
Southern Pacific Railroad

Flag Station In rural and remote communities across the United States passengers wanting to board the train had to flag the train down in order for it to stop. Such stations were known as "Flag stops" or "Flag stations".

A request stop or flag stop describes a station at which trains stop only on an as-needed basis, that is, only if there are passengers to be picked up or dropped off. At request stops for which there are no passengers to be dropped off, trains need only slow in the vicinity of the platform — or, in some cases, pass it at speed — instead of coming to a complete stop at an empty platform. In this way, lightly-used stations can remain open and be serviced efficiently, rather than be closed. They almost never had a railway agent.

Lantern Flag The methods by which trains are notified that there are passengers waiting to be picked up at a request stop vary by station and country. A white lantern (or a green lantern) could be used to stop a train at a flag station. A flag station is a location where one would want to ride one or two days a



Small Flag Stop

week, but would otherwise be too costly for a train to stop everyday if there weren't any passengers. It could be hung from the building or swung by hand.

Hugo's "Flag Stops" or "Flag Stations"

Southern Pacific Railroad Hugo, formerly named "Gravel Pit", was established as a flag station along the Oregon and California Railroad ca., 1883.

Gravel Pit Station Flag Stop: 1883 - 1896 Gravel Pit Station at mile post 487.0 was developed by the Southern Pacific Railroad after the railroad was constructed through the area in 1883. It is speculated that the station was named after a railroad granite pit north of Hugo. Railroad mile post numbers are from San Francisco which started with the number one. Therefore, Gravel Pit Station was 487 railroad miles north from San Francisco.

The station was directly across from the Lucky Queen School on a silica ledge. The silica can be viewed in the cut through the ridge. The station was also located on 40 acres of railroad land (1896 Railroad Patent No. 38). In the 1890s the Lucky Queen School was the center of the local community.

It is assumed that Gravel Pit Station was a very basic depot, perhaps like the later Three Pines mail depot located close to the tracks.

Hugo Station: 1897 - 1956 Gravel Pit Station was christened Hugo by the Southern Pacific Railroad May 6, 1897, after a post office was established that year in Hugo. This first depot served the community until 1913 when a new section house and depot were built in Hugo approximately one-half mile further north.

1. Archives of Ontario. Downloaded June 11, 2008. *Railroad School Cars*. Internet. Ontario, Canada. <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/education/railway.htm>.

Gravel Pit & Three Pines

Three Pines Flag Stop The Three Pines Depot (ca. 1910 - 1921) was developed for the Three Pines Lumber Company and the community of Three Pines. The yard had a siding, water tank, and mail depot (mile post 486.0) next to the planing mill and pond.



**Railroad Mile Post 487.0
Across From Hugo Ladies Club**

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community history and land use.

2. Missouri Pacific Historical Society. Downloaded June 11, 2008. Missouri Pacific – A History of Color. Internet. http://mopac.org/history_cbup.asp

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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HUGO'S RAILROAD FLAG STATIONS



Three Pines Depot. MP 486.0: ca. 1910 - 1921
Courtesy of Josephine County Historical Society

June 11, 2008

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**