THE MORNING STAR

Crowley Building Accepted on National Register of Historical Places

By Kathleen Toups

CROWLEY

For years Stan Gall of Louisiana Church Interiors here had eyed the former Missouri Pacific passenger depot. The abandoned building had fallen into disrepair, yet beneath the grime and the damaged interior and exterior, Stan could see hidden potential.

When he learned in 1978, the building was up for sale, he immediately purchased it and began plans for its restoration. Crews from Louisiana Church Interiors, under the direction of Joe Gall, president, began the work which included some careful removal of interior support beams that they might be restored to their original finish.

Plaque Mounted

An appropriate plaque will be mounted on the building to indicate the honor received.

Grand Opening

The restoration was completed in 1979 and a grand opening was held with retired Bishop Maurice Schexnayder of Lafayette blessing the renewed structure which now houses the retail store for Louisiana Church Interiors.

But the work was not quite complete, there was a dream of having the building accepted for the National Register of Historic Places. Daughter Maria Gall did most of the research, the necessary documents were accumulated and submitted, and a few weeks ago, word was received that the restored depot had been accepted for the national register.

Train depot of the same style, in Opelousas, which has long since been torn down.

Missouri Pacific took over the passenger service in 1925 and newspaper records show that at one time as many as 14 trains a day served Crowley through three railroad depots.

After Missouri Pacific ceased passenger service to Crowley in the 1930s, the building was used as the American Legion hall in the 1940s and subsequently was used as a wholesale outlet, an automotive store, a Boy Scout hut and a kindergarten. It was vacant for about the last ten years until it was purchased by Louisiana Church Interiors.

The restored Missouri Pacific depot in Crowley, which now houses Louisiana Church Interiors, has been accepted on the National Register of Historic Places.