

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: 15000695

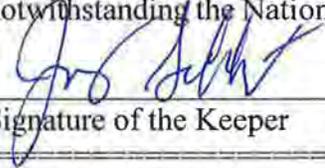
Date Listed: 10/6/2015

Property Name: Brown Hotel and Cafe

County: Livingston

State: LA

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

10-6-2015

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Areas of Significance

The Area of Significance is hereby noted as: COMMERCE

The narrative also mentions Social History, but this is not supported in the nomination.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

RECEIVED 2280

695

AUG 21 2015

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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: Brown Hotel & Cafe
Other Names/Site Number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 114 N. Range Ave
City or town: Denham Springs State: LA County: Livingston
Not for Publication: Vicinity:

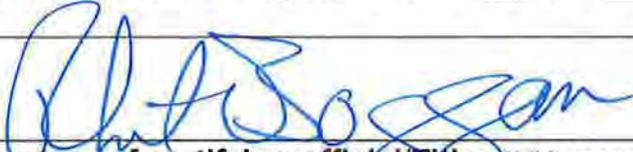
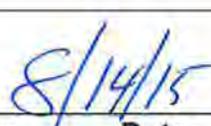
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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
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.

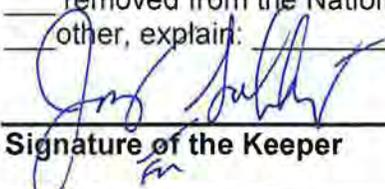
Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____
Title: _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

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4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
other, explain: _____



10-6-2015

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input 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	
1		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	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: Restaurant

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce/Trade: Department Store

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7. Description

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

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Rubber

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

The former Brown Hotel and Café was built by Mr. W. F. Brown in 1927 and is located at 114 North Range Avenue, Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, Louisiana. The building is a two story masonry commercial style building set along Range Avenue, which developed following the establishment of the Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Eastern Railroad line, presently the Illinois Central Railroad. Following its use as a hotel and café, the building served as law offices, a department store, and an antique store. Through its many uses, it did receive some alterations, primarily in the form of storefront changes and cosmetic changes on the second floor interior. The storefronts were altered to a more mid-century style after 1955, but in 2006, they were restored to a more historic looking appearance. Despite these alterations, there is still enough integrity on the exterior and interior to convey this building's historic use and significance. Thus, the Brown Hotel and Café remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

Narrative Description

Believed to be the second oldest building in the downtown district of Denham Springs, the Brown Hotel and Café currently sits within the historic district and the antiques district. The building is two stories consisting of approximately 3000 square feet on each floor. The construction is of 18" exterior brick walls with four horizontal accents of concrete on the façade extending across the entire building, across the upper story windows and above and below four brick projections that resemble columns.

Façade (Western Elevation)

The façade features two matching storefronts on the ground level. These date to 2006 and were designed using historic photos of the building prior to 1955 (see Figures x and x). The transoms are original and had been painted over at some point between 1955 and 2006. The storefronts had been flush originally and were altered c. 1955 to be inset at an angle. Today, each storefront has a central door with flanking plate glass windows, a metal awning, and the three sets of multi lite transoms above. A simple stone molding separates the two floors. There are four engaged brick columns dividing the second floor into three bays. There is a set of double six over six wood windows in each bay. Each set of windows has a simple stone lintel and header. The two side sets have a simple

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keystone topping them. The columns separating each bay have a tone base and top, followed by a band of three bands of stretcher bond bricks, another simple stone molding, three more rows of stretcher bond bricks, and then a decoratively molded cornice. The very top of the building features several rows of stretcher bond bricks and is capped off with the same simple stone molding found on other parts of the building.

Originally, one of the front entrances led directly into the café while the other, on the right, led to a set of simple steps leading to the hotel rooms on the second floor. C. 1955, the stairs were removed and replaced with Denham Springs' first elevator, which provided access directly out to the sidewalk. The elevator is still in place, but has been contained within the rehabilitated storefront.

Southern Elevation

This elevation features unpainted brick with five three lite transom windows on the ground floor. On the second floor, there are five six over six wood windows. The only other detail on this elevation is the simple stone molding at the cornice.

Eastern Elevation (Rear)

On the ground floor of this elevation, there are two entrances, both which appear to be original, and a transom window with stone lintel in between. The left hand entrance features modern double doors topped by a five lite transom. The central transom window is currently boarded over. The right entrance appears to have original five panel wooden doors, which were painted, but are now almost free of paint due to exposure. These doors do not have a transom. A set of more modern concrete steps with metal handrail leads to the second floor, accessed by a central door with boarded over transom. There are two windows on each side of the door with the one closest to the door being half the size of the other windows as this is where the original bathrooms were (one still remains as a bathroom). The other window on each side is a six over six wood window to match the others on the building.

Northern Elevation

The ground floor of this elevation matches the southern elevation, but it has since been covered over on the exterior by adjacent new construction. The second floor matches the southern elevation with five six over six wood windows.

Interior

Originally, almost the entire ground floor was the café area. It had a long marble topped coffee bar with porcelain stools (see Figure x). The walls were lined with marble and had mirrors above the marble. Today, the majority of the marble is gone except for a piece that was returned to the building recently (it was all sold off c. 1955 when the use of the building changed). Also still in the first floor are a couple of the original porcelain stools. The other portion of the first floor – the front right corner - housed the stairs leading to the rooms upstairs. Former employees of the café and hotel remember that there was no lobby; the stairs just led directly to the street. Today, the ground floor is one large open commercial space with the c. 1955 elevator in the front right corner. A small bathroom, which is original and has the original beadboard and paneled door on it, and a storage closet are located at the center of the rear wall.

On the second floor, it is believed that there were 11 rooms originally arranged along a central hall. The stairs came up at the front right corner and entered onto a short hallway whereby you could access three rooms along the front of the building. It is possible that the room labeled as "6" was one larger room, thus bringing the original total to 10. A central hall provided access to the other rooms

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with 3-4 rooms on each side and one room in each far corner. The original bathrooms, one for men and one for women, were located just off of the rear entry door. Today, the left hand restroom is still used as a bathroom while the right hand one has been converted to a closet. The right hand side of the second floor retains the majority of its original floor plan. The ceilings and walls have been covered with acoustic tiles and later paneling, but portions have fallen down revealing all of the original bead board walls and ceilings. The doors that lead to rooms 7, 8, and 9 are the original openings as from the inside of each room, one can see the original transom opening, which has been boarded over. From the hallway, the dropped ceiling for the air conditioning hides the transoms.

The left hand side of the second floor has changed the most dating to when it was used as a lawyer's and engineers' office. A secondary hallway has been added leading to rooms 104. Despite these floor plan changes and the cosmetic updates done c. 1960, the general sense of the building's use can be inferred when standing in the hallway. This hotel was never a fancy hotel, but rather a simple, utilitarian place that served as the only hotel in Denham Springs for many years and was conveniently located a half block away from the railroad depot.

Alterations and Integrity

As discussed above, the main alterations are the storefronts, the floor plan changes on one side of the second floor, and the cosmetic changes of paneling and acoustic ceiling. While this does affect the integrity of materials to a degree, this is offset by the fact that so much of the original beadboard ceilings and walls remain on the second floor under the later materials. The Brown Hotel and Café would still be recognizable as such as anyone who frequented the location between the years of 1927-1955. It retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials and is 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.)

x	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:

	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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.):

Period of Significance: 1927-1955

Significant Dates:

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

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

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): N/A

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance covers the date of construction, 1927, until 1955, when the hotel and café closed.

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.)

The Brown Hotel and Café 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 Denham Springs. It served as the city's principal and only hotel from its 1927 construction date until it closed in 1955. The period of significance covers its years of operation, 1927-1955.

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

History of Denham Springs and the Brown Hotel and Cafe

The city of Denham Springs today has a population of 10,215 people. But when the city first began as a settlement in the 1850s, its population was much smaller. Originally known as Amite Springs, Hill's Springs, and later, Denham Springs, the land that now makes up the historic core of the city was once the land claims of John Noblet and Alexander Hogue. Livingston Parish conveyance records report that the property that now occupies the hotel was first a portion of a federal land grant given to Alexander Hogue in 1804. In 1828, William Denham from Wilkinson County, Mississippi, married Hogue's daughter, Mercy. Three months later, he purchased 640 acres from his father-in-law. In 1855, Denham sold his land to a New Orleans businessman and then eventually moved to Baton Rouge and Texas. At that time, when some reported that Denham owned a resort hotel, which he did not, there was in fact a health resort in the area, which was still called Amite Springs then. This hotel burned down in 1909 and was written about in articles in New Orleans touting the benefits of the restoring spring waters. By the time the Brown Hotel and Café was built in 1927, this hotel was no longer in existence, nor were there any other hotels located in downtown Denham Springs.

After the Civil War, the land sold by Denham was sold again to George L. Minton. Minton would go on to be the first mayor of Denham Springs in 1903. After purchasing the land, he began to subdivide it and sell it off for residences and businesses. This allowed the area to grow.

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In 1879, John Sullivan applied for the establishment of a post office north of the present city limits. At that time, there were three names considered for the post office: Pine Bluff, Allen, and Hill's Springs. On January 12, 1880, the post office opened as Hill's Springs. By 1890, the post office had moved within the city limits and in 1898, the name was officially changed to Denham Springs. Some say this was done to honor William Denham, but others state that the post office department made them change the name as it was confusing it with other post offices in the state such as Springhill, Spring Ridge, and Livingston Parish's own Springfield and Springville. On May 8, 1903, a proclamation was head incorporating the village of Denham Springs. It was named a town in 1929 and a city in 1957.

The area continued to develop with the construction of the Denham Springs Collegiate Instituted in 1895. By 1908, a bigger school was needed and this school became the beginnings of Denham Springs High School.

Later that same year, the biggest catalyst in Denham Springs' growth came to town – the railroad. The Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Eastern Railroad Co., (later and still Illinois Central) was built running right through downtown Denham Springs. Because of the railroad, Denham Springs' economy grew and new businesses and industries moved in. The town became a shipping hub of a large truck crop region and added a sawmill and an oar factory as well as other businesses. In 1900, prior to the railroad coming into Denham Springs and other towns in the parish, the population was 8100. By 1910, after the railroad, the population was 10, 627. It grew to 11,643 by 1920 and 18,206 by 1930.¹ This growth related directly to the introduction of the railroad, which allowed Denham Springs to become the commercial and banking center of the parish.

As the city grew over the 1950s and 1960s, and automobiles became more popular, Denham Springs became a bedroom community of Baton Rouge allowing many residents to work in Baton Rouge, but live in Denham Springs. By the 1970s, with the construction of Interstate 12, the main commercial district moved to the interstate, which caused many downtown businesses to close. However, by the 1990s, antique businesses moved into the downtown commercial area and breathed new life into the buildings, including the Brown Hotel and Café.

Mr. William F. Brown

William F. Brown was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, in 1861 and became interested in the manufacture of boat oars as a young businessman. He worked in oar factories in Texas and Louisiana. By 1908, he had moved to Denham Springs, the same year that the railroad was constructed. Once here, he built his W. F. Brown & Sons' Oar Company, which was located directly behind the present day Brown Hotel and Café. His plant grew so much that it became the largest of its kind in the south, making him a wealthy man. He contributed substantially to the industrial and commercial development of Denham Springs.²

With the money he made from his oar company, he set out on other business ventures, including the construction of a hotel on adjacent property. Mr. Brown first bought the property fronting N. Range Avenue in 1918 from Richard Hummell. The property then exchanged hands more, without any buildings being constructed on the site, until Mr. Brown bought it again in 1927. At that point, he built the only hotel in the area – the Brown Hotel and Café.

¹ Minnesota Population Center. *National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 2.0*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota 2011.

² Frederick Williamson and George T. Goodman. *Livingston Parish History, Free State, Eastern Louisiana, Vol II*. Livingston Parish Clerk of Court Records.

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Criterion A: Commerce and Social History

The Brown Hotel and Cafe is being nominated to the National Register because it served the community well as a focus of civic, social, and commercial life in Denham Springs and is still a very important part of Denham Springs' economy. When Mr. Brown constructed the hotel, it was done out of a need for a hotel in Denham Springs with the growth seen in the town and economy due to the railroad running through and as a business venture. Everything fell into place for Mr. Brown once he moved to Denham Springs in 1908; the railroad came to town allowing him to have a prime location to build his oar factory and ship his goods; he prospered from his factory, and with his profits, he was able to further his business venture with the hotel and café. Located between the hotel and his oar factory was a mill pond, where Mr. Brown floated the logs for his oars and other products.

As the only hotel in the area, located directly adjacent to the rail line, it is easy to see how the Brown Hotel and Café became a significant place during the period of significance. Not only was it a convenient place for someone pass through to stay the night, but it was also regularly used by local residents for a place to have their morning cup of coffee, a meeting of a social club, or a Saturday night dance.

Mrs. Tee Watson, who along with her husband Elgene, ran the café and tended to the 11 rooms upstairs during World War II, state that the hotel was more like a boarding house than a hotel. Each morning, Mrs. Watson would back over 150 biscuits every morning to feed those staying at the hotel and the regular customers of the café. Foster Couvillon, the president of the Livingston State Bank, was known to come to the café every morning for his two strips of bacon, two biscuits, and a cup of coffee.³ The café inside the hotel was quite popular with those staying at the hotel, locals, and the business community, as it was open for three meals a day. The luxurious dining room and wonderful food contributed to the hotel and café.⁴

Some patrons of the hotel during the period of significance were groups who worked at Sharp Station, a federal deposit area where bauxite and other goods were stored during World War II. Those passing through town and those staying overnight who had come by train were well received, as the Illinois Central Gulf railroad depot was located a half block from the hotel. Not only was the Brown Hotel a regular hotel for visitors to Denham Springs, but it also served as a "railroad hotel." Soldiers in transit, honeymooners, and some locals also stayed overnight. Buyers of oars and other goods manufactured by the Brown family at the oar factory next door as well as sales representatives were frequent customers. A shipping shed for farm goods was adjacent to the train tracks. As Denham Springs became a shipping hub of a large truck crop region as mentioned above after the railroad came through, crop farmers brought their merchandise to sell to buyers, both of which often stayed overnight at the hotel. Older residents of Denham Springs interviewed for this nomination all agree that the Brown Hotel and Café was THE hotel to go to in Denham Springs for more than just a night's stay. City directory records from 1949 through 1955 (Denham Springs does not show up in any city directories until 1949) show that the Brown Hotel and Café was the only hotel in Denham Springs. Denham Springs was included with the city of Baton Rouge starting with the 1949 city directories (see Figures 9-14)⁵.

³ Carol Anne Blitzer. "The Old Hotel." *The Advocate*, November 27, 2000.

⁴ Personal Interviews with Golda Barnum, Peggy and Jerry Benton, Mrs. Ted Dendinger, Patricia P. Genre, Elgene Hood, Joseph Jackson, Lionel Kabel, Mrs. Opal Tyler, and Mrs. Elgene Watson.

⁵ *Baton Rouge City Directories*. Baton Rouge: American Printing Co., LTD. 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955.

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The hotel featured a wooden framed telephone booth between the two front doors, which during World War II, was where news came to Denham Springs about local casualties or injuries. Names were listed in a display window at the hotel of those called to duty during the war. When the café space wasn't used during business hours, it also hosted dances and meetings for civic clubs and other city gatherings. One of these groups - the Denham Springs Kiwanis Club - held its first meetings at the Brown Hotel and Café.

Directly behind the hotel was a factory known for its oars (also owned by Mr. Brown), but also produced baseball bats, and mop and broom handles. It was said to be the largest in the United States at that time; some say in the world. The hotel had no gas so it was heated by scrap lumber from the oar factory. For hot water upstairs in the hotel, water pipes ran under the kitchen, which was a separate building, from the stove to the upstairs rooms.

In 1948, Ben and Morris Pushker leased the downstairs portion of the building and opened a True Value department store for 10 years. This was the second largest True Value store in Livingston Parish at the time. This is when the front of the building was changed by recessing the two front doors and an elevator was added.⁶ The upper floor of the building operated as a hotel until 1955 at which time it was leased to a law firm; names on some of the glass doors remain of those who occupied the offices.

Former Denham Springs mayor, Shelly O'Neal bought the building in 1955, dismantled the interior fixtures and sold them at auction. However, local residents have donated to the present owner, Charles and Florence Crowder, items that were originally in the building. Those items are two pieces of marble that lined the walls and two bar stools that were used at the bar. Silver-plated cups and saucers were also donated. In 1973, the building was purchased by Alex Theriot & Associates, who used the upstairs as engineering offices and the lower floor was leased to Sharp Printing, and later, Smith Printing. In 1994, D. C. Ballard leased the lower floor and opened an antiques shop that they called Old Hotel Antiques. In 2000, Charles and Florence Crowder bought the building and are presently operating Crowder Antiques in the downstairs area. The upper floor is leased for offices and storage. In 2006, the Crowders restored the façade to resemble the original appearance as much as possible. On the back outside wall was a plywood boarded opening. The present owners removed the plywood to make the outside more attractive and in doing so, discovered the original doors with the original hardware still intact. These are now displayed in their original position for all to see.

In addition to its social role, the Brown Hotel and Café also occupied an important place in the community's business life for 28 years. Even after the building no longer housed the hotel, it continued to be important to the economic life of Denham Springs as it housed a department store, lawyer's and engineer's offices, and an antiques store. Furthermore, as the railroad was very important in helping Denham Springs to grow, the Brown Hotel also stands today as one of the last remaining buildings showing the relationship of the downtown commercial area to the railroad. The original depot is no longer standing and only a handful of other historic buildings dating to the early 1900s like the Brown Hotel still stand today.

As stated above, it is evident that the Brown Hotel and Café is significant at the local level under Criterion A because of its role as the only hotel in Denham Springs from 1927-1955. It served as the center of social and business activity not only serving as a café and place to rest your head, but also

⁶ Blitzer, "The Old Hotel."

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as a place for civic meetings and other social gatherings. Because of this important local significance, the Brown Hotel is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.)

Barnum, Golda. Personal Interview, November 2000.

Baton Rouge City Directories. Baton Rouge: American Printing Co., LTD. 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955.

Benton, Peggy and Jerry. Personal Interview, 2003.

Blitzer, Carol Anne. "The Old Hotel." *The Advocate*, November 27, 2000.

Dendinger, Mrs. Ted. Personal Interview, 2005.

Genre, Patricia P. Personal Interview, 2000-2015.

Hood, Elgene. Personal Interview, 2007, 2015.

Jackson, Joseph S. Personal Interview, 1992-93.

Kabel, Lionel. Personal Interview, 1980-2008

Livingston Parish History, Volume 1. Edward Livingston Historical Association, 1986.

Minton, James, *The Free State*. Livingston Parish American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, 1976

Tyler, Mrs. Opal. Personal Interview, 1990-2005.

Watson, Mrs. Elgene. Personal Interview, 2000.

Williamson, Frederick, and George T. Goodman. *Livingston Parish History, Free State, Eastern Louisiana, Vol II*. Livingston Parish Clerk of Court Records.

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

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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:

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

Acreege of Property: Less than an acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

1. Latitude: 30.484872 Longitude: -90.955958

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A certain lot and fractional lot, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in the City of Denham Springs, State of Louisiana, in Section 44, Township 6 south, Range 3 East, Greensburg Land District of Louisiana, and designated according to the official plat of said City recorded in the Conveyance Records of the Parish of Livingston, State of Louisiana, as LOT NO FIFTY AND ONE HALD (50 1/2) OF SQUARE A, said City, and the SOUTH SIXTEEN AND ONE HALF (16 1/2) FEET OF LOT FIFTY (50) OF SQUARE A, said city.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries chosen reflect the historic boundaries of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Florence Crowder
organization:
street & number: 1149 Cockerham Rd
city or town: Denham Springs state: LA zip code: 70726
e-mail: florence.crowder@cox.net.
telephone: 225-665-8179
date: March 2015

Additional Documentation

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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

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: Brown Hotel and Cafe

City or Vicinity: Denham Springs

County: Livingston Parish

State: Louisiana

Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson

Date of Photographs: March 2015

1 of 18: Façade of the Brown Hotel and Café, camera facing east.

2 of 18: View of rear and side elevation; camera facing northwest.

3 of 18: View of original rear doors; camera facing west.

4 of 18: View of main first floor space, formerly housing the café space, now an antiques store; original features include transoms, coal stove openings, and side wall transom windows; camera facing west.

5 of 18: Another view of the main first floor space looking towards front corner where the elevator is; camera facing southwest.

6 of 18: Another view of main first floor space showing area where café counter and stools were. Two original stools can be seen in lower left corner of photo; camera facing northwest.

7 of 18: Original bathroom door; camera facing east.

8 of 18: View of first floor commercial space from opposite rear corner; camera facing northwest.

9 of 18: Another view of first floor commercial space looking towards Range Avenue; elevator at front corner is where the stairs leading to the second floor were formerly located: camera facing west.

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- 10 of 18: View of original beadboard ceiling that is underneath the later paneling on the second floor; camera is facing upwards.
- 11 of 18: Original bathroom door in one of the two original bathroom spaces on the second floor; camera facing southwest.
- 12 of 18: Another view of the original beadboard ceiling on the second floor. It is present under all of the paneling on both ceilings and walls throughout the second floor; camera facing upwards.
- 13 of 18: Other original bathroom door. This room is now used as a closet; camera facing east.
- 14 of 18: View down center hall on second floor. Doors on the left are original openings into guest rooms; doors on right have been boarded over during later uses of the building; camera facing west.
- 15 of 18: View down center hall looking back towards the rear of the building; camera facing east.
- 16 of 18: View towards elevator on second floor; this space was formerly the stair hall; camera facing southwest.
- 17 of 18: View from one of the front rooms looking out the original windows towards Range Avenue – this is the typical look of each upstairs room (very simple); camera facing west.
- 18 of 18: View down hall created after 1955 when the second floor was used as law and engineering offices; camera facing east.

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Figure 3. Newspaper article clipping from 1928 when the Brown Hotel had just opened and was hosting a chicken dinner. Image courtesy of *State Times Advocate*.

Figure 4. Oldest image of the Brown Hotel and Café, c. 1930. Image courtesy of the author.

Figure 5. Photo from the last date the Brown Hotel and Café was open in 1955. Image courtesy of the *Livingston Parish News*.

Figure 6. A receipt from the Brown Hotel and Café from 1950 when Mr. Ray Sibley honeymooned there. Image courtesy of the author.

Figure 7. Photo of Mr. William F. Brown, owner of the Brown Hotel and Café. Image courtesy of the author.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State

Figure 8. Image of the Brown family while on vacation in the mid-1920s. Mr. Brown is in the center wearing a hat. Image courtesy of the *Livingston Parish News* and Maurice Durbin, Mr. Brown's great granddaughter.

Figure 9. 1949 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Figure 10. 1950 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Figure 11. 1951 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Figure 12. 1952-53 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Figure 13. 1954 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Figure 14. 1955 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Figure 15. Photo of the building in 2004 prior to the storefront rehabilitation showing the altered c. 1948 storefront. Image courtesy of the author.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State

THURSDAY, AUG. 23, 1945

BROWN HOTEL

Wholesome Food
Served Daily

OUR CHICKEN DINNER
EVERY SUNDAY

SANDWICHES A
SPECIALTY

Regular Business Hours
Week Days: 6:00 to 8:00
Sundays, 9:00 to 2:00



Figure 1. Advertisement from 1945 for the Brown Hotel and Café. Image courtesy of *The Advocate*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State

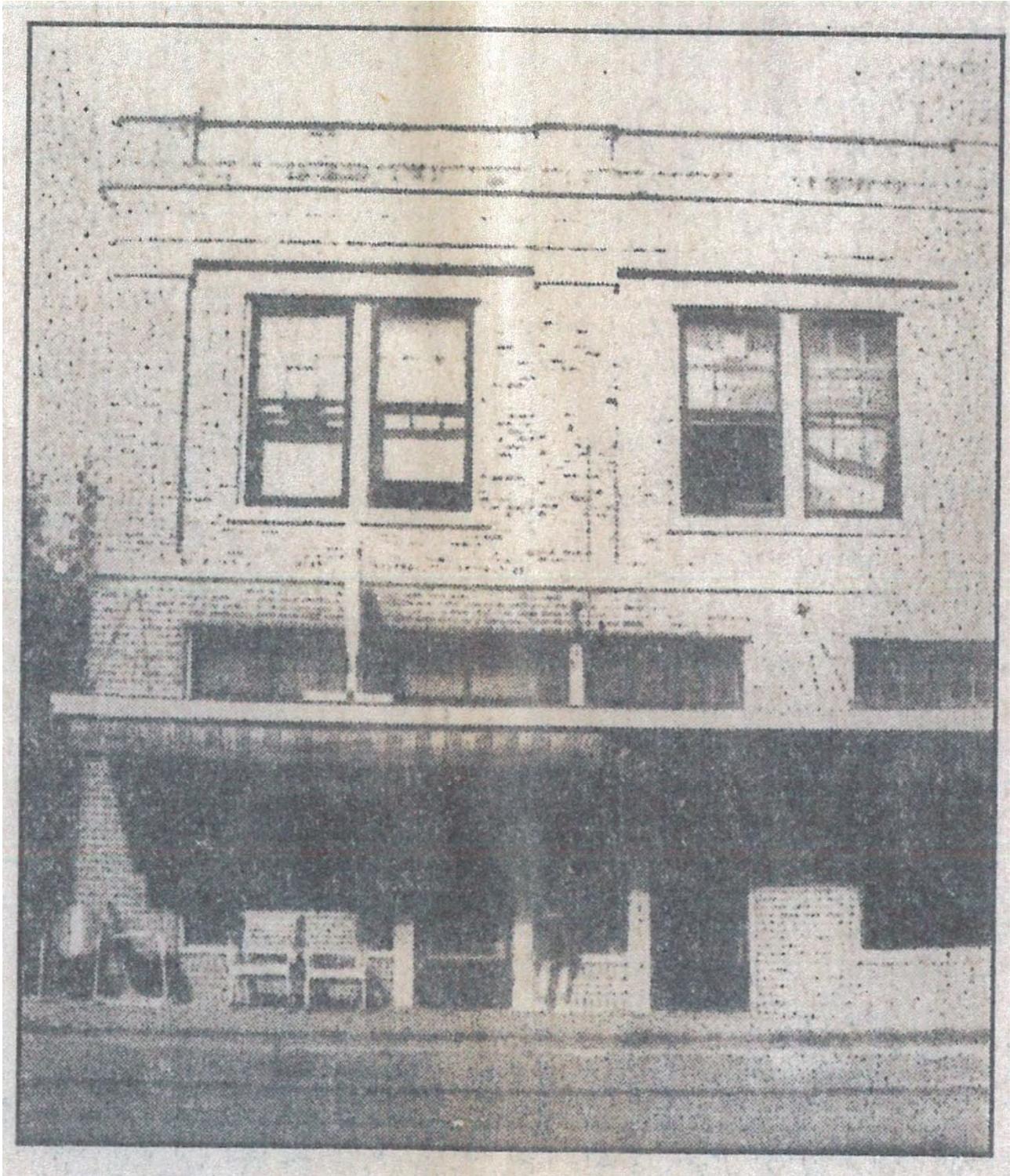


Figure 2. Photo of the Brown Hotel and Café c. 1941-42. Image courtesy of *The Advocate*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State

Date: Friday, March 30, 1928
Paper: State Times Advocate (Baton Rouge, LA)
Page: 12

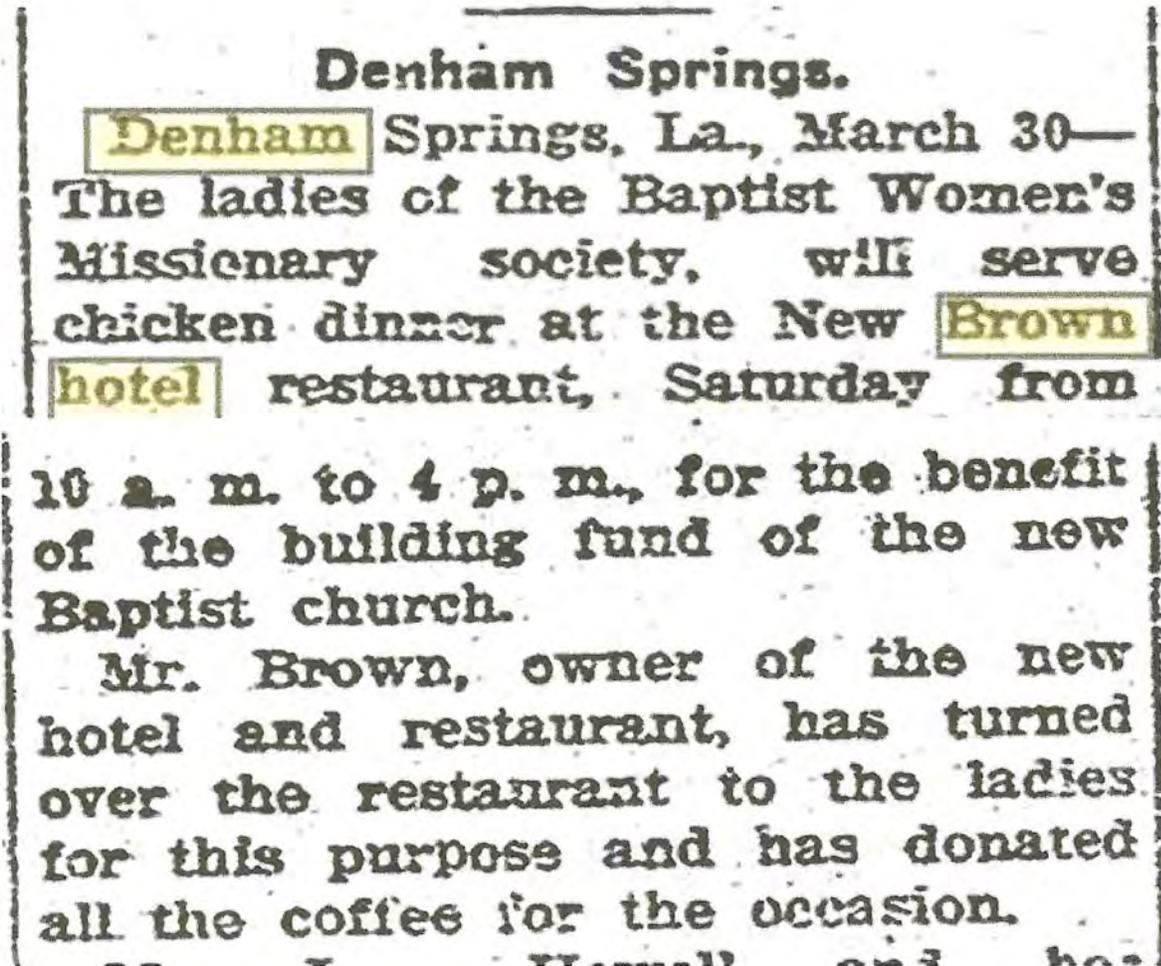


Figure 3. Newspaper article clipping from 1928 when the Brown Hotel had just opened and was hosting a chicken dinner. Image courtesy of *State Times Advocate*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State



Figure 4. Oldest image of the Brown Hotel and Café, c. 1930. Image courtesy of the author.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State



Figure 5. Photo from the last date the Brown Hotel and Café was open in 1955. Image courtesy of the *Livingston Parish News*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State

RECEIPT

No. 12-15 1950

RECEIVED OF Ray Sibley

Two and no DOLLARS
100

FOR Room

AMOUNT ACCT. \$		
AMOUNT CREDIT \$	2.00	
BALANCE DUE \$		

BY Walter L. Jones

Figure 6. A receipt from the Brown Hotel and Café from 1950 when Mr. Ray Sibley honeymooned there. Image courtesy of the author.



WILLIAM F. BROWN

Figure 7. Photo of Mr. William F. Brown, owner of the Brown Hotel and Café. Image courtesy of the author.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State



Photo provided by Maurice Durbin, great-granddaughter of William F. Brown
Members of the Brown family, front row from left, John Allen Brown, William Cyrus Brown, James F. 'Buddy' Brown, William F. Brown, Ruby Brown, Eula Brown, Eunice Brown, Emma Brown, and back row from left, William E. 'Billy' Brown, Margie Brown and Maxie Lee Brown pose for a picture on a family trip to Arkansas in the mid-1920s.

Figure 8. Image of the Brown family while on vacation in the mid-1920s. Mr. Brown is in the center wearing a hat. Image courtesy of the *Livingston Parish News* and Maurice Durbin, Mr. Brown's great granddaughter.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State

899

E COMPANY, Inc.
NATIONWIDE MOVING
VAN LINES, INC.
DIAL 3-7427

HOTELS
Barrows (c) 1353 Maximillian
Brown Hotel & Cafe Range av (DS)
Bruin 4062 Scenic hwy
BUTLER'S HOTEL (c), 2404 Fuqua
Casa Blanca Bar (c) 4500 Capitol av
Ever Ready (c) 1323 Government
Heidelberg 201 Lafayette
HOTEL HEIDELBERG, 201-11 Lafayette, Tel
2-7721
HOTEL ISTROUMA, 310 Florida, Tel 2-3755
HOTEL KING, 204 Lafayette, Tel 3-2833
Istrouma 310 Florida
King 204 Lafayette
Lincoln (c) 346 S 13th
Magnolia 452 Court (PA)
Motor Inn 4186 (3904) Florida blvd

**HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS—
RETAIL**

BUTLER FURNITURE CO INC, 626 Main, Tel
3-7723 (See page 95 Buyers' Guide)
CARSON FURNITURE CO INC, 1645 Plank rd,
Tel 4-1304 (See page 97 Buyers' Guide)
Krinco Inc 1547 South
McGehee Furniture Co 1253 North blvd
Price L B Mercantile Co 1740 N 21st
SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO, 127 N 3d, Tel 2-3722

Figure 9. 1949 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*. The (DS) indicates Denham Springs as the city was included with the city of Baton Rouge's directory as a rural location.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State

899

E COMPANY, Inc.
NATIONWIDE MOVING
VAN LINES, INC.
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**HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS—
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Figure 10. 1950 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State



Figure 11. 1951 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State



Figure 12. 1952-53 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe

Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA

County and State

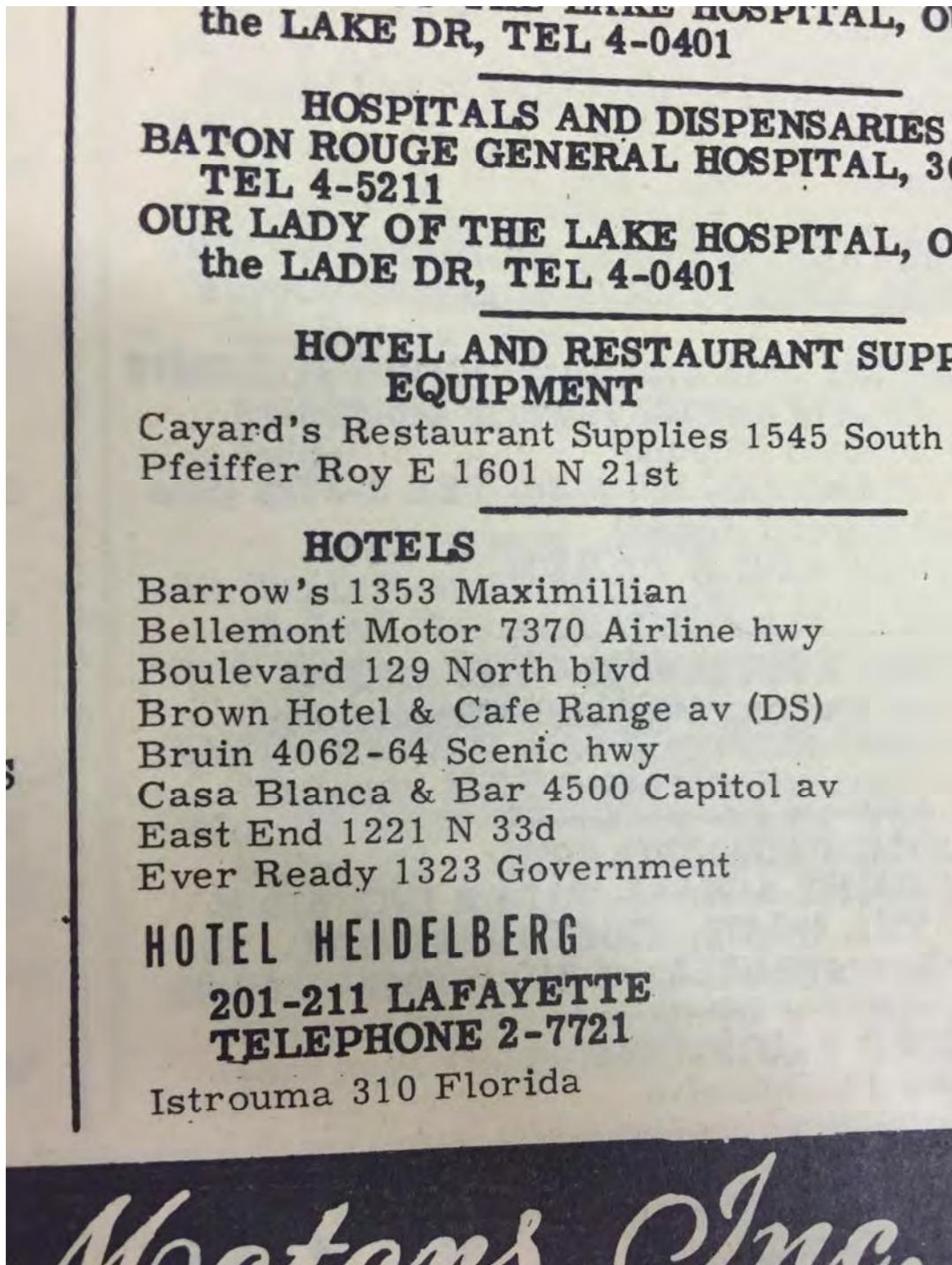


Figure 13. 1954 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State

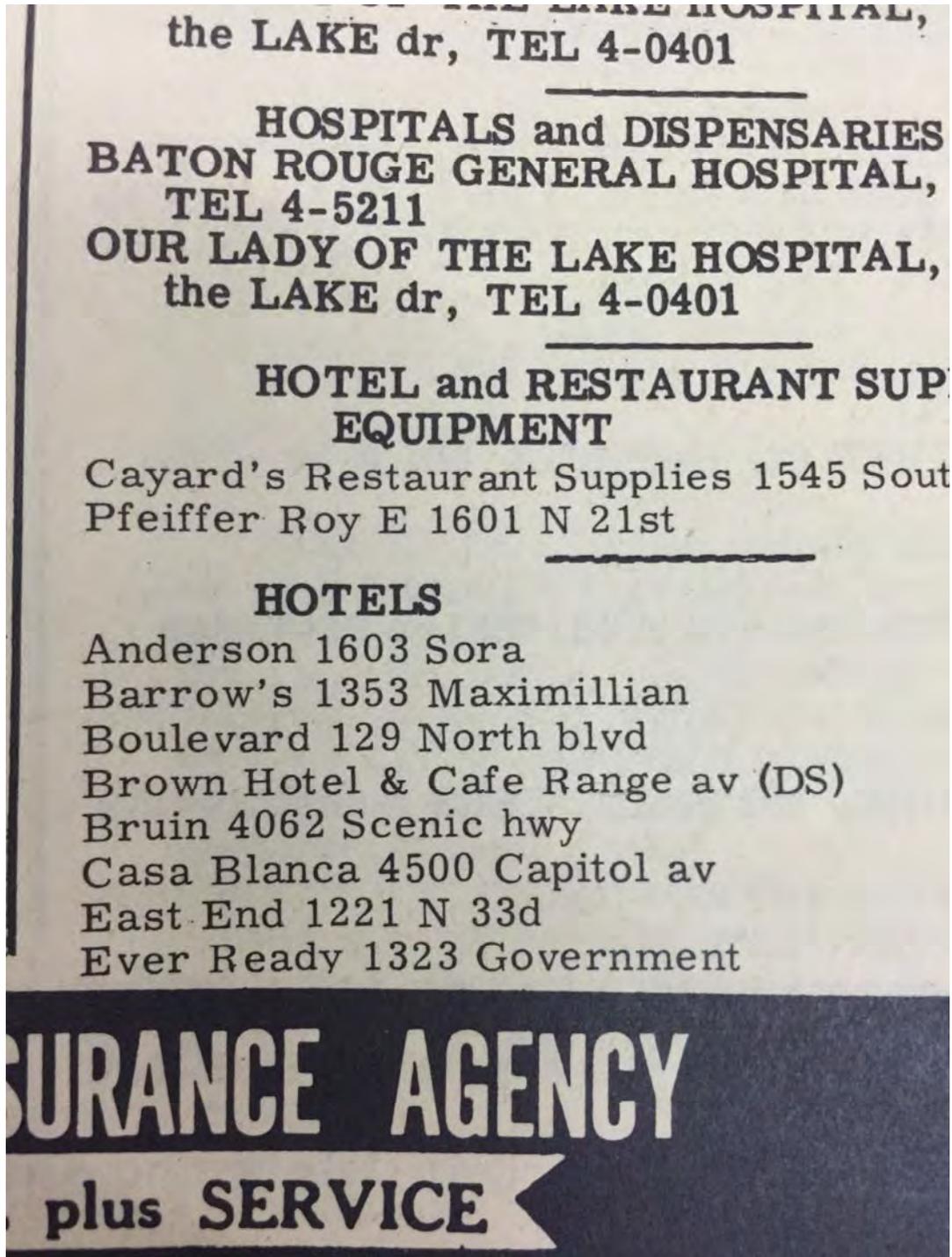


Figure 14. 1955 city directory showing the Brown Hotel as the only Hotel in Denham Springs. Image courtesy of *Baton Rouge City Directory*.

Brown Hotel & Cafe
Name of Property

Livingston Parish, LA
County and State



Figure 15. Photo of the building in 2004 prior to the storefront rehabilitation showing the altered c. 1948 storefront. Image courtesy of the author.

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.).

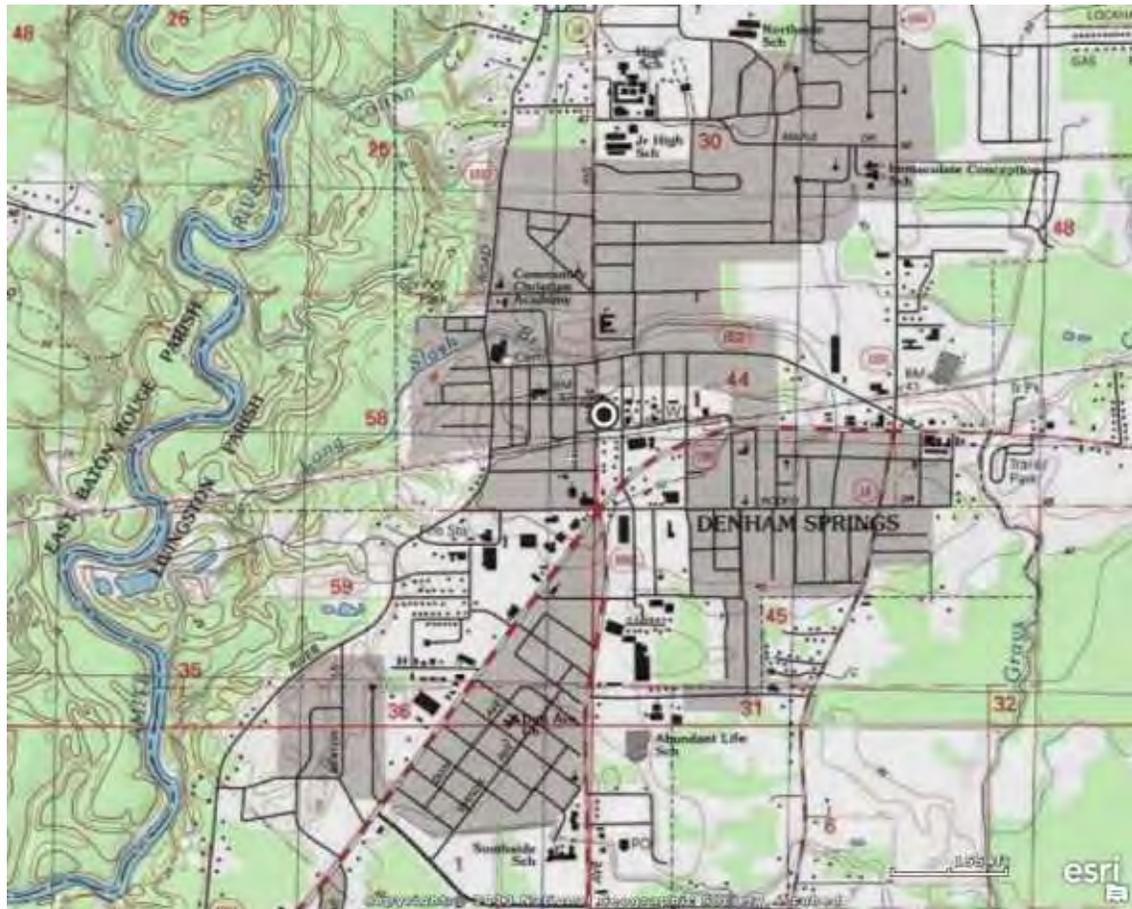
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Brown Hotel and Cafe, Livingston Parish, Louisiana



Latitude: 30.484872 Longitude: -90.955958

Brown Hotel and Cafe, Livingston Parish, Louisiana



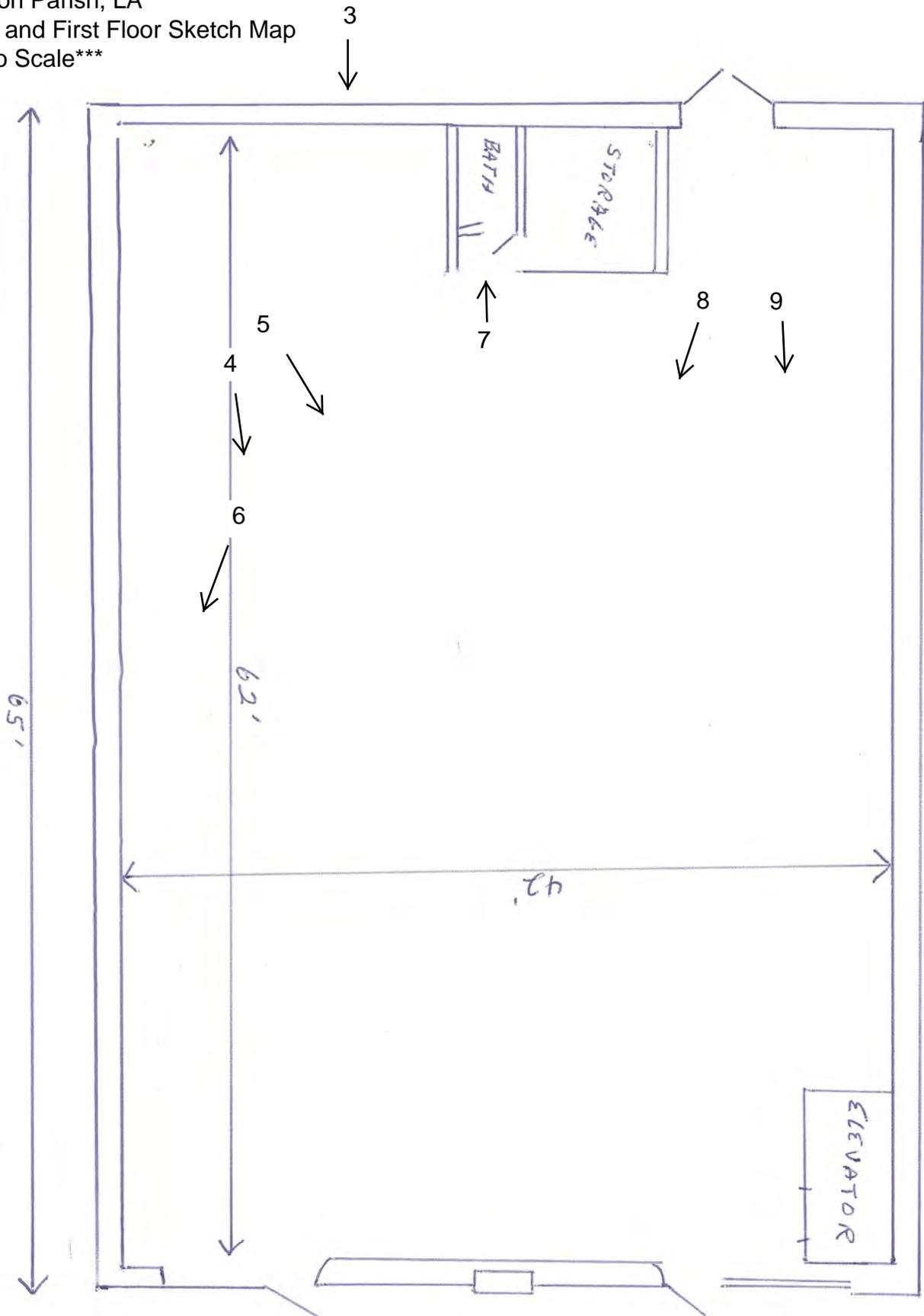
Latitude: 30.484872 Longitude: -90.955958

Brown Hotel and Cafe, Livingston Parish, Louisiana



Latitude: 30.484872 Longitude: -90.955958

Brown Hotel and Cafe
Livingston Parish, LA
Exterior and First Floor Sketch Map
Not to Scale

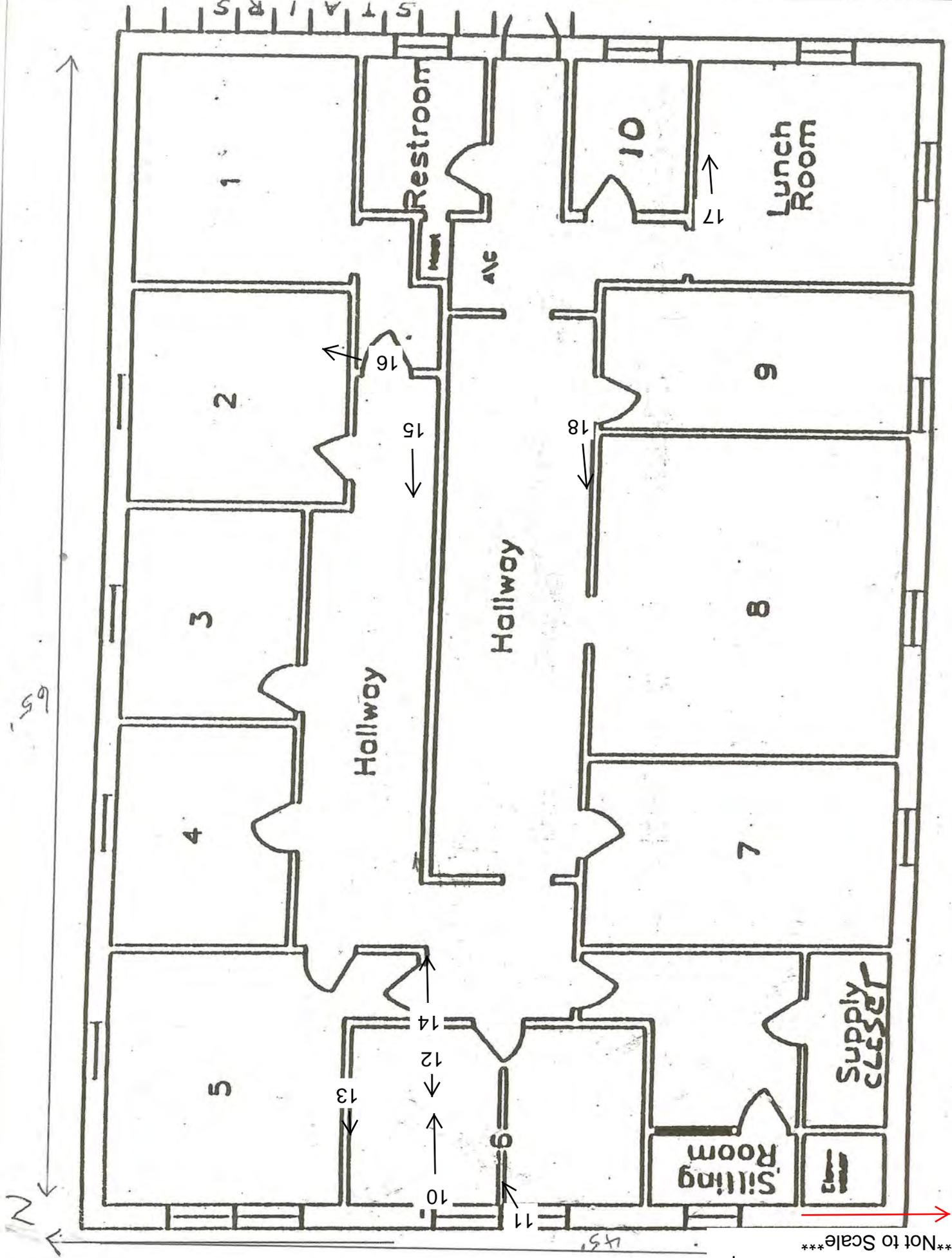


N ←

Range Avenue

↑
1

↖
2





THE OLD HOTEL

THE OLD HOTEL



ANTIQUES



















1/2" x 1/2" 25/50 <FM>

Alex T
16 1/2"
20"

Alex T
16 1/2"
20"

1/2" x 1/2" 25/50

Restrooms 

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brown Hotel and Cafe

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Livingston

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/17/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/02/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/06/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000695

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT See, 10-6-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Locally Sign. - Commerce

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gabbard DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N 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

AUG 21 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

CHARLES R. DAVIS
OFFICE SECRETARY
PHIL BOGGAN
INTERIM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 17, 2015

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th 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: Brown Hotel and Café, Livingston Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Brown Hotel and Café 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.

Thanks,

Jessica 

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form and correspondence
- 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:



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

PAM BREAU
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

May 28, 2015

Donna Jennings
PO Box 1629
Denham Springs, LA 70727

Dear Ms. Jennings:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic property listed will be considered by the State National Register Review Committee for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

**Brown Hotel and Café
Livingston Parish, LA**

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Listing of a property provides recognition of its historic significance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed on the National Register, tax credits for rehabilitation and other beneficial provisions may apply. Listing in the National Register does not place limitations on the property by the federal or state government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The government will not attach restrictive covenants to the property or seek to acquire them. A draft copy of the nomination and attachment is included with this letter.

One of your responsibilities as a Certified Local Government (CLG) is to review pending National Register nominations of properties within your community. This is required, in part, to detect any errors in fact, but also to provide local insight or knowledge concerning the property. I hope that you will consider the nomination for this property at your next meeting. After providing a reasonable opportunity for public comment, the Bogalusa Historic District Commission shall fill out the attached CLG review form as to whether or not, in their opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. Within 60 calendar days of notice from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the chief elected official shall transmit their report to the SHPO. If the SHPO does not receive the report and recommendation within 60 calendar days, the nomination process will continue. All comments received will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the National Register Review Committee for consideration along with the nomination.

We have scheduled the nomination for presentation to the National Register Review Committee on **Thursday, August 13, 2015**, and would like to receive your comments by that time in fulfillment of the comment period. This letter serves as notification initiating the sixty-day comment period.

You are invited to attend the National Register Review Committee meeting at which the nomination will be officially considered. The location and time have not been confirmed yet, but will be found on our website as the meeting date gets closer. Should you have any questions about this nomination before the meeting, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or at jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Donna Jennings
May 28, 2015
Page 2

Thanks,

Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer

**DENHAM SPRINGS HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REPORT FOR:
BROWN HOTEL AND CAFE
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

NAME OF CLG: City of Denham Springs

PROPERTY NAME: Brown Hotel & Cafe

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 114 N. Range Avenue, Denham Springs, La. 70726

DATE SENT: 7/5/15

DATE OF NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING: _____

Does the nomination meet the Criteria for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

Yes No _____ Criterion: A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____

Has public comment been included? Yes No _____ Explain:

The historical commissions open public meeting was held 6/15/15 at the regular said meeting place of said governing body, and the public was given the opportunity to speak. Only comments made were Mrs. Florence Crowder-owner.

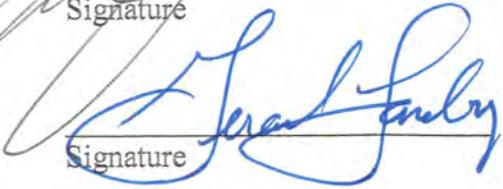
The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission would like to make the following recommendations regarding the nomination (use additional sheets if necessary): Being that the Brown Hotel & Cafe has a significant historical history due to a construction date of 1927, being the only hotel for 28 years, owners retaining the original integrity of the building, the commission voted unanimously to approve the National Register application

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should not be listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

The Commission chooses not to make a recommendation on this nomination for the following reasons:

Stacy T. Jones
Historic District Commission Chair (Print Name)  7/2/15
Signature Date

Gerard Landry
Chief Elected Official (Print Name)  7/9/15
Signature Date

This report and recommendation should be mailed to:

National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Questions about this form may be directed to the National Register Coordinator – Jessica Richardson at 225-215-4595 or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.