

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 14 1984

date entered JUL 12 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic N/A

and or common Old Guaranty Bank Building

**2. Location**

street & number 500 Jefferson Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Lafayette code 055

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Guaranty Bank and Trust Co, 318-233-3411

street & number P. O. Box 3248

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of state LA 70502

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lafayette Parish Courthouse

street & number 221 West Main Street P. O. Box 2009

city, town Lafayette state LA 70502

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historical Sites Inventory Lafayette Parish, Section 2 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Lafayette Regional Planning Commission

city, town Lafayette state LA

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date

N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Old Guaranty Bank Building (1905) is a two story brick and terra-cotta neo-classical commercial building located in downtown Lafayette. Despite several changes, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

The bank is set at the corner of Congress and Jefferson Streets and consequently has two articulated elevations. The main entrance is at the corner under a round, domed pavilion. The pavilion is set off from the rest of the building by a flanking pair of jutting brick piers. The elevations advance and recede slightly to express different interior spaces. Most of the windows are of the round head type and feature brick piers and terra-cotta imposts, surrounds, and keystones. Most of the lower story windows are accented with free-standing Tuscan columns on pedestals. The rounded corner entrance features free-standing Tuscan columns supporting a full entablature. The building is surmounted by a low parapet and a terra-cotta entablature with a modillion cornice. The corner dome is set on a high drum and features a cornice of its own.

Since construction the following changes have been made in the bank;

1. The entire interior has been gutted; nothing historic remains.
2. All windows and doors have been replaced.
3. A truck bay has been installed on the southwest end of the Jefferson Street elevation.

Despite these changes, the bank still retains the features which contribute to its architectural significance. (See Item 8)

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1905      **Builder/Architect**      Bank of Lafayette (Builder)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**      Criterion C

The Old Guaranty Bank is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of downtown Lafayette. Of the fifty or so older commercial buildings remaining in Lafayette's much modernized central business district, the Guaranty Bank is clearly the most classically pretentious. Most of the city's older commercial buildings are humble and innocuously styled. The Guaranty Bank is the only one which can claim to represent a specific historic style of architecture. Moreover, it is the city's only domed commercial building and the only one to feature free-standing classical columns. For these reasons, it is a major landmark in the Lafayette central business district.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Sites Inventory, Lafayette Parish, Section II. Prepared by the Lafayette Regional Planning Commission for the Lafayette Council of Governments, June, 1977. Historical sketch submitted by the city of Lafayette. Copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/4 of an acre

Quadrangle name Lafayette, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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5	9	4	4	2	0
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3	3	4	4	0	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** See enclosed scale map for description. The boundary lines follow curblines on two sides. The remaining boundary lines cut closely around the building in order to exclude a rear modern parking lot and a modern banking facility located adjacent to the southwest elevation of the nominated building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff Division of Historic Preservation ASSISTED BY THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE

organization State of Louisiana date April 1984

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-6682

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*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title LA State Historic Preservation Officer date June 1, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 7/12/84

*for Alloues Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration



W. CONGRESS ST.

PARKING

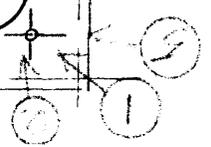


GUARANTY BANK

CURBLINE

CURBLINE

JEFFERSON ST.



GUARANTY BANK SITE PLAN 1" = 20'-0"

LAFAYETTE

LAFAYETTE PARISH, LA

BOUNDARY

