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VILLAGE BOASTS OLDEST BRICK RAIL STATION

By HAMPTON DUNN

LLOYD --- A sturdy old brick railroad station, built in 1858 just prior to the Civil War, has given this tiny community a truly historical landmark that will become a museum.

Lloyd is on SR 59 immediately south of Monticello which is on U.S. 90 just east of Tallahassee. Shortly before the merger of the Seaboard Air Line and the Atlantic Coast Line railroads in 1967, the Seaboard gave the quaint building to the Jefferson County Historical Society which plans to make it a mecca for railroad buffs.

This town, now off the beaten path, once was on the main line -- as far back as the 1500s when Hernando DeSoto passed this way and left Florida’s first road. Lloyd also is destined to become again a spot on the nation’s main street as Interstate 10 stretches across North Florida and includes an interchange here at Lloyd.

In the early territorial days of Florida, Lloyd, then known as Baileys Mill, was the site of many encounters between the white pioneers and the Indians. But it became quite a metropolis with the laying of the railroad from lake City to Tallahassee. There were several families named Lloyd who donated right of way to the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad, and in return had the station named Lloyd.

In the early days as many as four passenger trains stopped here daily, and hungry travelers dined at the home of Gen. and Mrs. George Whitfield across from the station. Seaboard discontinued service here in 1966.