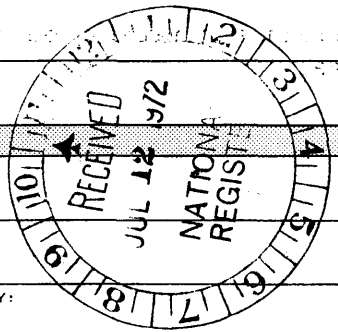


14804-115

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Louisiana	
COUNTY: E. B. B. Parish	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SEP 1972	



1. NAME

COMMON:
POTTS HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
POTTS HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
831 NORTH STREET

CITY OR TOWN:
BATON ROUGE

STATE: **LOUISIANA** CODE: COUNTY: CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
WILLIAM LEE JENSEN

STREET AND NUMBER:
829 NORTH STREET (831 official for city)

CITY OR TOWN: **BATON ROUGE** STATE: **LOUISIANA** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
EAST BATON ROUGE COURTHOUSE (CONVEYANCE RECORDS)

STREET AND NUMBER:
ST. LOUIS AND LOUISIANA STREETS

CITY OR TOWN: **BATON ROUGE** STATE: **LOUISIANA** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HISTORIC BATON ROUGE by ROBERT W. HECK

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971 (CRP)** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
CITY-PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION

STREET AND NUMBER:
805 ST. LOUIS STREET

CITY OR TOWN: **BATON ROUGE** STATE: **LOUISIANA** CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: **14 SEP 1972**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

(Check One) **basically**

(Check One)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

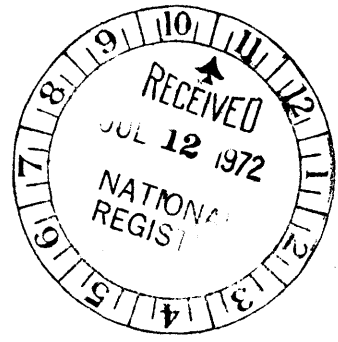
This house is an example of mid-19th century Classical Revival style architecture.

The buildings remain on a portion of the property that Nelson Potts purchased in 1846. These are the original two-story town house with front gallery that is near North Street and a two-story brick dependency immediately behind the main house. (See attached Sandborn map sections.) Originally, both buildings had galleries across the front. These galleries remain, but the gallery of the dependency has been filled in to provide a temporary kitchen and bathroom. During restoration the gallery of the dependency will be reopened. Also the screens that were added to the gallery of the main house are being removed in order to restore the original proportions and scale. The dependency's size is an echo of the town house. Floor to ceiling heights vary between the two buildings: the town house has a twelve foot height and the dependency has an eight foot height.

The main house has a central hall and five rooms on each floor. The "room" in the center of the back was, probably, an open porch or loggia, originally. The dependency has two rooms side by side on each floor.

Major alterations include the "filling in" of the gallery of the dependency building (already mentioned) and a wooden addition between and connecting the town house and the dependency, which were formerly separate buildings. The present owners will remove most of these alterations during restoration. With this done, the basic building shape and proportions will be nearly identical to the original buildings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

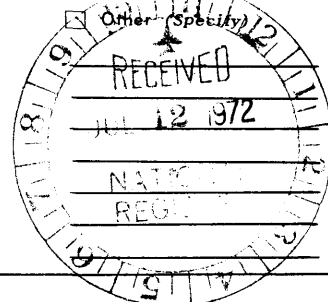
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **between 1846 and 1852**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |

Urban Planning

Other (Specify)



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property and house are located in Old Spanish Town, which was the first subdivision laid out in Baton Rouge in 1805.

A great part of the significance of this house and property is attributed to the ownership of Nelson Potts, master brick mason, who owned the property from 1846 to 1868 and who built the house and dependency, which still stand. Nelson Potts, brick mason from New Jersey, established his brickyard on the property; then he built his own residence, probably as an example of his own abilities as a mason. Undoubtedly Potts was one of the master builders in Baton Rouge from 1846 to 1868. He executed many buildings during that time. A few of which still stand include: the Stewart-Dougherty-Prescott House (also on North Street), which was completed in 1854 and styled directly after Potts' own town house; the Florence House at 131 Main Street; and presumably, mason for the Goodwood Plantation House at 5925 Goodwood Avenue.

Philippe Oszuscik pays special attention to Nelson Potts in his unpublished thesis (see bibliography). On pages 16-18 Oszuscik says, "Important builders of Baton Rouge. Appendix A contains a list of the main craftsmen of Baton Rouge involved in this study. Special attention is given to the carpenters and brickmasons since it was the master brickmason and carpenter who were the bidders and "undertakers" of the buildings in this study. Two craftsmen--Nelson Potts, a master brickmason, and Richard H. Burke, a carpenter--were particularly prominent during the 1850 period.

The name, Nelson Potts, will appear throughout this study since he did the majority of the brickwork on the Baton Rouge public buildings. Nelson Potts was born in Mount Holly, Burlington County, New Jersey, in about 1815. He moved to Baton Rouge in 1846, apparently to join his older brother, Oliver, who had been living here since about 1844. Perhaps Oliver informed Nelson that the State House would soon be erected. Nelson bought property in Spanish Town and set up a brickyard in February of 1846. About 1850, he built his house on this property, probably to serve as a model of his architectural style and craftsmanship. Within a decade Nelson was a prosperous man having been successful in building many private homes as well as being awarded many contracts for public buildings. The 1850 census shows that he had an estate worth \$1,800. By 1860, his total estate was worth \$33,000. After completing the jail in 1853, he was elected to the Police Jury from Ward II. After the Civil War he moved back to his native state in 1867. Documented structures that Nelson Potts

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Photographic History of the Civil War (copy 1911) (photograph of house Vol. 4, pg. 179.)

Gulf South Research Institute Capitol Complex Report

Philippe Oszuscik, "An Analysis of the Public Buildings Built by the City and Parish Governments of Baton Rouge, Louisiana: 1850-1860" unpublished Master Thesis, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	91 ° 10 ' 09 "	30 ° 27 ' 10 "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

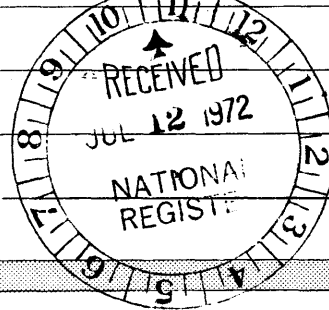
UTM
15/63465L
3370200

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 76' front x 120'

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 AND TITLE:
Mrs. William Lee Jensen Recorder

ORGANIZATION: Historic Spanish Town Civic Association DATE: May 22, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
831 North Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge STATE: Louisiana CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George W. Peake
Chairman, Louisiana Historic & Cultural Commission

Date: June 30, 1972

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

Robert M. Tuttle
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/14/72

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9/13/72

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

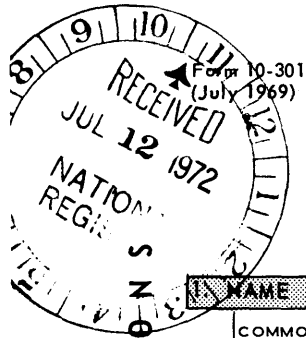
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14	SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

built include the Florence House (1850), 131 Main Street; the Louisiana Institute for the Deaf, Dumb, and the Blind (1852-58), razed; the East Baton Rouge Parish Jail (1853), razed; a carriage warehouse for W. F. Tunnard on Church Street (1856); and the East Baton Rouge Parish Court-house (1856-1857), razed. He also repaired brickwork, laid sidewalks (the earliest record is dated September 30, 1848 for 150 feet on Church Street), built cisterns (the largest project being eleven cisterns built in late 1857), and in 1858, he built the fifteen foot high East Baton Rouge Parish Jail Wall."





Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14 SEP	1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Potts House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 831 North Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge

STATE: Louisiana	CODE: 22	COUNTY: East Baton Rouge	CODE: 033
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Sandborn Map Co.

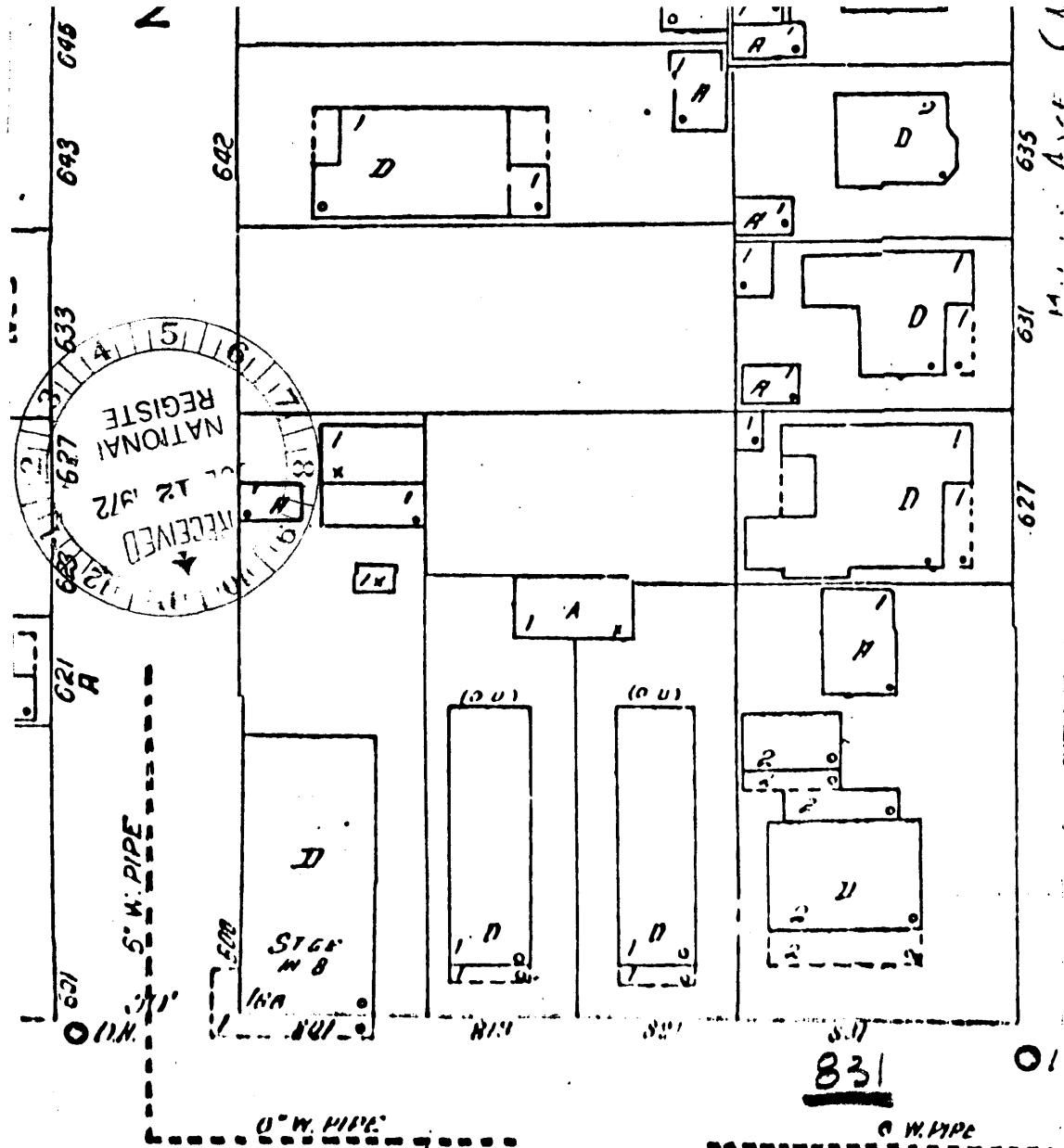
SCALE: 1" = 50'

DATE: 1891, 1908, 1923 (corr. to 1946)

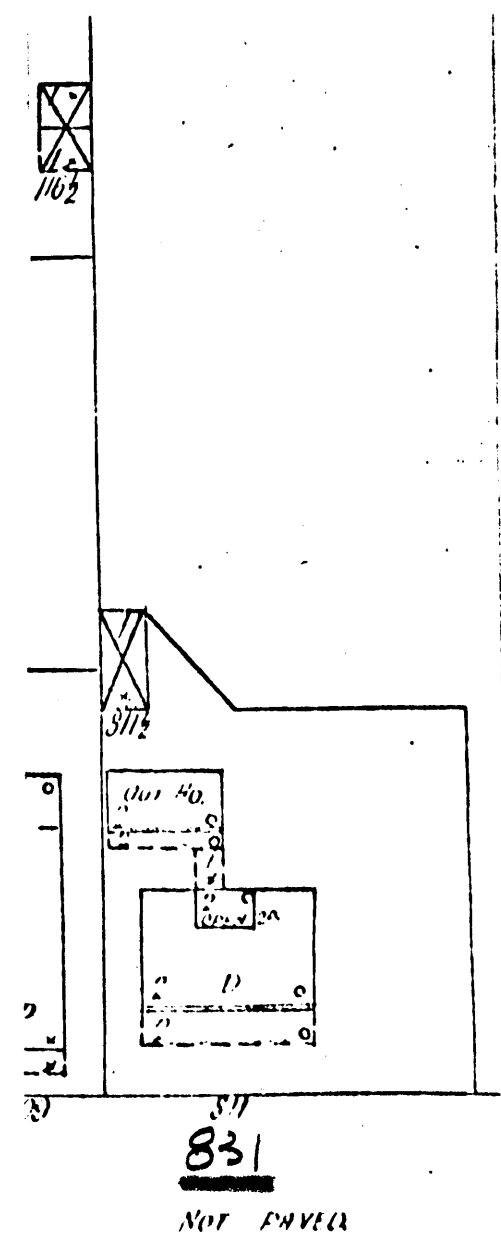
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

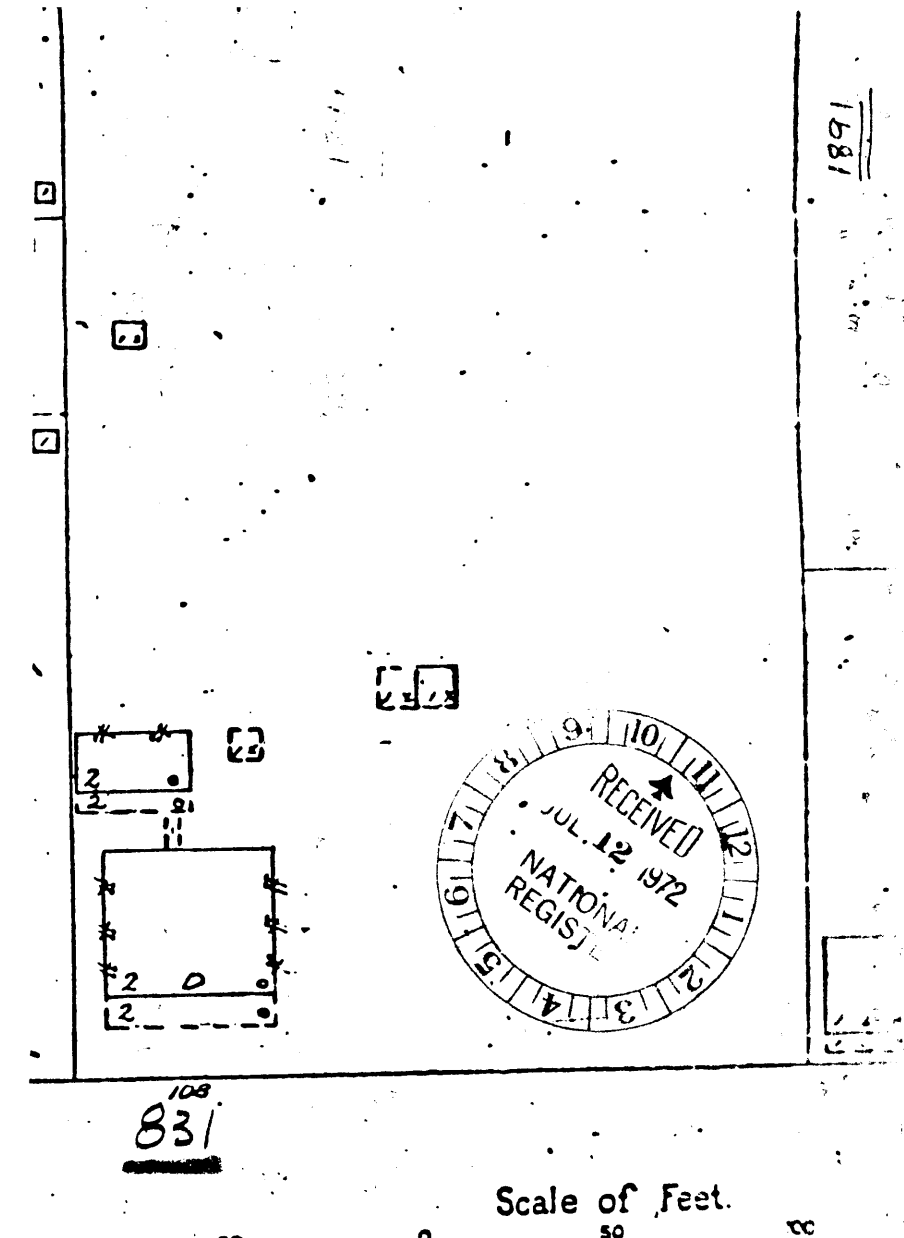
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



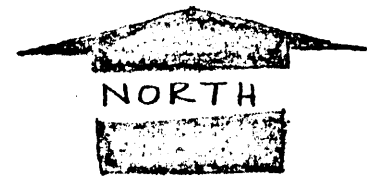
1923 (CORR. TO 1946) MAP# 10 SCALE: 1"=50'



1908 MAP# 7 SCALE: 1"=50' JACKSON ST.



1891. Scale of Feet. 50 100 1"=50' NO 4 JACKSON ST.



POTTS HOUSE
831 NORTH STREET
BATON ROUGE LOUISIANA

SOURCE: SANDBORN MAP CO.