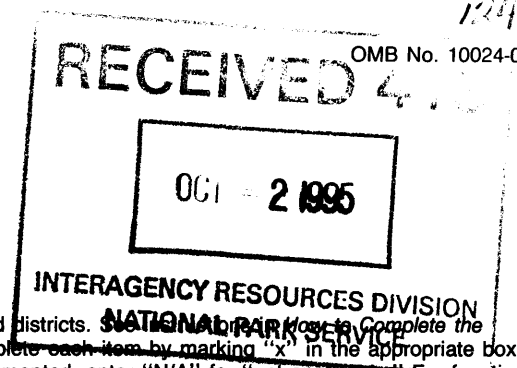


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. **Do not complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested.** If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Carnahan Store; Cohen Store

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street (LA. Hwy. 495) N/A not for publication

city or town Cloutierville N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Natchitoches code 069 zip code 71416

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gerry Hobdy September 26, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerry Hobdy, Date
LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 11-7-95
Entered in the
National Register

Carnahan Store
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other _____

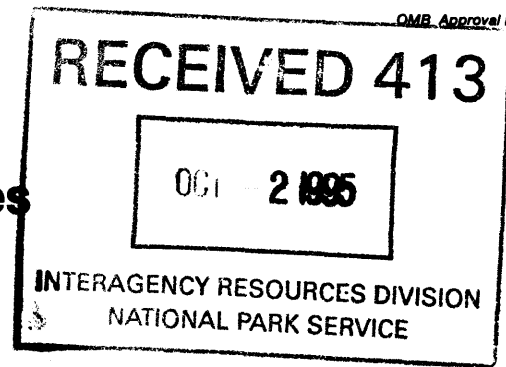
Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Carnahan Store, Natchitoches Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1



The Carnahan Store (c.1905) is a single story frame general mercantile store located in the small rural community of Cloutierville. The building features manufactured wooden decorative elements which should be viewed within the context of the latter day commercial Italianate taste. The store is very well preserved, both on the exterior and interior.

The building is set directly on Louisiana Highway 495, which is the village's Main Street. Route 495 runs along a natural ridge which forms part of the lower Cane River system. Because the store is set on the slope of the ridge, the property falls away to the rear -- so much so that the rear elevation is raised a full story above grade on wooden posts.

Virtually all of the decorative exterior woodwork is confined to the facade. Flanking the central double door entrance is a pair of rectangular bay windows used for display, each of which features a bracketed cornice and paneled kickplate. The entrance is protected by the store's gabled roof which projects forward to form a porch covering. This projecting roof is currently supported by a large pair of angle braces which are rather crudely toe-nailed in place. These do not appear to be original. However, the present owner, whose earliest recollections of the store are from the 1930s, indicates that the angle braces may have been there as long as he can remember. The evidence is very strong that the porch roof never had columns. Most likely, it was originally supported by cantilevering it into the main roof structure. The corners of the porch were originally marked by a pair of scroll sawn brackets, one of which is missing. The store's facade is sheathed in flush boards with a bevel cut. Other noteworthy features of the facade are the paneled shutters which close over both the front and sides of the bay windows and the gable vergeboards accented with dentils.

The sales area is large and deep with counters encompassing the sides and rear. Most of the counters have inward sloping fronts, decorative panels inset with diagonally placed beaded board, and Italianate brackets below the counter top. The remaining counters are constructed in the form of display cases. The side and rear walls are almost completely covered with storage shelves. This built-in shelving, which reaches most of the way to the ceiling, culminates in a bracketed cornice. Access to the upper shelves is provided by a pair of moveable ladders set on tracks. Above the shelves are low transom windows designed to provide for light and ventilation. The sales space is bisected by a range of three chamfered support columns, each culminating in a set of four decoratively cut brackets. The ceiling of the sales area is sheathed in narrow gauge beaded board. Near the front of the space is a narrow brick chimney which once serviced a cast-iron stove.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Carnahan Store, Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 2

Behind the sales area is a rear porch which encompasses the entire width of the building. The south end of the porch is enclosed for a small room which was evidently the manager's office. The architectural evidence is very clear that this area of the porch was always enclosed.

Aside from the previously mentioned alterations, the following changes have occurred:

(1) Between 1905 and about 1940, a lean-to was added to roughly the front half of the north elevation. Evidently it was built in at least two stages. The present owner indicates that the lean-to, in its present figuration, has been there as long as he can remember.

(2) Originally the front of the building almost certainly would have had a raised wooden porch floor to coincide with the entrance porch roof. This area currently features a concrete slab and concrete steps. Here again, the present owner indicates that he cannot remember an earlier appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

commerce

Period of Significance

c.1905 - c.1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Carnahan Store
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 0
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date July 1995

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.) & Mrs. Dorothy C. Benefield
300 Ralph St.
name Lawrence M. Carnahan, Jr. Natchitoches LA 71457
street & number P. O. Box 190 telephone 318-379-2301 (Mr. Carnahan's office)
318-352-5284 (Benefield's home)
city or town Cloutierville state LA zip code 71416

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Carnahan Store, Natchitoches Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 1

The Carnahan Store is of local significance in the area of commerce within the context of the cotton-growing parishes of northern Louisiana. It stands as one of a limited number of surviving rural mercantile stores in the region. General mercantile emporiums such as the Carnahan Store played a vital role in the system of cotton production and plantation agriculture during the post-bellum years through the 1930s.

With the end of the Civil War and the loss of slave labor, planters were forced to find other means to get crops planted and harvested. In the cotton growing parishes of Louisiana the plantation system shifted to a practice known as share-cropping in which a landless farmer worked a portion of the planter's land for a share of the crop, generally one-third. Of course, the cotton cash crop would not come in until late in the year. In the meantime, the farmer and his family needed food and other provisions. Banks where he might have borrowed money were virtually unknown in rural Louisiana during the period. So a common pattern emerged in which the share-cropper would pledge his crop to a country mercantile store in return for a line of credit that would enable him to buy what he wanted. Under this system, known as crop-lien, share-croppers often found that when the cotton was finally in, their store purchases exceeded the value of their share of the crop. The result was mounting debt leading to virtually peonage.

Stores such as Carnahan provided a wide variety of goods, ranging from manufactured clothes to foodstuffs to tools to patent medicines -- in short, everything the rural householder could want. In addition to share-croppers, small farmers who did own their own land patronized rural mercantile stores. And as historian William Ivy Hair has noted, they too often became "enmeshed in the crop-lien cycle of debt."

The Carnahan Store, which was constructed c.1905 by a local merchant named H. C. Cohen, served rural southern Natchitoches Parish. It was sold to the Carnahan family in the 1920s and continued in business until 1987. The present owner, Lawrence Carnahan, Jr., who has recollections of the store from as early as the 1930s, recalls that here the credit system was managed through the use of coupon books. When a crop was pledged, the farmer was issued coupons worth varying denominations of money. He would then spend these in the store as though they were cash.

Rural mercantile stores such as Carnahan declined after the 1930s because of several factors. One was the decline and ultimate demise of the crop-lien system. Another was the loss of rural population in the cotton parishes due to the advent of the mechanical cotton picker. A third was the increasing number of automobiles in rural areas which enabled farmers to drive to

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Carnahan Store, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2
9 1

town to purchase needed goods and services. Of the many hundreds of rural stores that once existed throughout northern Louisiana, perhaps fifty survive. Most of these are closed and face an uncertain future. Taken among this group of surviving rural mercantile stores, the Carnahan Store is particularly important because it is so remarkably well preserved, with the interior being particularly impressive in this regard.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic structures surveys of northern Louisiana combined with SHPO staff knowledge.

Interview with Lawrence Carnahan, Jr., the current owner.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Carnahan Store, Cloutierville, Natchitoches Parish, LA
Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description: See sketch map.

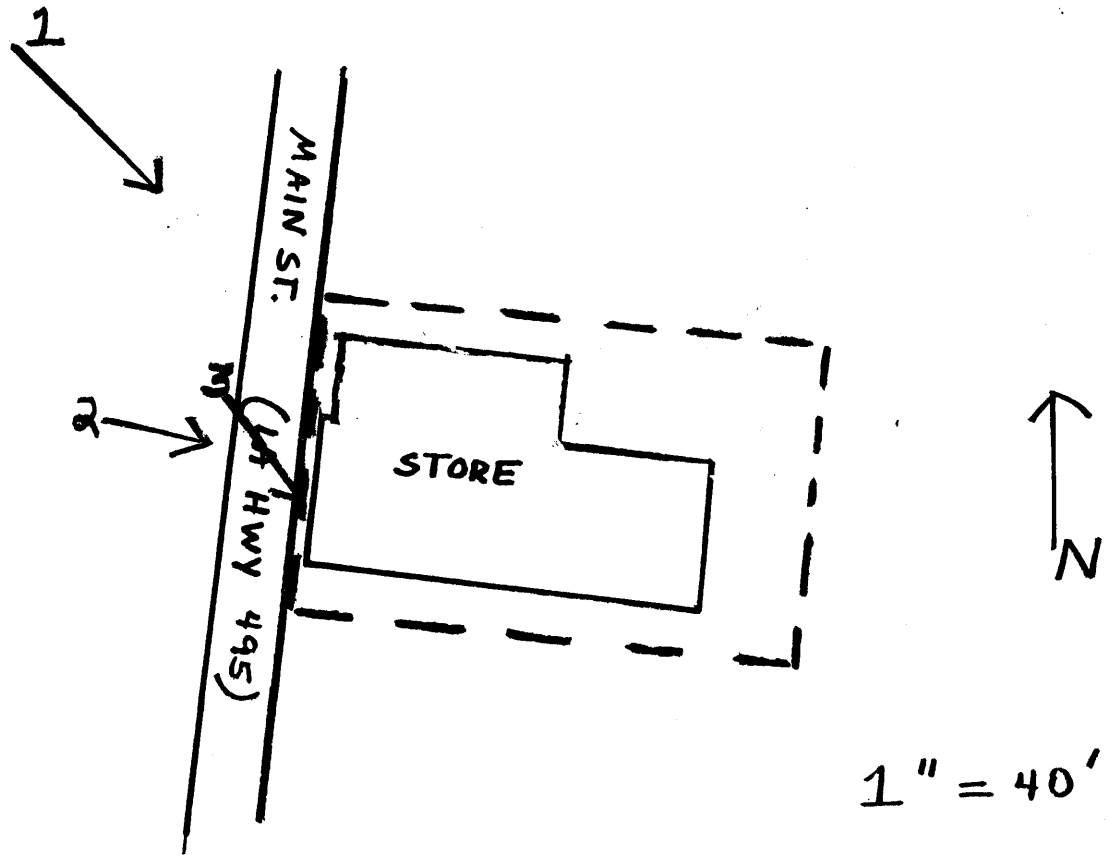
Boundary Justification: Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass the significant resource. Following property lines would have meant including an unrelated building immediately to the south of the candidate.

CARNAHAN STORE

Cloutierville

Natchitoches Parish, LA

--- BOUNDARY



1" = 40'