

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received OCT 7 1985
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common Main Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number 442-660 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baton Rouge N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county East Baton Rouge Parish code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. N/A

street & number

city, town _____ state _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Architectural and Historical Survey
title of Downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Baton Rouge, Division of Community and Economic Development

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Main Street Historic District in downtown Baton Rouge is a discrete more or less contiguous strip of party wall late nineteenth-early twentieth century commercial buildings. There are twelve buildings encompassing two-and-one-half blocks. Despite one intrusion and some alterations, the district retains its National Register eligibility.

The Main Street Historic District was selected for nomination from the recently completed Architectural and Historical Survey of Downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana as part of the State Historic Preservation Office's ongoing search for eligible properties in recently surveyed areas. The grouping has a mixed one and two story scale, but the overall height is impressive by modern standards because even the one story examples have high ceilings and parapets. The district is distinguished by the number of architectural styles in evidence, albeit in diluted form. Styles include Italianate, neo-classical, Renaissance Revival, Gothic and Modernistic, as well as "commercial vernacular." This gives the district a richness one would not find in modern construction. Most of the buildings are brick and most (60%) have second story spaces which are (or once were) apartments. All in all, the district represents a typical grouping which could have been found in any large southern town during the period.

Intrusions

There is only one intrusion--a low characterless building which does not significantly interrupt the streetscape. Its presence does not diminish the district's status as Baton Rouge's only major historic commercial grouping.

Contributing Elements

Because the district is significant as a grouping of c.1890 to 1935 commercial buildings, any commercial building from that period which has not been altered beyond recognition is listed as a contributing element.

Integrity

The only integrity consideration in the district is the replacement of original shopfronts on all but two of the buildings (#s 3 and 9). Because most commercial buildings in the city have had their shopfronts replaced, the shopfront replacement in the district has not lowered its relative value as a commercial grouping. Also, most of the replacement work has been low-key and relatively unobtrusive.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1890-c. 1935 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Main Street Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an important grouping of historic commercial buildings within the context of the City of Baton Rouge. The previously mentioned Baton Rouge survey has identified some 122 50+ year old structures in the central business district. (Many of these have been badly altered and would be considered intrusions by the National Park Service.) There are also numerous newer buildings as well as vacant lots where older commercial structures once stood. Unlike many other central business districts, downtown Baton Rouge remained prosperous after the Depression and into the 1950's and '60's. As a result, it suffered considerable alteration and demolition. The Main Street District is the only cohesive grouping of historic commercial buildings remaining in the city. Other areas contain older commercial buildings, sometimes in groups of two, three, or four, but they are scattered among newer buildings, badly altered historic buildings, and vacant lots. Thus the Main Street District is immensely important as a representative period townscape for the City of Baton Rouge.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architectural and Historical Survey of Downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana, July 1984, Prepared under the auspices of the Foundation for Historical Louisiana and the City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge.
Sanborn Insurance Co. Maps, Baton Rouge, 1885, 1891, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1911, 1916, 1923,

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Baton Rouge West, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

15	674300	3370000
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

--	--	--

F

--	--	--

G

--	--	--

H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. There are no adjacent 50+ year old structures, nor is there any contiguous grouping of historic structures across Main Street from the district. The western boundary follows a party wall in order

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries to exclude an adjacent modern structure.

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	National Register Staff	Assisted by John D. Butler, one of the Main St. property owners.
organization	Division of Historic Preservation State of Louisiana	date July 1985
street & number	P. O. Box 44247	telephone 504-922-0358
city or town	Baton Rouge	state LA 70804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert B. DeBlieux 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

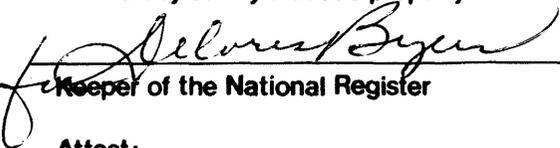
date September 24, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 11-7-85


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Main St. Historic District Item number 4
Baton Rouge, LA

Page 1

4. Owners

Isidore Saltz
442 Main St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Herman Braniff Estate
Kupco Inc.
442 Notre Dame St.
New Orleans, LA 70130

Rosa Raffelson
3127 E. Lakeshore Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Abraham Kupperman
P. O. Box 56069
New Orleans, LA 70156-6069

Wright Agency, Inc.
P. O. Box 3809
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Marion Causey
600 Main St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Roland Kizer
8655 Jefferson Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

John & Morris Butler
P. O. Box 30
Baker, LA 70714

James McDaniel
668 Main St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

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Continuation sheet Main Street Historic Dist. Item number 7

Page 1

7. Description (cont'd)

Inventory

1. 1924, #442, Saltz Building.
Two story, brick, vaguely Gothic commercial building with crenelated parapet, panels, and hood molds.
2. c.1920, #454-50.
One story stucco and glazed brick commercial building with Baroque-looking shaped parapets.
3. c.1935, #460.
One story buff brick Modernistic commercial building with horizontal bands of brick and carrara glass shopfront.
4. c.1890, #500 (built sometime between 1885 and 1891 Sanborn maps)
Two story Italianate commercial building of masonry and rusticated stucco. Noteworthy for its decorative shallow arch window hoods and its elaborate cornice.
5. c.1912 (built sometime between 1911 and 1916 Sanborn maps)
Two story brick commercial building with heavy corbel table.
6. c.1915, #544-6. (built sometime between 1911 and 1916 Sanborn maps)
Two story brick neo-classical commercial building with a full arcade on the upper story encompassing a recessed balcony. Bays are marked with pilasters, and the whole arcade is surmounted by a full entablature and parapet.
7. Intrusion, #600-602.
One story brick and stucco commercial building with no architectural character. c.1945.
8. c.1920, #618, Duggan Building. (built sometime between 1916 and 1923 Sanborn maps)
Two story stucco commercial building in the Renaissance style with pantile roof and numerous bas relief panels showing brincade, urns, and other classical devices.
9. 1915, #624-26, Liberto Building.
Two story brick commercial building with a shaped parapet and shallow arched fenestration. The building retains its original cantilever gallery upstairs and the original shopfront downstairs. It is noteworthy for its extensive use of beaded board and its gallery windows which are composed of numerous small panes (a Queen Anne Revival "carryover").

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Continuation sheet Main Street Historic Dist. Item number 7

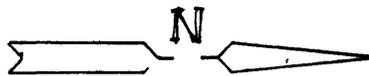
Page 2

Description (cont'd)

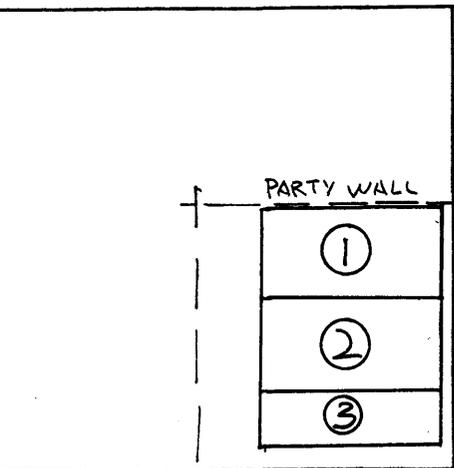
Inventory (cont'd)

10. c.1925, #640.
One story brick classical style commercial building with the suggestion of pilasters and a more or less full entablature.
11. c.1920, #654.
Two story brick neo-classical commercial building featuring brick pilasters with papyrus and acanthus capitals, a full entablature, and the suggestion of a pediment shaped parapet.
12. c.1920, #660. (built sometime between 1916 and 1923 Sanborn maps)
One story brick commercial building with brick panels, a cornice, and a parapet.

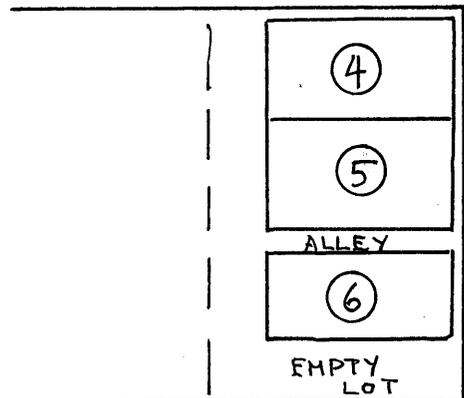
MAIN ST.



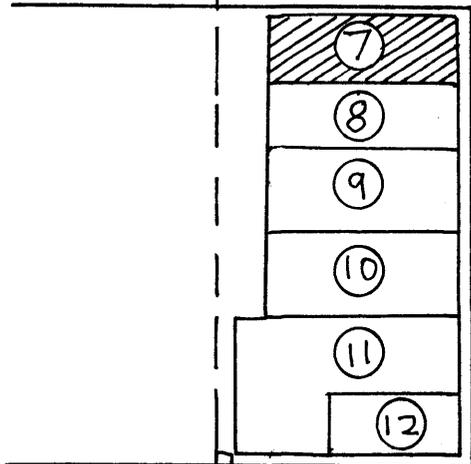
4TH ST.



5TH ST.



6TH ST.



7TH ST.

5'
 DIMENSION FROM
 REAR OF BUILDING
 # 11

MAIN ST.
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 BATON ROUGE
 EAST BATON ROUGE
 PARISH

— BOUNDARY —

 INTRUSIONS

NOT TO SCALE

