

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED MAY 15 1980

**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
Rapides Bank & Trust Company Building
AND/OR COMMON
Alexandria Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
933 Main Street

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Alexandria

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8th - Gillis Long

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE
022

COUNTY
Rapides Parish

CODE
079

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Rapides Bank & Trust Company
STREET & NUMBER
400 Murray Street

CITY, TOWN
Alexandria

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rapides Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Alexandria

STATE
Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN
Baton Rouge

STATE
Louisiana

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rapides Bank is located next to the approach ramp to the Pineville bridge, between Main Street and the Red River levee in downtown Alexandria.

Inasmuch as the building is currently used as museum space, most evidence of the former banking operation has been removed. Only the board room to the rear and the vault enclosure in the center of the banking space survives. Counters, teller's cages, and the vault itself have been removed. The masonry building was constructed in 1898 and remodeled in 1914. The rear and side walls, and the structure itself date from 1898. The interior appointments in the two-story banking space and limestone Renaissance Revival facade date from 1914.

The old banking space is large, open, and plain except for the ceiling, which is divided into large panels trimmed with full entablatures and modillion cornices. In the center of each panel is an acanthus leaf medallion, inscribed in bay leaf garlands. At one time there was a suspended ceiling the supports for which now hold spotlamps for the art gallery.

The three-bay facade is articulated with engaged colossal Tuscan columns, with arches between, under a balustraded entablature.

Because the building is tightly placed on a corner lot, with only a few feet to spare on one side and no room on the other three, the exterior walls of the building are the boundaries of the nominated area.

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 1898 & 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Of Alexandria's somewhat depleted stock of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings, most depend upon an unstudied accumulation of brick pilasters, brick arches, and corbel tables for their articulation. The Rapides Bank has considerably more pretention than this. It has a fully developed classical facade with four colossal Tuscan columns, an entablature and balustrade which are more or less correctly proportioned. Moreover, with the one exception, which is the enormous Bentley Hotel, the Rapides Bank is the most classically refined and pretentious commercial building in Alexandria.

The building was constructed in 1898 and was the third home of the Rapides Bank, which had gone into business about ten years before. At first the bank occupied only about half of the present structure, renting the other half of the building for private offices. Then in 1914 the bank expanded its facilities and renovated the whole building for its use. The building was vacated in 1954. In the early 1970's, the Central Louisiana Art Association approached the Rapides Bank with a proposal that the building be renovated for use as an art museum, and the bank and the CLAA successfully achieved the renovation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foil, David, "Art Museum Found a Home With a History." Town Talk, 19 September 1977.

Kramer, G.M.G., Rapides Remembers: 1875-1975. Baton Rouge: Franklin Press, 1975. Pp. 10, 35.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. .18 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 | 2, 5, 2, 1, 0, 0 | 3, 4, 6, 4, 1, 5, 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____ | _____ | _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____ | _____ | _____

D _____ | _____ | _____

E _____ | _____ | _____

F _____ | _____ | _____

G _____ | _____ | _____

H _____ | _____ | _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded by a 50' by 150' rectangle at the corner of La. Rt. 165 and Main Street.

(See sketch map)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Peg Bolton

ORGANIZATION

Historical Association of Central Louisiana

DATE

June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 843

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Alexandria,

STATE

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL X

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

J. Bernard Lamer

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/16/79

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

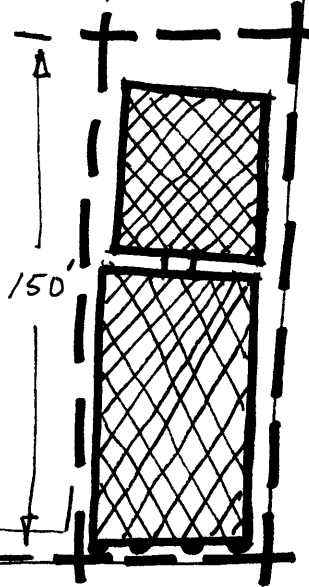
for Sally G. Bell
 ATTEST: Reel Grosvenor
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5/15/80

DATE 5/10/80

RED RIVER

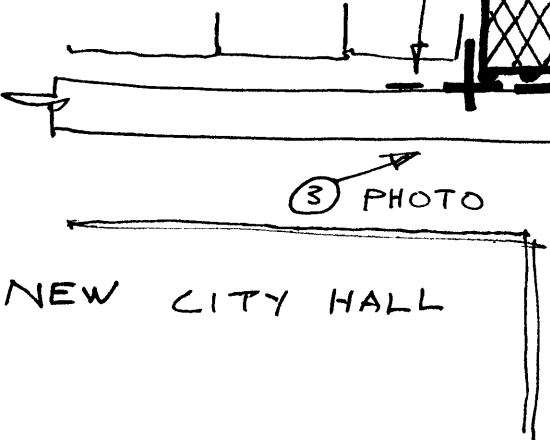
← 50' →



← BOUNDARY

RAPIDES BANK AND
TRUST COMPANY
BUILDING

(NOT TO SCALE)



NEW CITY HALL

RT. 165

← (2) MAIN ST →

PHOTO

(3) PHOTO

↑ (1) PHOTO

