north-south and east-west. It has been cut away on the west side for the yard ladder and tracks and has been terraced.
 2. Landscaping, Enclosures: There is a concrete walk that has been poured on all four sides of the building with five steel access plates of varying dimension. A low fence partially encloses the north and east sides of the building. Two concrete walks and eight concrete treads provide access to the yard tracks below.