

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000999

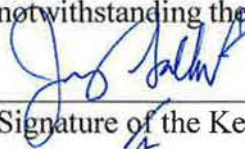
Date Listed: 1/26/2016

Property Name: Hotel Lesage

Parish: Grant

State: LA

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

1-27-2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5: Classification

The Classification of this property is hereby changed to: BUILDING

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

RECEIVED 2280

999

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 11 2015

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Hotel Lesage  
Other Names/Site Number: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

## 2. Location

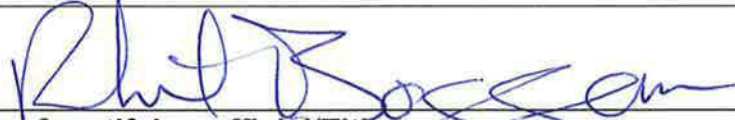
Street & Number: 101 Main St  
City or town: Colfax State: LA County: Grant  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  state  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Phil Boggan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date: 12-7-15  
**Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism**  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

**4. National Park Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register *on 1-26-2016 due to govt shutdown*
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]* \_\_\_\_\_ *1-27-2016*  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
2		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Hotel: Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store, Department Store

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Work in Progress

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements: Commercial Style

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick

walls: Brick and Stone

roof: Metal

other:

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

Hotel Lesage was built by Joseph Victor Lesage in 1902 and is located at 101 Main Street in Colfax, Louisiana. The building is a two story masonry commercial style building at the end of Main Street facing the street and the Red River to the west. It was used as a hotel, restaurant, and also housed a separate store during the period of significance catering to both locals and travelers. It has retained many original characteristics including bead board on the walls and ceilings, original main staircase, several original fireplaces and mantels, and the majority of the original floor plan, particularly on the second floor where the hotel rooms were. The first floor has received some alterations recently as the building was converted to a single family residence, but there is plenty of integrity intact, on the decorative brick and stone exterior and the interior, that anyone from the historic period would recognize the Hotel Lesage. Thus, it remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

### Narrative Description

Hotel Lesage sits on the corner of First and Main Streets directly adjacent to the Red River. When constructed in 1902, it was a prime location next to the steamboat landing. Within view, only a block to the east, is the Grant Parish Courthouse. In the near vicinity, there are three other historic buildings left to show this one bustling small commercial area including two buildings used as banks and another used as a pharmacy and lodge hall.

### Façade (south elevation); see Photo 1

Technically, the building has two street facing elevations, the south and west, but the south elevation is its main street facing façade. Little has changed on the façade since the building was constructed. A corner entrance features a set of French doors with two large lites above a small wooden panel. Topping the door is a two lite transom. Above the door is a four over four double hung wood window. Decorative brickwork has created projecting columns that rise from the ground (in a blond brick) to the top of the building. At the second floor of the corner entrance, the decorative brickwork includes blond and deep red brick as well as some gray stone. Topping the second floor window is a blond brick arch topped with a deep red keystone and stone top. Above this arch is a horizontal stone band,



Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

a small inset square panel, and finally a rectangular gray stone panel. This corner entrance is elevated several feet above the two street facing elevations' cornices.

The blond brick is used on the ground floor of the rest of this elevation to divide it into 6 bays. Two bays (the second and the fourth from the left) have French doors matching those at the corner entrance. The other bay has single hung 4 lite windows to match the doors' lite patterns with a wooden panel below. Two lite transoms top every opening on the ground floor. Above the ground floor openings is a newly reconstructed awning supported by simple pipe columns. The original awning, which can be seen in historic photos, had deteriorated and fallen off the building. It is not yet finished, but the structural pieces are in place.

A simple stone band separates the ground floor from the second floor. There are five double hung four over six wood windows on this level that are full height as they open to provide access to the ground floor overhang. The second floor is clad in a deep red smooth brick to offer a contrast to the ground floor's blond brick. The same decorative brickwork projections are found at each corner of the second floor. They rise above the cornice line several feet. Two more projecting columns are found at the center portion of the building flanking an inset panel that has the original signage "Hotel Lesage." These projections only extend down a few feet to a dentilated cornice line. Between each set of projections – those at the center and those at the corners – there are brick arches of blond brick and filled in with what appears to be painted red stucco to match the red bricks. Below this dentilated cornice, above the 5 windows, are five identical blond brick arches topped with brick keystones and infilled with more blond brick and painted red stucco.

### **West elevation; see Photo 2**

This is the other street facing elevation, which originally would have been the first thing steamboat travelers would have seen. This elevation is finished in mostly red brick. Originally, the overhang that is found on the south elevation wrapped the entire length of this elevation. As was previously stated, this deteriorated and fell off the building. The current owner has decided to only rebuild the overhang to cover the corner entrance. The holes left in the brickwork from the structural members have been infilled with a simple gray concrete band located at the bottom of the second floor level.

The ground floor features, from left to right, a window, door, window, window, door, window, and window. All are singles. The two doors are original wood paneled doors topped by single lite transoms. The windows are all arch topped four over four double hung wood windows. All openings on this elevation are arch topped and feature decorative brick arches with left, center, and middle gray sections with red brick sections in between. Topping each is a blond brick header. Strips of blond brick are found the entire length of this elevation on both levels connected each openings brick arches. One brick on the ground floor of this elevation features a notation, "21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1902 5:30 o'clock," which helps to verify the building's construction date. It is thought that perhaps this is where the brick mason had gotten to by that date.

The second floor features 7 evenly spaced four over six double hung full height wood windows. The cornice line features blond brick dentils. Above that is a set of 11 inset gray panels. A decorative brickwork projection is found at the far left corner of this elevation with 5 small brick chimneys spaced along the rest of the elevation.

### **North (rear) elevation**

This elevation features two windows, a door, and another window on the ground level. The second floor features two single windows on each side of the center entry door. The entry door on the second

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

floor used to have a fire stair that led to it, but this has been removed and the door sealed in place. There is a small roof overhang with exposed rafter tails on this elevation. The brick used on this elevation is slightly more orange as this was not a prominent elevation. All openings feature the same arched tops as the west elevation, minus the decorative brickwork.

### **East Elevation; see Photo 3**

This elevation is also clad in the same orange brick as the rear elevation. On the ground floor, there are only three openings located towards the rear – a window flanked by two doors. On the second floor, the pattern from left to right is window, door, and then five single windows. All are arch topped, but do not have the decorative brickwork. The roof on this side also has a small overhang with exposed rafter tails. At some point between 1924 and 1936, a small wood sided bathroom addition was put on in the second bay from the left, where the lone door is located. This addition has since been removed and a simple set of wooden stairs constructed on the exterior leading up to this door.

### **Interior; see Photos 5-22**

The interior has received some updates since the building was constructed. Historically, one entered into the foyer and could proceed straight back into a large dining room/parlor on the left side. Behind that was another room and small central hall at the rear (see photos 5-8, 23-24). On the right side of the building was a commercial space (see statement of significance below) and a kitchen. Today, the left side is fairly intact with the only changes being the addition of a bathroom at the back of the large dining/parlor space and decorative ceiling beams have been added in one room. The bead board that is found throughout the building on the walls and ceilings has been repaired and retained in almost the entire building. On the right side of the ground floor, a partition wall was added near the front to create a smaller commercial space that was used as a lawyer's office for many years. The current owners added two more partition walls to create a kitchen and laundry space (see interior photo keys). They merely inserted the walls within the large space. The rooms at the rear of the ground floor have remained relatively intact. Original features still found on the ground floor are two corner fireplaces with mantles and over mantels, beadboard walls and ceilings, decorative door and window surrounds, wood flooring, and original interior doors with two lite transoms. The fireplace over mantels and surrounds include diamond motifs and decorative panels. The original newel post and balustrades have also been repaired and retained.

Upon climbing the original staircase to the second floor, one enters into a wide and tall original central hall. The hotel had 12 rooms and two bathrooms (one being the one added to the east elevation after 1936 that has been since removed as it was attached to the exterior). Today, this floorplan is mostly intact, although the use of some of the original hotel rooms has changed to be used as additional bathrooms. One is also continuing to be used as a kitchenette, as the previous owners (the grandsons of Mr. Lesage) used it for that when they used the hotel as their personal residence for many years. Original features on the second floor include the wide hallway, original paneled doors (with original hardware) topped by single lite transoms (still operable), wood floors, beadboard walls and ceilings, wooden mantels on three of the four fireplaces, simple baseboards, and an original primitive ladder built to access the attic.

### **Rear Shed; see Photo 4**

There is a small shed located at the rear of the property that is historic. It is not believed to have been constructed in 1902 when the hotel was first built, but it does show up during the historic period. There was a shed in 1902 as seen on the Sanborn maps, but it is not in the exact same location as the current shed. It appears it was built sometime after 1936 for use as a storage shed. Based on materials, it appears it was likely constructed in the late 1930s or early 1940s. It was used in

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

conjunction with the hotel and was constructed during the period of significance and is thus considered contributing.

It is a small single story clapboard building with a dirt floor. The façade has a single entry door. The angled roof (angled towards the rear) is metal and has exposed rafter tails. There are single small four lite windows on each side elevation and no openings on the rear elevation.

**Alterations and Mitigation of Integrity**

As noted above, the main alterations done to the building have included some interior updates including the addition of a few partition walls for kitchen, laundry, and a downstairs bathroom, as well as the change in use of some of the upstairs rooms, and the addition of decorative ceiling beams in the downstairs dining room (see submitted photo keys for clarification). Overall though, the Hotel Lesage has survived over 100 years with many of its original features and retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship, and would be easily recognized by former residents of Colfax and people who stayed at the hotel. For these reasons, it remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

**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.)

<b>x</b>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	<b>C</b>	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.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations:**

	<b>A</b>	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	<b>B</b>	Removed from its original location
	<b>C</b>	A birthplace or grave
	<b>D</b>	A cemetery
	<b>E</b>	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	<b>F</b>	A commemorative property
	<b>G</b>	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce, Social History

**Period of Significance:** 1902 – 1965

**Significant Dates:** 1902

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):** Runshaug, John W. (builder)

**Period of Significance (justification):** The period of significance begins with its date of construction and ends with 1965 in accordance with the 50 year rule. There is not a concrete date that the hotel completely stopped functioning as a hotel. The Lesage family lived in the hotel as it operated and until the 1990s, the Lesage grandsons continued to live in the hotel and rent rooms and have events on site (they lived on site using it as a residence until 2014). Granted, the rate that rooms were rented and events held was not akin to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century goings on at the hotel. Thus, 1965 serves as a proper end to the period of significance.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary):** N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Hotel Lesage is significant at the local level under Criterion A: Commerce and Social History because of its role as a center of social and business activity in Colfax. It served as the city's principal and only hotel from its 1902 construction date until the 50 year cutoff in 1965.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **History of Colfax, including its Commercial History**

In 1813, Edward Gilliard purchased land, which would become known as Colfax in 1869, from the local Native Americans. He sold this land to Judge William Smith in 1836.<sup>1</sup> Judge Smith raised his granddaughter, Mary Smith Taylor, as his own daughter and on May 24, 1834, she married Meredith Calhoun in Natchez, Mississippi. Judge Smith and Calhoun would go on to own plantations in both Alabama and Louisiana together.<sup>2</sup>

Meredith Calhoun was born in Philadelphia and started working at a young age by joining family friends and colleagues in maritime trade. He spent many years traveling between the United States, Europe, and Asia as a broker. He decided to invest his sizeable income into plantation slavery after his many years of brokerage elsewhere and after marrying Mary Smith Taylor, he and Judge Smith would purchase large swaths of land and slaves. After Judge Smith purchased the land that would become Colfax, he and Calhoun transported 1000 slaves from Alabama to what was then Rapides Parish. They formed 4 contiguous plantations - Mirabeau, Smithfield, Meredith, and Firenze (sometimes spelled Farenzi) – which consisted of over 14000 acres. These 4 plantations primarily grew sugar cane and cotton, with cotton being the main crop. After Judge Smith died in 1840, Calhoun decided to build a state of the art sugar refinery and sugar house, which cost \$200,000 at that time and was the second largest in the United States. They also had many store houses, located adjacent to where the Lesage Hotel is, to house their sugar and cotton crops.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mabel Fletcher Harrison and Lavinia McGuire McNeely. *Grant Parish, Louisiana: A History*. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1969.

<sup>2</sup> Leeana Keith. *The Colfax Massacre*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Keith, *The Colfax Massacre*.



Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

While Calhoun and his family had homes on each of the 4 plantations, they spent the majority of their time in Huntsville, AL, where they had a large townhouse. Beginning in the 1840s and 1850s, the Calhoun family began spending more and more time in Europe and eventually, Meredith, his wife Mary, and their daughter, Ada, would spend the majority of their time in France. Their son, Willie, beginning in 1853, would become the proprietor of their plantations in Rapides Parish.<sup>4</sup>

The area where the Calhoun's had their storehouses became known as Calhoun's Landing and a steamboat stop was located at this same location. During the Civil War, there were no major battles at Colfax, but many of the troops, both Union and Confederate, ended up staying on portions of the Calhoun plantations.<sup>5</sup> While there were no major battles, there were reports of a cannon being fired through one of the old warehouses at Calhoun's Landing.<sup>6</sup>

Following the Civil War, Colfax proved to be a volatile place where many locals did not trust the carpetbaggers who came down from the North and the scalawags, locals who were sympathetic to the newly freed African Americans. One of the people who locals viewed as a scalawag was "radical" Republican Willie Calhoun. They viewed him this way mainly because of his treatment of the newly freed slaves and his views on politics. He rented portions of the Calhoun plantations to freedmen and also opened a freedmen's school at Firenze Plantation. He opened Calhoun Landing's first official store in 1867 when he converted one of the family's warehouses near the steamboat landing. This store became the center for the emerging community, which included a large population of free black laborers. Willie later went on to become a state senator and his role as a senator allowed him to help create the new Grant Parish in 1869.

Officially formed in March of 1869, Grant Parish was named for then President Ulysses S. Grant and the parish seat was named Colfax, after his vice president, Schuyler Colfax.<sup>7</sup> It was initially intended to name the parish Red River, but Senator Willie Calhoun decided otherwise. This decision further divided him from the local democrats who were against anything to do with the existing Reconstruction government of the country. Calhoun also ensured that the parish ratified the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, granting citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves. This and the general turmoil found throughout the parish and state during Reconstruction all led up to the 1873 Colfax Massacre. On April 13, 1873, a confrontation between opposing Republicans and Democrats resulted in the deaths of three white men and around 150 black victims. After the hotly contested gubernatorial election in 1872, in which a Republican governor was elected, a group of white Democrats overpowered Republican freedmen and the state militia (which was also made up of African Americans), who had been trying to control the Grant Parish courthouse in Colfax. The event has been described as the worst instance of racial violence during Reconstruction.<sup>8</sup>

The rest of the years of Reconstruction remained tense, but eventually, things in Grant Parish did calm down and the town of Colfax began to grow, particularly to include more commercial ventures like the Lesage Hotel. After Willie Calhoun's store was begun in 1867, several other stores were opened by S.B. Shackelford in 1868, L.H. Levy in 1869, Mrs. Mary Calhoun in 1870, and Peter

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Harrison and McNeely.

<sup>7</sup> Richard Rubin. "The Colfax Riot." [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com). Accessed October 7, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Keith. *The Colfax Massacre*.

Hotel Lesage

Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA

County and State

Boland in 1872.<sup>9</sup> The first courthouse opened in 1869 and the first school was built in 1876. The courthouse later burned in 1878, destroying all of the parish records, and a new courthouse was built.<sup>10</sup> Two new brick school buildings were constructed in 1900 and 1915 respectively.<sup>11</sup> In 1899, the Shreveport and Red River Railroad came to Colfax, which caused some of the commercial ventures to move up Main Street about 5 blocks. The coming of the railroad made possible the construction of a large sawmill located directly next to the tracks. This and other larger commercial ventures, including an ice house, were located near the tracks for obvious reasons – easy access for loading and unloading goods. The sawmills in Colfax included the Platt and Big Pine Lumber Companies. Other businesses stayed closer to the steamboat landing, including the soon to be constructed Lesage Hotel.

**Criterion A: Commerce and Social History**

The background of Colfax has always been primarily agricultural and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, right around when the Lesage Hotel was built, this included rice, corn, sweet potatoes, and cotton, as well as livestock.<sup>12</sup> Because Colfax served as essentially a port on the river side as well as a railroad junction, there was a need for a boarding house for people coming to town to sell their goods or those just passing through on their way to other towns down or up river. In 1902, Joseph Victor Lesage built the hotel at the corner of Main and First Streets. Lesage was known locally as “Captain Bob,” not because he was the captain of a steamboat, but rather because he was a captain of a convict guard for the state prison labor. He contracted with John W. Runshaug of Alexandria to build the hotel for \$8000, which included the furnishings. It was mainly intended to serve the steamboat passengers loading and unloading right next door, but it can be assumed that they also took in rail passengers as well. On the ground floor, there was a store, selling tools, goods, supplies, and which also repaired saddles and bridles, as well as a dining room. In addition to its use as a hotel (marked as boarding and rooming on the 1924 and 1936 Sanborn maps), the building also hosted many local dances and social functions over the years (see Figure 5).<sup>13</sup>

The Depression hit Colfax just as hard as it did the rest of the country. It caused the shutdown of the saw mills in town and saw a decline in the local economy. Fortunately, many stores began to reopen after World War II. The bank building, located a half block from the hotel went out of business during the Depression. It moved and reopened near the railroad tracks, about 7 blocks east of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Other businesses also began to move to the railroad tracks at this time. However, not all of the businesses in this area moved, which helped the hotel and the neighboring broom factory (located across Main Street in a warehouse seen on Sanborn maps labeled as “Feed Warehouse” and which actually dated to the 1850s, replaced by the current brick house in 1966) in business. This area may have lost some of its strictly commercial, consumer driven businesses, but it became more of an area home to small office spaces. Spaces were rented by local businesses for office space, including the front of the right side of the Hotel Lesage, which was used as a lawyer’s office for many years and is the reason there is a dividing wall near the front of the building on that side.

From the time it was constructed, the Lesage family lived and worked in the hotel. This did not change as the Lesage grandsons continued to live in the hotel through the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They would rent rooms to boarders rather than it being strictly a hotel. They also continued to rent out space in the hotel for events for the community. One of the Lesage grandsons passed away in the

<sup>9</sup> Harrison and McNeely.

<sup>10</sup> J.B. Gremillion. “Grant Parish.” 1962.

<sup>11</sup> Harrison and McNeely.

<sup>12</sup> Gremillion.

<sup>13</sup> Preston Allen Dean, Jr. *The Colfax Connection: A History of Colfax*. 1992, pg. 13.

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

1980s and the other Lesage grandson just moved out of the building at the end of 2014. This was the first time in over 100 years that Lesage was not living in the building. It is currently being rehabilitated for use as a single family residence.

Within the town of Colfax, it is clear that the Lesage Hotel was not only important commercially for many years, but also as a social hub for dining and entertainment. It served both local residents with the store and dining room as well as travelers coming to Colfax or passing through.

As described above, Hotel Lesage is undoubtedly significant at the local level under Criterion A because of its role as the only hotel in Colfax from 1902-1965. It served as the center of social and business activity not only acting as a place to rest your head, but also as a place for social gatherings such as dances, meals, and meeting, and as a place of business for locals and travels alike. Because of this important local significance, Hotel Lesage is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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**Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

See above.

**9. Major Bibliographical Resources**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Dean, Preston Allen, Jr. *The Colfax Connection: A History of Colfax*. 1992.

Gremillion, J.B. "Grant Parish." 1962.

Harrison, Mabel Fletcher, and Lavinia McGuire McNeely. *Grant Parish, Louisiana: A History*. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1969.

Keith, Leana. *The Colfax Massacre*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Rubin, Richard. "The Colfax Riot." [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com). Accessed October 7, 2015.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Colfax, Grant Parish. 1924 and 1936. State Library of Louisiana Digital Collections.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**     N/A    

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property:** Less than an acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 31.516689                      Longitude: -92.713526

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The property is bounded by Main Street to the south, the levee along the Red River to the west, Palm Street to the North, and adjacent lots to the east, that front onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. See submitted boundary map for clarification.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected are the historic boundaries of the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Robert and Mimi Wolfe and National Register Staff  
organization: Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation  
street & number: PO Box 44247  
city or town: Baton Rouge                      state: LA                      zip code: 70804  
e-mail: [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov)  
telephone: 225-219-4595  
date: November 2015

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Hotel Lesage  
City or Vicinity: Colfax  
County: Grant Parish  
State: Louisiana  
Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson  
Date of Photographs: August 2015

- 1 of 22: View of façade; camera facing west.
- 2 of 22: View of main entry of the hotel; camera facing northeast.
- 3 of 22: View of the eastern elevation; camera facing southwest.
- 4 of 22: View of the rear shed; camera facing northwest.
- 5 of 22: Interior, main lobby; camera facing northwest.
- 6 of 22: Interior, main lobby with view of stairs; camera facing north.
- 7 of 22: Interior, closer view of main stairs; camera facing northwest.
- 8 of 22: Interior, view of commercial space on right side; camera facing east.
- 9 of 22: Interior, view of former dining room, mantel, looking towards front; camera facing south.
- 10 of 22: Interior, view of former dining room looking towards rear; camera facing north.
- 11 of 22: Interior, view of former dining room looking towards front lobby; camera facing south.
- 12 of 22: Interior, view of main second floor hall; camera facing southeast.
- 13 of 22: Interior, view looking down stairs; camera facing southeast.
- 14 of 22: Interior, view of rear bedroom on left side; camera facing southwest.
- 15 of 22: Interior, view of second to last bedroom on left side; camera facing southwest.
- 16 of 22: Interior, view of main hallway looking towards rear; camera facing northwest.
- 17 of 22: Interior, view of front left corner room; camera facing south.
- 18 of 22: Interior, view of front left corner room looking towards hall; camera facing north.
- 19 of 22: Interior, view of doorway of front left corner room; camera facing south.
- 20 of 22: Interior, view of front right corner room; camera facing northeast.
- 21 of 22: Interior, view of main hallway from front looking towards rear; camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 22: Interior, view of side hallway that led to the c. 1936 added bathroom, now removed (attached to exterior); camera facing northeast.

## List of Figures

**Figure 1.** 1924 Sanborn Map, Hotel Lesage is marked as 104/401. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Map Collection.

**Figure 2.** 1936 Sanborn Map, Hotel Lesage is marked as 104. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Map Collection.

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

**Figure 3.** Image of the Lesage Hotel in a 1962 Newspaper article reprint. Image courtesy of *Colfax Chronicle*, June 1, 1962.

**Figure 4.** Lesage Hotel c. 1969; Image courtesy of *Grant Parish, Louisiana: A History*.

**Figure 5.** An invitation dated February 20, 1903, for a “Grand Ball” to be held at the Hotel Lesage. This helps illustrate how the hotel was not just a hotel, but a gathering place for the community as well. Image courtesy of Mary Eleanor Bonnette.



Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

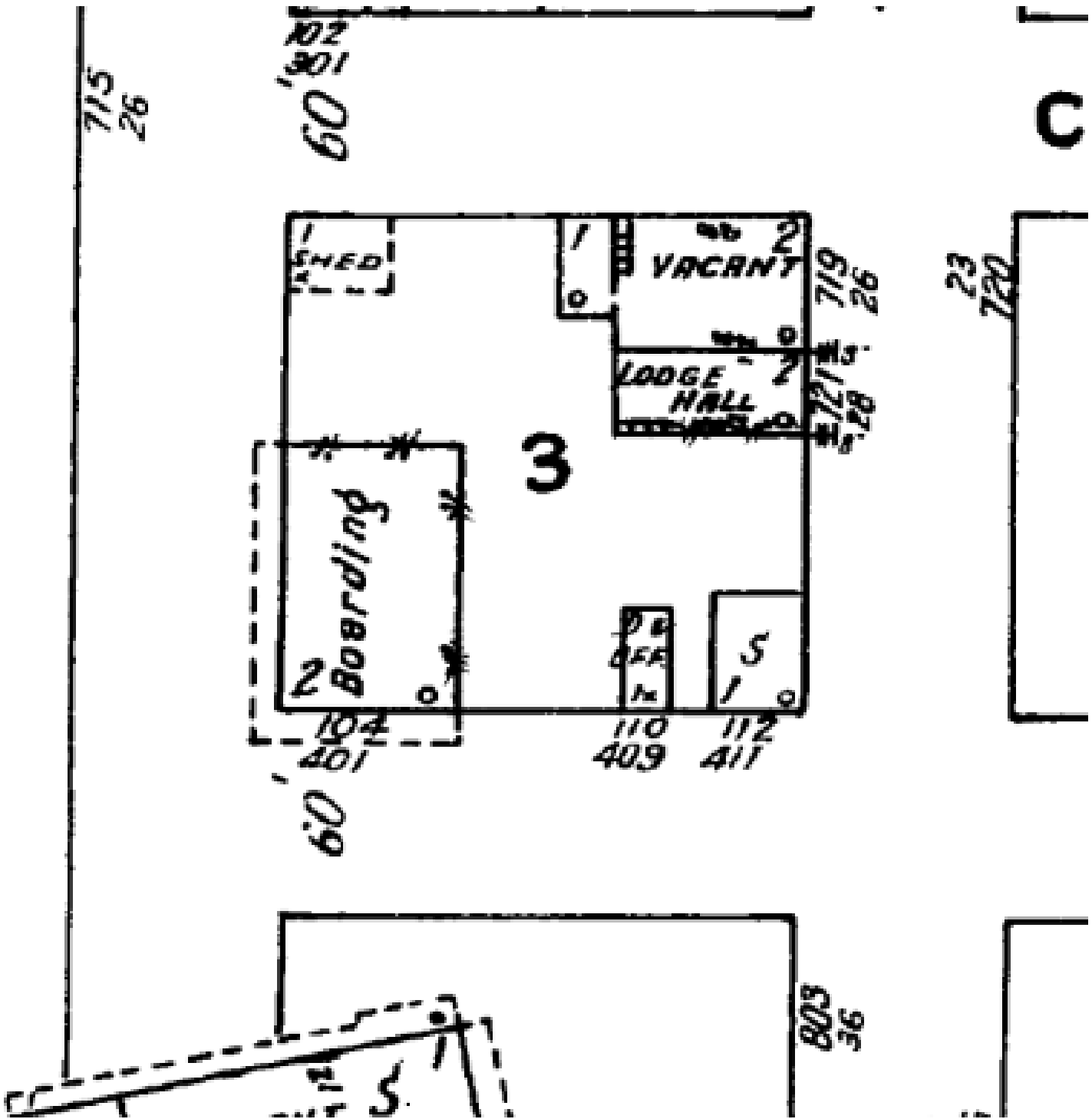


Figure 1. 1924 Sanborn Map, Hotel Lesage is marked as 104/401. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Map Collection.

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State

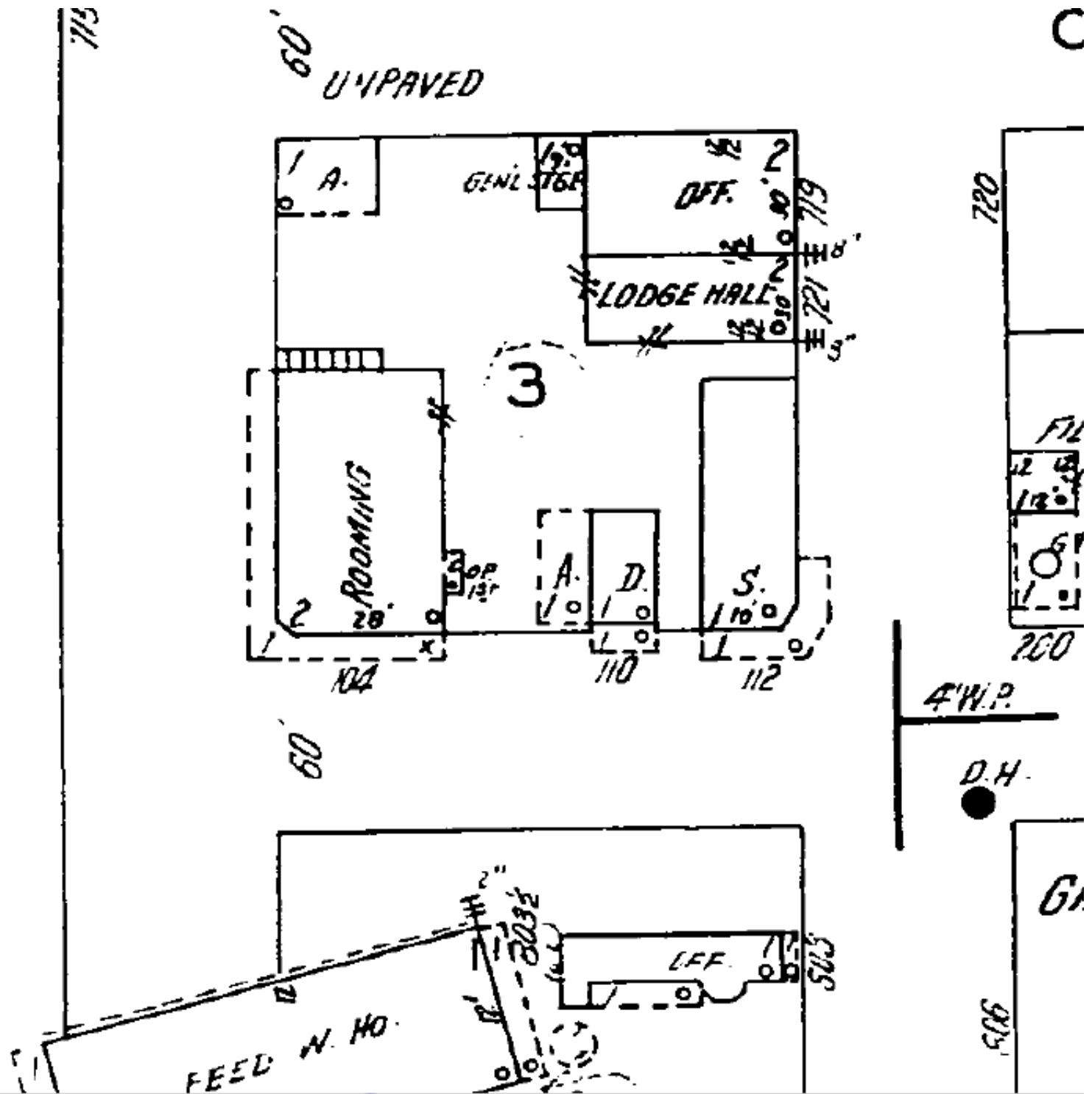
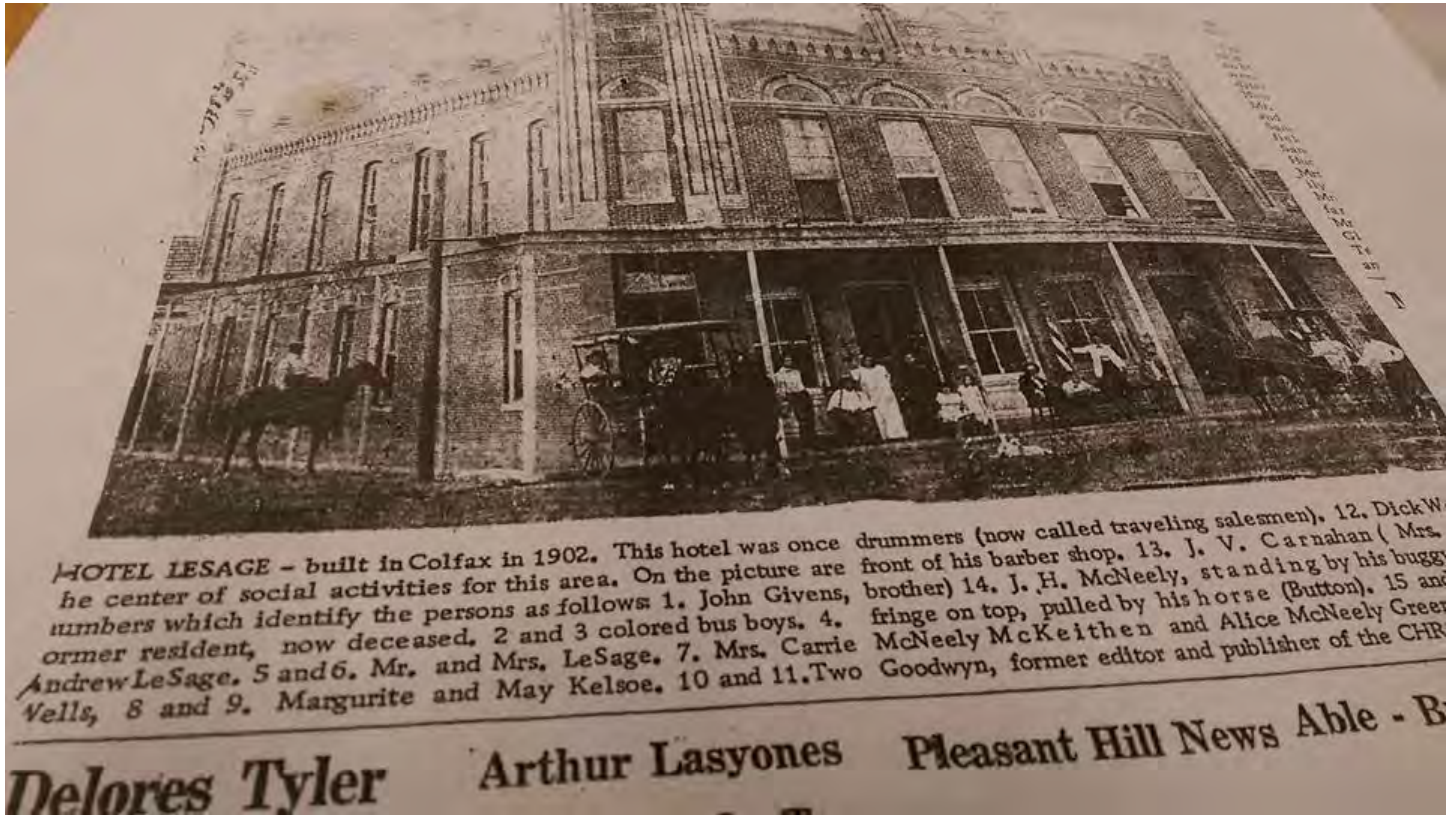


Figure 2. 1936 Sanborn Map, Hotel Lesage is marked as 104. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Map Collection.

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State



**Figure 3.** Image of the Lesage Hotel in a 1962 Newspaper article reprint. Image courtesy of *Colfax Chronicle*, June 1, 1962.



Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

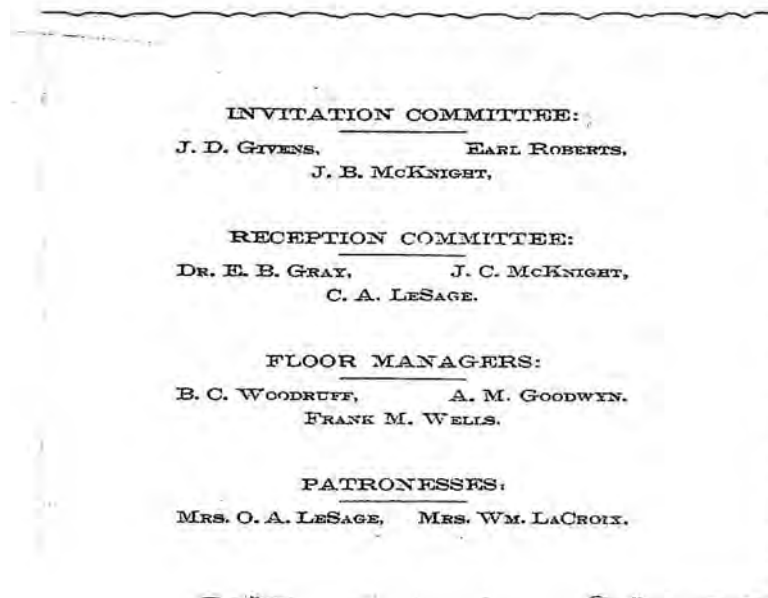
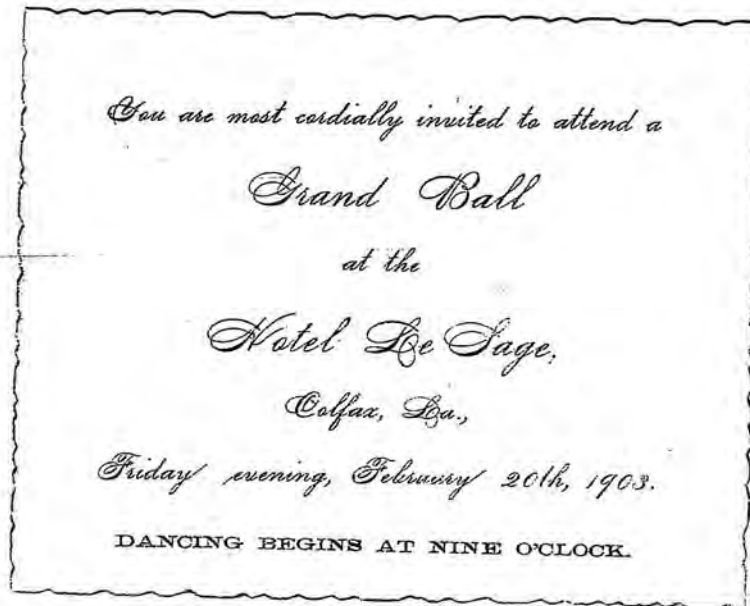
Grant Parish, LA  
County and State



**Figure 4.** Lesage Hotel c. 1969; Image courtesy of *Grant Parish, Louisiana: A History*.

Hotel Lesage  
Name of Property

Grant Parish, LA  
County and State



**Figure 5.** An invitation dated February 20, 1903, for a “Grand Ball” to be held at the Hotel Lesage. This helps illustrate how the hotel was not just a hotel, but a gathering place for the community as well. Image courtesy of Mary Eleanor Bonnette.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



### Hotel Lesage, Grant Parish, LA



Latitude: 31.516689 Longitude: -92.713526



**Hotel Lesage, Grant Parish, LA**



Latitude: 31.516689 Longitude: -92.713526



**Hotel Lesage**  
**Grant Parish, LA**  
**Exterior Sketch and Boundary Map**

----- Boundary

█ Contributing Building

Palm St

Main St

4

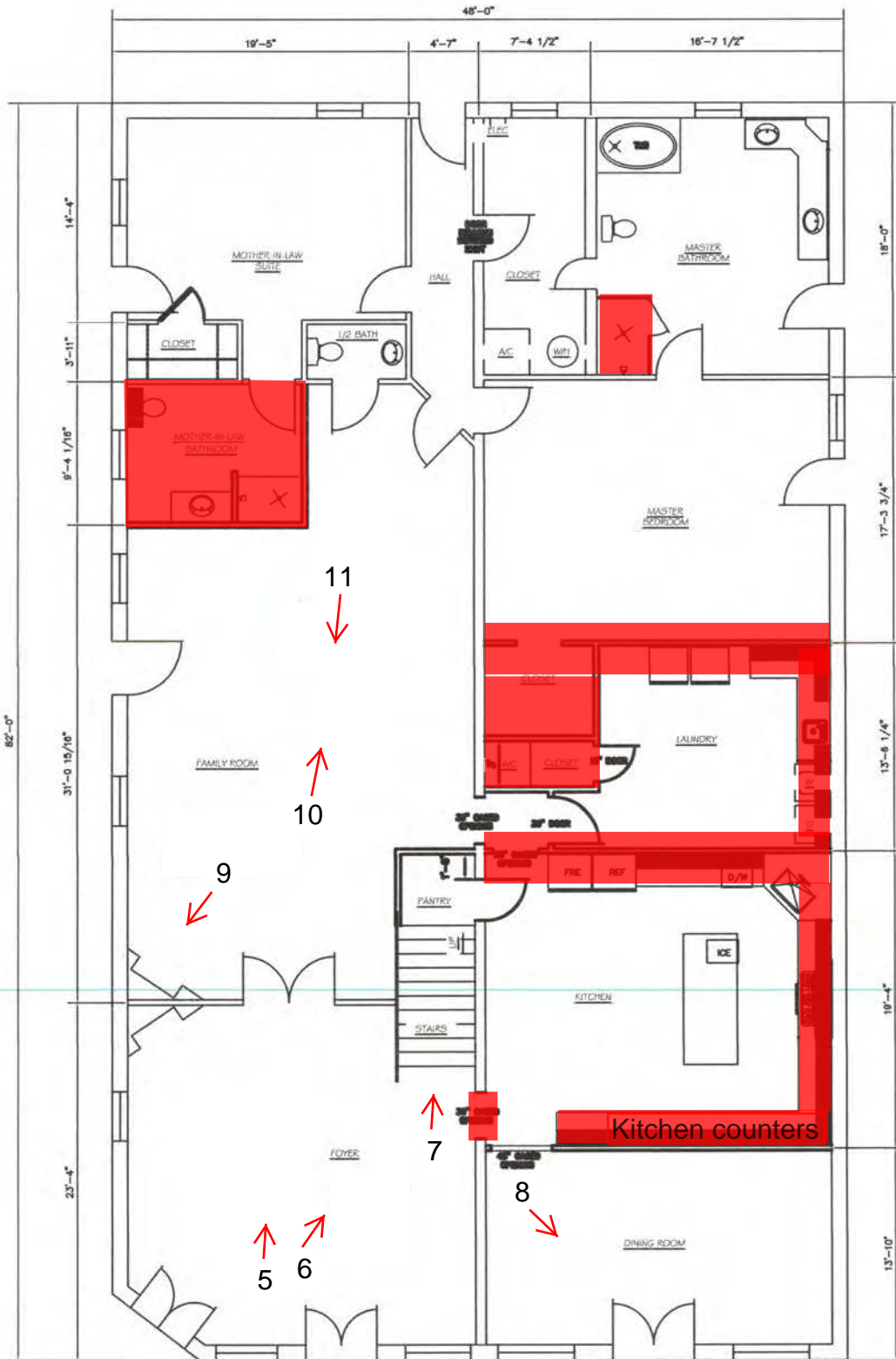
3

1

2






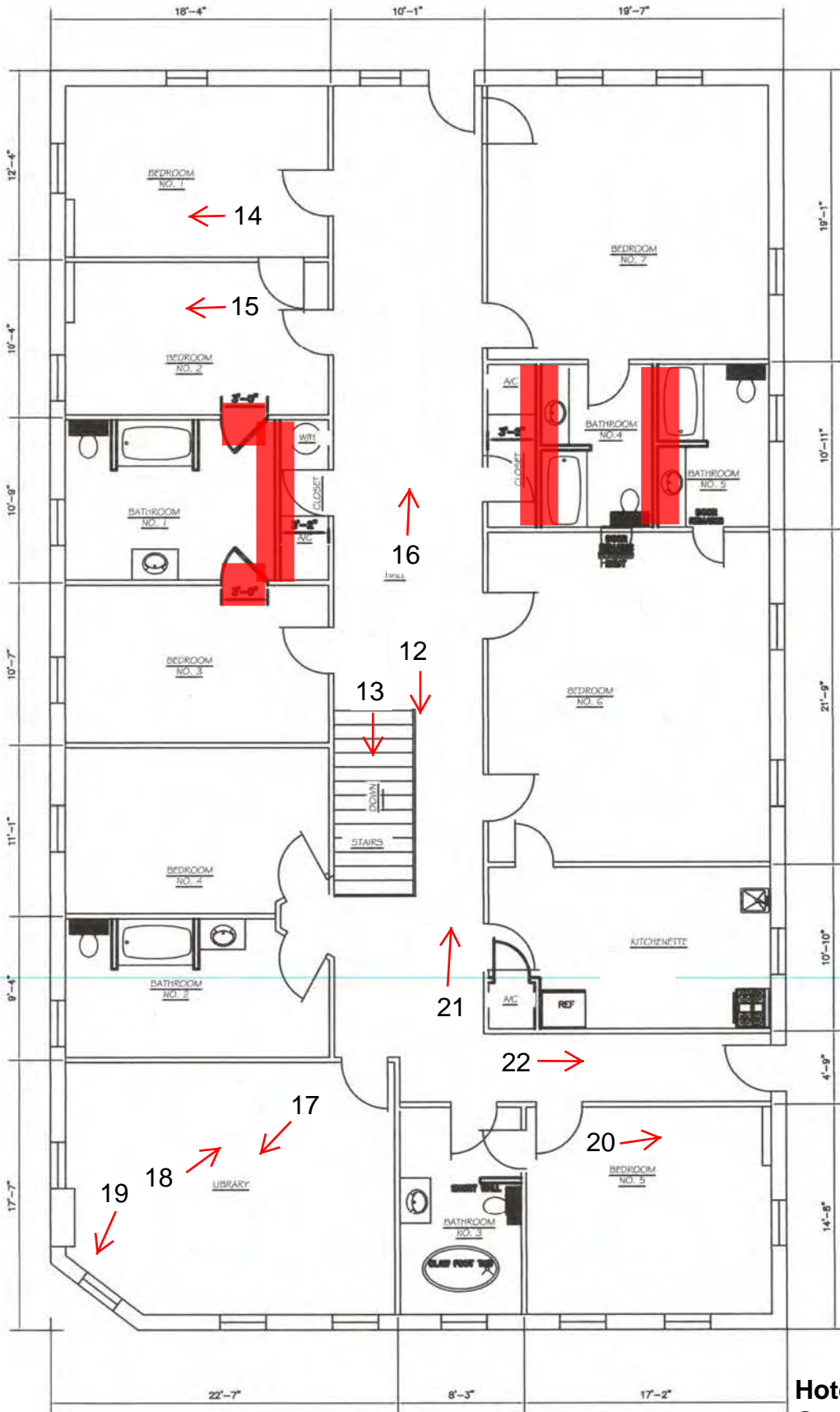


DOWNSTAIRS

**Hotel Lesage  
Grant Parish  
First Floor Photo Sketch  
Map**

 New Features - walls, doorways





**Hotel Lesage  
Grant Parish  
Second Floor Photo  
Sketch Map**



New Features -  
walls, doorways







HOTEL LESAGE





















































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hotel Lesage  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Grant

DATE RECEIVED: 12/11/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/08/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/26/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000999

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 1-27-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This property was automatically listed on 1-26-2016 due to a weather-related govt shutdowns. The nom was reviewed & an SLR issued to make a technical correction

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Habber

DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR  Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





RECEIVED 2280

DEC 11 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

CHARLES R. DAVIS  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

JAY DARDENNE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

PHIL BOGGAN  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 10, 2015

TO: Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor; National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator  
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Hotel Lesage, Grant Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Hotel Lesage to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the property in TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tif format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- Other:

Comments:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- \_\_\_\_\_ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- \_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: