

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | OCT 16 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED | JAN 20 1980 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Florence Coffee House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 130 Main Street

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

--- VICINITY OF

6th - Henson Moore

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

022

COUNTY

East Baton Rouge

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ### ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. and Mrs. James A. Thom III

STREET & NUMBER

130 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana 70801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

200 St. Louis Street

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1979

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Florence Coffee House is located at 130 Main Street in downtown Baton Rouge, half a block back from the Mississippi River levee. When it was built the Coffee House was comparatively large, but today it is dwarfed by many of the surrounding buildings.

When the Coffee House was built, it consisted of one large commercial room below, and four taller residential rooms above in a "piano nobile" condition. There was also an unfinished attic and a rear kitchen -- servants' wing. Today the lower story has been divided into two rooms with a carriage port entrance under an elliptical arch. The original appearance of the lower story is not known. Before the present owners installed the old style door, window, and arched carriage port, the lower story had a 1920's plate glass shop front. The mantel in the major ground floor room is new to the house, but its design duplicates the mantels upstairs. The only major changes upstairs have been the installation of a small laundry room, the installation of a bathroom, and the replacement in kind of the iron front balcony. The four French doors on the facade were also replaced in kind.

The house is constructed of stuccoed brick bearing walls with gable parapets. The beams which run from side wall to side wall were probably "cannibalized" from earlier structures.

Decorative features include a denticular cornice and a heavy aedicule motif mantels.

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Johan and Lucas Florence, builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Florence Coffee House is a more or less typical example of a mid-19th century in-town commercial-residential structure. This can be seen in its two and a half story gable parapeted form, in its commercial lower story and residential upper story, and in its "piano nobile" articulation of the upper story with graceful French doors and an iron balcony.

Baton Rouge is a city which has been almost completely rebuilt in the 20th century. As a result the Coffee House represents an urban form which has all but vanished. There is in fact only one other substantial example of a house of this type remaining in the city.

The Florence Coffee House was built in 1850 by Johan and Lucas Florence to replace an earlier building which had been destroyed by fire. On July 24, 1850, the Florences signed a contract with Nelson Potts for the building's construction. The cost was \$1,225.

In 1852 the property was sold to Matteo Dorice for \$2,500 and since then there has been a long succession of owners. Until the Civil War the building remained in use as a coffee house. Since the war it has served a variety of uses, being at different times a grocery, a cobbler shop, a boardinghouse, and a private residence. The present owners restored the building in 1971. The architect of the restoration was William R. Brockway and the contractor Peter L. Martin.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Awful Fire at Baton Rouge," New Orleans Times-Picayune, 26 Nov. 1849.
 Building Contract between Johan and Lucas Florence and Nelson Potts. East Baton Rouge Parish Conveyance Book C, p. 377, 24 July 1850.
 Conveyance of property from Heirs of Pierre Baron to Johan and Lucas Florence. East Baton Rouge Parish Conveyance Book B, p. 112, 29 May 1848.
 Glasgow, Vaughn L. and Philippe Oszusick, "The Significance of Preserving and Restoring the Florence Coffee House." Foundation Flashes II (Feb. 1967).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. .1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 0 |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Mrs. James A. Thom, III

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

130 Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baton Rouge,

STATE

Louisiana 70801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL X

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

Bernard P. ...

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/5/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

James G. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1/20/80

ATTEST: *Bob ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1/16/80

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Florence Coffee House

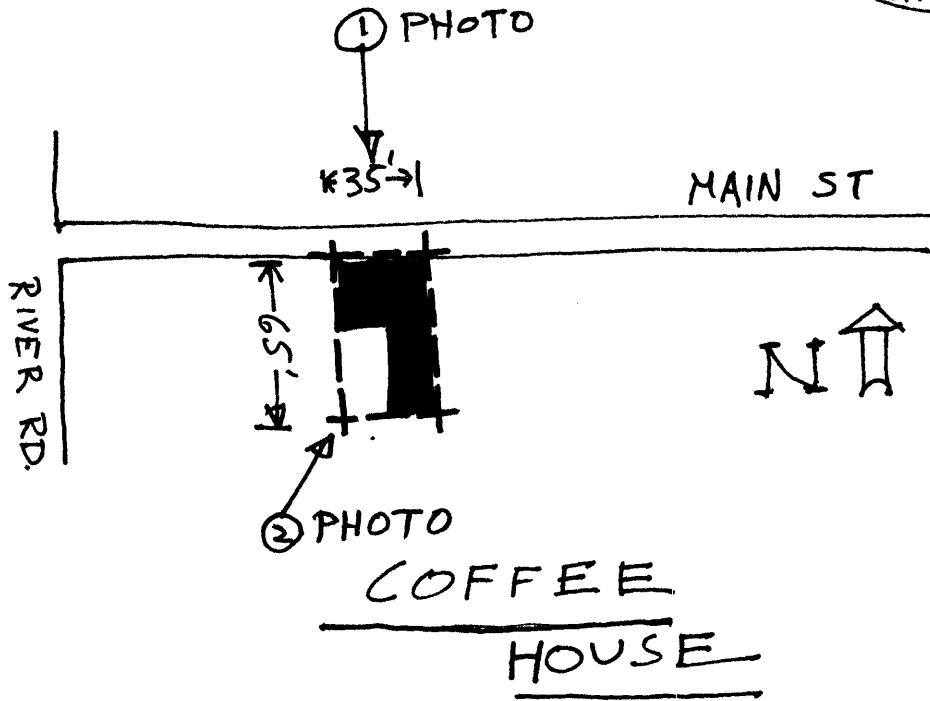
CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

9. Bibliography (cont'd)

Thom, Mrs. James A., III, Research Report on Florence Coffee House, 1976, located in National Register file for Florence Coffee House, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.



1/14/80 correction: 32' x 67'