

# RESEARCH *and* ITEMS to INCLUDE in a NATIONAL REGISTER<sup>1</sup> or STATE REGISTER NOMINATION

Please use this checklist to ensure that your State or National Register nomination for a railcar, locomotive, or other rolling stock is complete in conjunction with the nomination form's checklist. The nomination should address the topics below and the listed information sources, at a minimum, should be consulted and referenced.

## Naming Conventions

*(Standardized Reporting Marks)*

Lettering and numbering painted on the side of a locomotive or car.

**The first time presented in a written document:**

- Railroad Name Written Out + Type of Car + No. + car number

- e.g. Denver & Rio Grande Western Stock Car No. 5665

**Thereafter:**

- Railroad name abbreviation + No. + car number

## Route Map *(map showing the approximate track route the car traveled)*

Because these maps changed over time, the map included in the nomination should reflect the time period for which the car is nominated. Communicating the geography of where a train car traveled is paramount to conveying its significance.

## Folio sheet *(rolling stock blueprint)*

A folio sheet is an engineering blueprint created when a train car was built. These sheets show the original configuration of the car and help determine what alterations have been made over time.

## Approval for Expenditure *(reverse receipts for work done to rolling stock and railroad track)*

Railroad companies require departments (mechanical, track, passenger service, etc.) to submit the equivalent of a combination purchase request/work order for approval before any portion of budget money may be spent. These documents can help determine what alterations have been made to a car, when and where the car was in service, etc.

## Track Gauge

Note if narrow or standard as integral to the description.

## Reconfigurations *(structural changes)*

Alterations often include exterior reinforcement and repair, interior cosmetic changes, and technological updates such as brake systems, heating/cooling, truck suspension, door locks, etc. Train cars are made to be heavily used and reconfigurations were common. However, description should also include a discussion of how much original material remains on the car. Key original components are the running gear (trucks, brake rigging, couplers) and frame (sills and end beams).



<sup>1</sup> Please note that rolling stock nominated to the National Register of Historic Places must also meet the integrity of setting and location requirements as set forth in the National Register's white paper: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/policy.htm>. These requirements also guide State Register nominations.

**Equipment card** (*rolling stock birth certificate*)

Equipment cards list a car's original purpose, reporting marks, dimensions, weight, and known nicknames. Depending on the railroad, equipment cards may also have been used to record changes made to the car, dates of service, dates of sale, etc.

**Photos** (*historic and current*)

Historic photos can be difficult to find. Railroad companies rarely photographed freight cars and never photographed car interiors. However, many railroad enthusiasts have taken photographs over the years. Such photos exist in archives or have been posted online by the photographers. Whenever possible, please include historic photographs.

**Corporate History** (*history of the railroad company that commissioned and/or used the train car*)

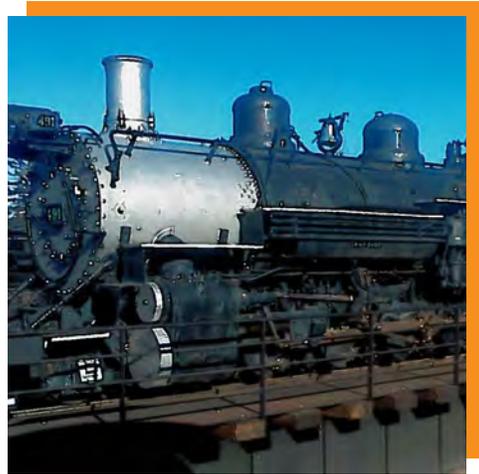
When and why was the car created? Evolving safety laws, technology, competition with other modes of transportation, etc. dictated development of different types of rolling stock. Please detail a short background on the railroad company to reference these evolutions.

**Additional Context**

What was going on historically around this time that may have contributed to development of the car? For example, until the creation of stock cars, ranching was done on a very small scale in the high mountain parks. Railroads and stock cars connected mountain ranches with the Denver Stock Market, allowing ranchers to raise hundreds of cattle at a time. If documentation for an individual car is lacking, additional context can help to substantiate a significance argument.

**Series**

A series is a group of cars manufactured and/or numbered at the same time. Often cars numbered together were also put in service together. Some details can be documented through examination of other cars in the series, but there should be specific documentation for an individual car to support a nomination.




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*Our gratitude to Lauren Giebler, former Curator at the Colorado Railroad Museum and Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board member, for development of this checklist.*

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*For additional information, please contact the Office of Archaeology's Preservation Planning Unit at (303)866-3392.*