

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Garyville Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Apple, St. Francis, Railroad, Azalea, Canal, West & N/A not for publication  
city, town Garyville Main Streets N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county St. John the Baptist code 095 zip code 70051

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>62</u>	<u>32</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
(modern post office within boundaries)	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>62</u>	<u>32</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility 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.  See continuation sheet.

Leslie Tassin Feb. 28, 1990  
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Angy Federman 4/28/90  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCIAL/trade - business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingCOMMERCIAL/trade - business**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No styleBungalowQueen Anne Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboardsroof asphalt, tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Garyville Historic District recognizes the importance of industrial lumbering in Louisiana and the scores of mill towns which assisted in that industry's growth. The district is rooted in the St. John the Baptist Parish village of Garyville, which was founded as a mill town by the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company in 1903. Although Garyville has lost its mill, railroad depot, commissary, hotels, boarding houses, community center, and some examples of its housing stock, it retains its small commercial district, its rare livery stable, its Catholic rectory, several avenues of rare worker housing, and the equally rare and original Lyon Company headquarters building. It is these significant buildings upon which the historic district focuses. The structures, with one exception of frame construction, date from the founding of Garyville by Lyon Lumber Company in 1903 to 1931, the year the company ended production. Louisiana has very few even partially complete mill towns remaining in its landscape, so Garyville's importance as an illustration of mill town life and worker lifestyles is considerable. Thus, the district retains its National Register eligibility despite its losses.

The Garyville Commercial District

Garyville's commercial district stands along North and South Railroad Streets, the main east/west corridor which is bisected by the tracks of the Illinois Central Railroad. Although the business buildings are currently vacant or support uses different from their original purposes, the company headquarters and two stores, a saloon, a barber shop, a pharmacy, a livery stable, and a bank remain from the historic period. With the exception of the headquarters building and the bank, all the commercial structures are humble, unpretentious, and one-story in scale. Two of the buildings have false front parapets, two display gable front facades, and one is a shotgun. The two-story brick bank, with its banded cornice, paneled double doors, flat arches above facade windows and segmental arches above the windows on each side, is the village's most stylish building from the Lyon period.

Lyon Cypress Lumber Company Headquarters

A large, rectangular, two-story frame structure standing at the intersection of North Railroad and Main Streets, the company headquarters building dominates the commercial district visually just as it once dominated the entire community

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economically and socially. A historic photograph illustrates the importance of the building to the community at large. It shows workers, many of whom were dressed in their best clothing, lined up outside the structure, perhaps to apply for jobs or pick up paychecks. Business activities were focused on the first floor, which consisted of a large open room for use by the office staff and a private manager's office. The second story apparently provided overnight accommodations for visiting company officials and managers who worked long hours to meet the needs of the thriving company.

Originally, the building's most notable features were its gallery and its encompassing hipped roof crowned by a widow's walk. The gallery encircled the headquarters on all four sides at the second floor level but stretched only across the facade on the ground floor. Hurricane Betsy destroyed the second story encircling gallery during the mid-1960s. However, the lower porch, with its nine identical square posts topped by molded capitals and curved brackets, remains in place. The hurricane also damaged the building's roof and demolished the widow's walk. The replacement roof, installed under emergency conditions, does not match the original. Very few company headquarters buildings have survived in Louisiana. Thus, the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company Building, despite its alterations, is a rare symbol of the lumber industry's past. Also, these alterations are easily reversible, and the local preservation organization has received a grant to restore the building to its original appearance.

**Worker Housing**

Originally, the Garyville grid designated that all housing for workers should be erected south of the business district on Main, East, and West Streets. Old photos reveal that these houses originally extended a great distance toward the river. Almost immediately the residential district expanded into two additional areas. One was northwest of West Street (between the railroad and Azalea), the other across the railroad adjacent to the northwest corner of the business district. Today only portions of Garyville's residential areas survive.

Since styles and ideas concerning appropriate housing forms changed during the period in which the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company built houses for its workers, five different house types are illustrated within the historic district. They are as follows:

- 1) The Victorian, represented by one Eastlake and a handful of vaguely Queen Anne style cottages. Victorian styles were slow to lose popularity in Louisiana and were built until near the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. However, Victorian dwellings are definitely in the minority in Garyville.
- 2) The one-story gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan (two rooms wide and two to three rooms deep). The majority of houses built by the

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company probably followed this mode. On West Street the homes feature shed roof front porches. These buildings were probably erected in 1903. On the streets subsequently added to the grid, porches are either recessed beneath the encompassing roof for half the length of the facade or are absent.

- 3) The two-story rectangular dwelling devoid of stylistic details other than its gabled roof. A one-story shed roof rear room and one-story shed roof porch added additional extra indoor and outdoor living space to this plan. These houses, all located on Main Street, were occupied by company managers and by loggers and line workers with large families. They appear to have been built when the town was founded in 1903.
- 4) The one-story cottage with pyramid roof. Most of these houses also have recessed porches which run for half the length of the facade. All were built during the second wave of house construction necessitated by the company's growth.
- 5) The California bungalow. Different from the plainer houses with folk bungalow plans, these dwellings displayed double gable roofs and tapered porch columns rising from square bases. Popular from the late teens to the end of the Lyon era, these houses were the most stylish of the twentieth century housing forms. They appear to have been erected wherever empty lots remained within the crowded community.

Assessment of Integrity

Garyville has sustained serious losses of its mill, company commissary, community center, railroad depot, hotels and boarding houses, and some examples of its manager/worker housing. Because the mill was located north of the headquarters building, its loss has only a minimal effect upon the integrity of the historic district. The hotels were apparently scattered throughout the residential neighborhoods, so their loss is also not immediately apparent. The losses of the commissary (which stood on South Railroad Street across from the headquarters), the depot (which stood directly west of the company office), the boarding houses (which stood on Main Street across from the commissary), and some of the two-story Main Street houses are more serious. However, these losses are mitigated by the rarity, importance, and historic character of the headquarters building, commercial district, livery stable, rectory and houses which survive.

The buildings from the historic period which remain standing in Garyville retain a surprisingly accurate reflection of their past appearances. The most serious changes in these buildings have occurred to the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company headquarters. As outlined above, it has lost its second floor encircling

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gallery, its original encompassing hipped roof, and its widow's walk. However, the building's first floor facade is original, and it still suggests its overall historic appearance. Additionally, because it stands on its original site at the corner of North Railroad and Main Streets, the headquarters still anchors the commercial district just as it did in 1903. Furthermore, all of the architectural losses to this building are replaceable.

In the commercial district itself, only one building has been altered by an addition. Fortunately, this addition consists only of a large awning added to the side of the shotgun barber shop in order to shelter a patio-like space. In several cases, doors and windows of the commercial buildings have been modified or replaced, but in each case, the historic character of the structure remains visible. In particular, the two false front parapets remain. In addition, the Gary State Bank, the community's most stylistically distinct structure, retains its original facade.

Changes to the housing stock have included such alterations as covering of original siding with vinyl or shingles, replacement or alteration of windows and doors, replacement of wooden porch columns with cast iron, screening of front porches, and the occasional addition of one-story rooms at the sides of structures. Despite these changes, the historic integrity of the worker neighborhoods remains intact. This is especially true on West and Main Streets, where the identical massing and fenestration patterns combine with the general duplication of housing forms to convey these neighborhoods' historic roles in providing shelter for the employees of the company town.

Intrusions

At 34%, Garyville's intrusion rate is within the accepted range for historic districts in Louisiana. To achieve this calculation, buildings erected during the historic period (1903-1931) and lacking significant alterations which destroy their historic integrity have been counted as contributing elements. Structures exhibiting integrity-damaging alterations, mobile homes, and buildings erected after 1931 have been counted as non-contributing elements or intrusions. Although some of the intrusions are eye-catching, the same circumstances which mitigate the community's losses apply to the consideration of the intrusions' visual impact. In short, the importance of industrial lumbering to Louisiana and the scarcity of surviving mill towns make Garyville a rare and important resource for the state. As such, its historic area is imminently eligible for listing as a National Register historic district.

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For the most part, the intrusions are scattered throughout the district. The most notable concentration occurs around the intersection of Main and Azalea. A glance at the map might indicate that this pocket of intrusions has severed the historic housing to the south from the rest of the district. But this is definitely not the case. There is a strong visual connection, for example, between the historic houses south of Azalea and the Lyon Company headquarters building to the north of the railroad tracks. In short, while this clump of intrusions looks like a possibly serious break in historic character on the map, one would not get this impression in person, as it is hoped the photographs will demonstrate. This southern portion of the district represents the first wave of housing construction, and fortunately the headquarters building still retains a strong visual relationship with it despite the pocket of intrusions.

Breakdown by Period

1903-1910	48 buildings	51%
1911-1920	9 buildings	10%
1921-1931	5 buildings	5%
non-contributing	<u>32 buildings</u>	34%
TOTAL	94 buildings	

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Garyville Historic District Inventory

NOTE: All the residents of Garyville receive their mail at the local post office. As a result, very few of the community's buildings display address numbers.

A decade date range is given below since the precise date of construction for each building is not known.

1. North Railroad Street. Lyon Cypress Lumber Company headquarters building. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Large two-story frame rectangular building with full length first floor gallery. Second story gallery and roof-level widow's walk destroyed by Hurricane Betsy.
2. North Railroad Street. Saloon. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front commercial structure with full length three bay gallery beneath encompassing roof. Transom above door.
3. North Railroad Street. Barber Shop. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One room frame shotgun with porch beneath encompassing roof. Altered by addition of large metal awning sheltering side porch.
4. 09 St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan.
5. 013 St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front and wing cottage with decorative gable return and transom over door.
6. 017 St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame cottage with tin pyramid roof. Doors, windows, and porch columns altered.
7. St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with overhanging eaves. Porch cuts into corner of structure beneath encompassing roof.
8. St. Francis Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
9. 104 St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan. Siding, porch columns, doors, and windows altered.

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10. 028 St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1921-1931. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable California style bungalow with overhanging eaves. Porch screened.
  11. St. Francis Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  12. St. Francis Street. Manager's house. 1921-1931. Contributing element. Two-story frame New Orleans raised cottage with folk bungalow plan and elements of California bungalow styling such as tapered wooden columns rising from brick piers. Basement area enclosed.
  13. 401 North Railroad Street. Pharmacy/Drug Store. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame commercial structure with false front parapet, overhanging eaves, and paneled double doors. Windows and two porch columns altered.
  14. North Railroad Street. Worker's house. 1921-1931. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable California style bungalow with tapered piers. Small side addition.
  15. North Railroad Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
  16. North Railroad Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
  17. 09 North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1921-1931. Contributing element. One-story frame California bungalow style structure with double gable roof, side-projecting porch, tapered piers with molded capitals, and geometrical balustrade.
  18. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame cottage with pyramid roof. Porch columns, windows and one door altered.
  19. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan. Altered by glass paneled door and screened porch.
  20. 027 North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1921-1931. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable California bungalow with overhanging eaves. Siding and door altered.

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21. North Apple Street. Star Bakery. Non-contributing element. Two-story frame structure incorporating part of the old bakery building. Enlarged and vinyl sided.
  22. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame structure with asphalt siding resembling brick and tin roof.
  23. North Apple Street. c.1965. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  24. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable bungalow with no other stylistic characteristics.
  25. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front and wing cottage. Siding and door altered.
  26. 126 North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable bungalow with shed roof addition at side.
  27. North Apple Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  28. 118 North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame Queen Anne cottage with projecting bay and jigsaw ornament.
  29. North Apple Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  30. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front and wing with tin roof. Windows, door and siding altered.
  31. 401 North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable bungalow with lattice work in gable peak.
  32. 024 North Apple Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  33. 018 North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan, original siding and door.

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34. North Apple Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with porch cut into corner beneath encompassing roof. Siding and door altered.
  35. North Apple Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story frame ranch style house.
  36. North Railroad Street. Grocery Store. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front structure with full length porch beneath encompassing roof. Columns altered.
  37. South Railroad Street. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame Queen Anne style cottage with fishscale shingles, projecting bay, Eastlake trim with jigsaw brackets, and original siding.
  38. 10 South Railroad Street. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame cottage with Eastlake columns and jigsaw brackets, one Italianate door, two French doors, and original siding.
  39. St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and porch cut into corner under encompassing roof. Windows and siding changed.
  40. St. Francis Street. 1903-1910. Non-contributing element. One-story frame Queen Anne cottage with alterations which have destroyed historic integrity.
  41. St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame shotgun with later side projecting addition.
  42. St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame double gable California bungalow with later side projecting addition. Porch screened. Windows and siding altered.
  43. 106 St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame cottage with porch cut into corner beneath encompassing pyramidal roof. Door altered.
  44. St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame cottage with porch cut into corner beneath encompassing pyramidal roof. Porch screened. Doors altered.
  45. St. Francis Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.

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46. St. Francis Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  47. Azalea Street. Rectory for St. Hubert's Catholic Church. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame Queen Anne style dwelling with two projecting bays, square corner tower, multi-pane windows with colored glass, and Italianate doors.
  48. St. Francis Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front and wing cottage with three bay porch. Original clapboards on facade; other exterior walls altered by addition of shingle siding.
  49. St. Francis Street. c.1955. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story frame ranch style house.
  50. South Railroad Street. Store. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame commercial building with false front parapet. Windows and doors altered.
  51. South Railroad Street. Livery Stable. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame building.
  52. South Railroad Street. Gary State Bank. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story brick commercial building with banking facilities downstairs and offices above. Decorative elements include a banded cornice, paneled double doors, flat arches above facade windows, and segmental arches above side windows. The bank was the only brick building erected during the historic period for this nomination.
  53. South Railroad Street. c.1967. Non-contributing element. One-story frame grocery store.
  54. Canal Street. c.1980. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
  55. Canal Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story metal temporary classroom building.
  56. Azalea Street. Garyville Grammar School. 1942. Non-contributing element. One-story frame Classical Revival rectangular structure.
  57. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and shed roof porch.

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58. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front double house with shed roof porch.
  59. West Street. 1903-1910. Non-contributing element. One-story frame cottage with alterations which have destroyed historic integrity.
  60. 123 West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and shed roof porch. Porch screened.
  61. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan.
  62. 135 West Street. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front double house with shed roof porch. Siding altered.
  63. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan. Siding, columns, porch and gable decoration altered.
  64. 206 West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and central gabled porch. Siding altered.
  65. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan, shed roof porch, and side addition. Porch screened.
  66. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and porch cut into corner beneath encompassing roof. Porch screened and siding altered.
  67. 218 West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and porch cut into side beneath encompassing roof.
  68. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and shed roof porch. Siding altered.
  69. West Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story metal garage.

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70. West Street. c.1970. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story concrete block fire hall.
  71. 138 West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and shed roof porch. Siding and windows changed.
  72. 117 West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front double house with shed roof porch. Columns replaced.
  73. West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Non-contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with alterations which destroy historic integrity.
  74. 116 West Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan, shed roof porch, and side addition. Windows, doors and siding changed.
  75. West Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  76. West Street. c.1903. Non-contributing element. One-story frame gable front cottage with folk bungalow plan and alterations which have altered historic integrity.
  77. Main Street. c.1955. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick post office and library.
  78. Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story brick ranch style house.
  79. Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Badly altered bungalow (bricked over, modern wrought iron columns).
  80. Main Street. c.1980. Non-contributing element. Modern one-story frame ranch style house.
  81. Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
  82. Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling devoid of stylistic details and topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof porch and one-story rear room are original.

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83. Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof porch and one-story shed roof rear room are original. Alterations include side projecting addition and enclosure of porch by screening and bungalow-like skirt.
84. Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
85. Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
86. Main Street. W. J. Stebbins home. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame dwelling. The building has been slightly Victorianized and displays a two-story gallery.
87. 211 Main Street. Worker's house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. One-story frame cottage with pyramidal roof.
88. 207 Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof rear room is original. Alterations include addition of Italianate door and two-story gallery with Eastlake trim.
89. Main Street. c.1960. Non-contributing element. Mobile home.
90. 121 Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling devoid of stylistic details and topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof porch and one-story rear room are original. Porch screened. Windows and siding changed.
91. 119 Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling devoid of stylistic detail and topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof rear room and one-story shed roof porch are original; side projecting room is later addition.
92. 117 Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling devoid of stylistic details and topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof porch and one-story shed roof rear room are original; side projecting room is later addition. Porch screened.

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93. Main Street. Worker/Manager house. 1903-1910. Contributing element. Two-story frame rectangular dwelling devoid of stylistic details and topped by simple gabled roof. One-story shed roof rear room and one-story shed roof porch are original.
94. Main Street. Worker's house. 1911-1920. Contributing element. One-story frame double gabled California bungalow with screened porch. Siding altered.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1903 - 1931  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1903 - 1931  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Garyville Historic District is significant within the statewide context of the Louisiana lumber industry and the related mill towns to which it gave birth. During the industry's boom period (approximately 1890-1930), scores of mill towns arose on the Louisiana landscape to house the workers who harvested the state's extensive cypress and pine forests and converted them to lumber. However, the nature of the industry was such that sites connected with its practice tended to disappear after the timber in each area was exhausted. Garyville, founded in 1903 by the Lyon Lumber Company, is one of only four or five mill towns to survive with any degree of integrity.

Despite the existence of extensive woodlands in Louisiana, large-scale lumbering did not come to the state until the end of the nineteenth century. However, the area's early French colonizers were quick to recognize the merits of cypress as a material capable of withstanding the damage which other woods developed when exposed to the damp and humid climate of the Gulf Coast. Consequently, they began small scale harvesting operations soon after their arrival. Reports indicate that two cypress mills were in operation in 1716. By 1800 authorities reported thirty such mills in production. Many of these concerns were run by planters who considered lumbering their second business. All were small local operations dependent upon seasonal flood waters to float felled cypress logs out of otherwise inaccessible swamps. The lumber produced by these early manufacturing plants was used to create ship's masts; sugar packing boxes; storage tanks and cisterns; and construction materials such as flooring, siding, shingles, and beams for framing. Some of these materials were exported to other North American colonies and European countries.

While the Louisiana lumber industry developed slowly, that of the Northern states thrived. It began in the northeast, then moved into the Great Lakes region when the failure of lumbermen to plant replacements for the trees they harvested led to the depletion of New England's resources. At the same time,

See continuation sheet



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See attached continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property @53 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

7	2	9	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	2	7	7	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	5
---	---

7	2	9	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	2	7	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	5
---	---

7	2	9	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	2	6	9	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	5
---	---

7	2	9	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	2	6	8	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed district map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the extant concentration of buildings associated with the history of Garyville as a lumber mill town. The areas beyond the boundaries have either lost their industry-related architecture, contain lumber era buildings which have lost their integrity, or contain more modern structures unassociated with the mill town period.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1989 (Revised February 1990)

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

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mid-nineteenth century migration patterns created new population centers and increased demands for lumber in the Midwestern states, thus reinforcing the desire of lumber operators to move. By the 1880s, the pattern of increased demand and depletion of resources had repeated itself in the Great Lakes states, and Northern lumbermen needed another new source of raw material. This time they turned to the forests and swamplands of Louisiana.

The state's transformation from a modest to a large-scale industrial lumbering region was fueled by several simultaneous developments: 1) the new demand for Southern lumber created by the depletion of Northern supplies, 2) the availability in the state of cheap timber lands, 3) major improvements in logging equipment which allowed the harvesting of difficult to reach trees, 4) the desire of Louisiana businessmen to bring industry to the state, and 5) the development of an adequate railroad network to transport the products of the forest and the mill. The availability of cheap water transportation via the Mississippi River also may have been a factor in luring Northern lumbermen into Louisiana.

Although pine eventually became the state's leading lumber product, cypress proved a strong competitor during the early years of industrial lumbering. Large stands of the tree ranged from the Bayou Teche region on the west to the parishes skirting the western and northern shores of Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain on the east. A line roughly paralleling the current U. S. Highway 190 marked the extent of the cypress swamps on the north. Shingles were the first product of the new mills which appeared in this area during the 1880s and 1890s, but lumbermen soon expanded production to include a variety of dressed lumber products. By the end of the nineteenth century Louisiana loggers were cutting between 250 and 500 million board feet of cypress each year. By comparison, other hardwoods accounted for only 72 million board feet of Louisiana lumber in 1899.

Although these figures are impressive, the real boom in cypress production occurred between 1905 and 1915, when authorities reported 150 cypress mills operating within the state. The peak occurred in 1913, when one billion ninety-seven million board feet were processed. The first two decades of the twentieth century ranked as the high point of the hardwood industry as well. Throughout this period Louisiana consistently ranked second in the nation in overall lumber production (based upon statistics combining cypress and hardwood figures). For one year, 1914, the state ranked first and produced 10.6 percent of the nation's lumber supply.

One of the factors behind the success of the Louisiana lumber industry was an easily accessible and controlled work force, the existence of which allowed milling operations to continue on a twenty-four hour basis. Worker accessibility and control was achieved through the institution of the mill town. Scores of these communities sprang up as industrial lumbering expanded from one area of

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Louisiana to another. Although many facilities were built in already established communities, many were erected in isolated rural settings near the forests they intended to cut and process. This circumstance meant that lumber companies had to provide housing and other necessities of life for their workers, giving company officials an unprecedented opportunity to influence the lives of their employees.

Designed to be self-sufficient no matter how isolated or remote its setting, the typical lumber mill town provided every service necessary to insure the health and happiness of its workers. Organized along functional lines, the town was divided into commercial, residential, and company-related sections. As the community's reason for being, the mill and company offices usually dominated the local landscape. The headquarters building served as a buffer separating the factory and its accompanying man-made mill pond from the business, recreational, and residential areas of the town. It housed the administrative functions of the company and served the workers as a bank until the town grew large enough to support a separate bank building.

The commercial district supplied the residents' material and recreational needs. This section focused upon the company store or commissary, a large well-stocked department store sited close to the company's headquarters building. Workers and their families purchased almost everything they needed, from foodstuffs to trinkets, at this emporium. In the smaller towns, the barber, company physician, and other professionals often shared space in the commissary building. A railroad depot, post office, hotel, ice house, cafe, bakery, bar, poolroom, community recreation center, and boarding houses for unmarried mill workers rounded out the facilities available in the commercial district. Most of these businesses were either run directly by the lumber company or leased to outsiders on a commission basis.

The residential section, its grid-like streets superimposed upon the rural landscape, consisted of houses owned by the company and rented to the employees. The district was subdivided into separate sections for white and black families. Within each ward stood churches and schools donated by the company to minister to the spiritual and educational needs of the town's men, women and children. Houses of white workers were fairly uniform in appearance, although managers were often assigned slightly larger and better houses than the employees they supervised. The typical dwelling was a small, one-story house with a pyramidal roof and a square floor plan. Folk bungalow houses (two rooms wide and two or three rooms deep with gables facing toward the front and rear) were also popular. The houses were widely spaced to allow for the installation of gardens and outbuildings. Housing for black families varied and ranged from pyramidal and folk bungalow dwellings to shotguns. These houses were closely spaced with small yards. Electricity, water, and sewer service were provided by the company,

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although sometimes there were restrictions prohibiting the use of these services during the hours of peak mill operation. Some companies planted trees along residential streets to improve the appearance of worker neighborhoods.

Through their mill towns, the lumber companies chose where employees and their families lived, the recreational facilities available to them, the doctors who provided their health care, the clerks who manned their stores, the teachers who educated their children, and the ministers who served their churches. However, lumbermen and their families do not seem to have viewed this situation as restrictive, for life in the mill towns was considered far superior to the lifestyles and amenities available in many of the state's older but less developed communities.

Despite its prosperity and influence, the average mill town had a short life expectancy. Lumbermen operating in Louisiana between 1880 and 1930 had ignored the lessons taught by the failure of their New England and Great Lakes colleagues to practice conservation and reforestation measures. As a result, they eventually depleted their major resource, the trees which had lured them here. Cypress stands suffered particularly, for the cypress tree is practically a non-renewable resource which takes centuries to regenerate. When timber supplies ran out, companies simply moved their operations to fresh resources, dismantling or abandoning the mills and towns they had created only a few years before. After abandonment, the natural landscape moved quickly to reassert itself. In a short time almost all evidence of the former towns and factory buildings had decayed or disappeared beneath a tangle of underbrush.

Garyville's rise replicated that of most other Louisiana lumber mill towns. In 1903, the Lyon Lumber Company of Illinois expanded into St. John the Baptist Parish and reorganized as the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company. Their initial capitalization was two million dollars. Company officials purchased many acres of cypress swamplands in the vicinity of the old Glencoe sugar plantation, approximately 40 miles upriver from New Orleans. They also bought the plantation proper, where they erected a large lumber mill and company town. Following the custom of the day, officials named the new community after one of their directors, John W. Gary.

Utilizing state of the art machinery, Lyon built what it claimed to be the largest and most modern cypress mill in the world. Historic photographs show that the complex contained a large man-made mill pond which tied together a variety of buildings designed to process and store the lumber. Instead of using the pullboat technology employed by most companies operating in cypress areas, Lyon relied entirely on rail transportation to move workers and materials from forest to mill and built its own railroad, the Garyville Northern, to assist in the task. The log cutting department employed four specialized loading devices

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for lifting long logs into the company's railroad cars, twelve rod locomotives for normal log transport, and two Shay engines for pulling heavily loaded cars out of tight or muddy places. The company's commitment to rail technology was also reflected within the mill itself, where its overhead tram-like transport system was considered the factory's most memorable feature. The mill also boasted large steam heated kilns for drying lumber. These were powered by the company's own large turbine generator, which produced electricity for the town's use.

The town itself was superimposed upon a five-street grid and divided into activity zones. A buffer-like commercial district shielded the noisy northside mill from the quieter south-side residential neighborhoods stretching toward the Mississippi River. North and South Railroad Streets, major thoroughfares separated by the city's twin railroad tracks, served as the local business district and formed the east-west axis of the grid. Here the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company built its large two-story headquarters building and a variety of other structures to serve the citizenry. These included a railroad depot; a Community Club which housed a library, poolroom, dance hall, and auditorium; and a huge company commissary (known as The Big Store) which contained general merchandise and drug stores as well as a post office. A bank opened in 1910 and a movie theatre and bakery in 1911. The community also had an ice house, several saloons, and at least three hotels. Some of these businesses eventually spilled over into residential areas.

Main Street served as the central north-south axis of the town and tied the commercial establishments and boarding houses for unmarried workers at its head to the two-story residences along its spine. Although tradition suggests that only company executives would have lived in these relatively large houses, the company built far more of these structures than it had managers to occupy them. Loggers and mill workers who could not be housed on Main Street lived in smaller dwellings on East and West Streets. These roadways paralleled Main and formed the last links in the town's geometric grid. Like other company towns of the era, Garyville was segregated. Originally, its white families lived on West and Main Streets while its black families lived on East. However, a need for additional dwelling space almost immediately required the company to create new residential streets outside the original grid. All of the houses were built and owned by Lyon and rented to its employees. The company also provided churches and schools within the residential neighborhoods.

As the size and facilities of Garyville suggest, the Lyon Cypress Lumber Company prospered for over twenty-five years. Although early production figures are rare and contradictory, available sources suggest that the company produced between 70,000 and 100,000 board feet of cypress lumber each day. Parish business authorities soon ranked Lyon as St. John's second largest industry, a

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rank it held until production eventually ceased. By 1915 loggers had so diminished the supply of cypress that the company decided to convert to pine production. It changed its name to the Lyon Lumber Company, remodeled the mill, purchased extensive pine stands in Livingston and St. Helena parishes, founded the city of Livingston, and extended the Garyville Northern Railroad northward to serve the new community and the surrounding logging areas. At this time the railroad added a passenger and a freight car to its rolling stock and began carrying the United States mail. The remodeled factory was the second largest pine mill in the state and apparently claimed to be the second largest in the world. It produced approximately 225,000 feet of lumber per day and usually employed an average of 900 persons. During the 1921-22 reporting cycle, it increased employment to 1200. Available payroll figures are also contradictory, but the company may have averaged a \$1,062,000 payroll yearly. A total of 87,000 carloads of lumber left Garyville for outside markets between 1903 and 1931.

The beginning of the end for the Garyville sawmill came between 1926 and 1928, when two huge fires destroyed many of the company's storage sheds and millions of feet of dressed lumber. Evidence is contradictory concerning the possibility of damage to the planing mill, but if damage did occur it was repaired and production continued. However, the company's timber stands were near exhaustion. After cutting one last cypress tree, at 1,283 years of age one of the oldest in the state, the Lyon Lumber Company ended production in the summer of 1931.

In 1931 or 1932, W. J. Stebbins, former manager of Lyon's Garyville facility, purchased the remaining equipment and company houses. Stebbins operated a lumber and salvage business on a greatly reduced scale. By 1945 a new sawmill, the DeHass Dimitry Company, was operating in Garyville. Beginning in the 1940s the old Lyon Lumber Company houses were placed on the market.

The year 1931 definitely represents the end of an era in Garyville and hence is a natural place to end the period of significance for the district. Although the lumber industry did not end abruptly with the demise of the Lyon Lumber Company, and in fact continued for many years, it was definitely a shadow of its former self. The "golden age" of the lumber industry in Garyville is clearly the 1903-1931 period of the Lyon Lumber Company. Also, documentation for Garyville's post-Lyon lumber history is very scarce, which is yet another reason for not extending the period of significance any further. Finally, any date other than 1931 would be arbitrary. The lumber industry in Garyville continued, albeit on a modest scale, for almost another thirty years, and there is really no date within this period that would be a natural or obvious benchmark for illustrating the significance.

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Garyville's statewide National Register significance lies in the fact that so few of Louisiana's lumber mill towns have survived even partially intact. Because of the generally practiced policy of companies to "cut and run," most communities were either dismantled and moved or abandoned and overrun by vegetation. Most of those that survived the decline of the lumber industry redeveloped, losing most if not all of their original character. As a result, there are only four or five sawmill towns which survive with any degree of integrity.

Despite the loss of several important buildings, the community retains its company headquarters office (now a rare building type in Louisiana), its bank, its livery stable (also a rare type), several other commercial buildings, and its grid-like plan. It also retains a surprising number of workers' houses. These houses are especially noteworthy, for most still closely resemble the houses the workers knew. Additionally, the tracks which still dissect the community's main east/west thoroughfare graphically illustrate the importance of the railroad in mill town life. In summary, the rarity, importance, and historic quality of the Garyville Historic District all serve to reinforce its National Register eligibility.

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# GARYVILLE, L.A.

## Historic District

St. John the Baptist Parish



### LEGEND:



1903 - 1910



1911 - 1920



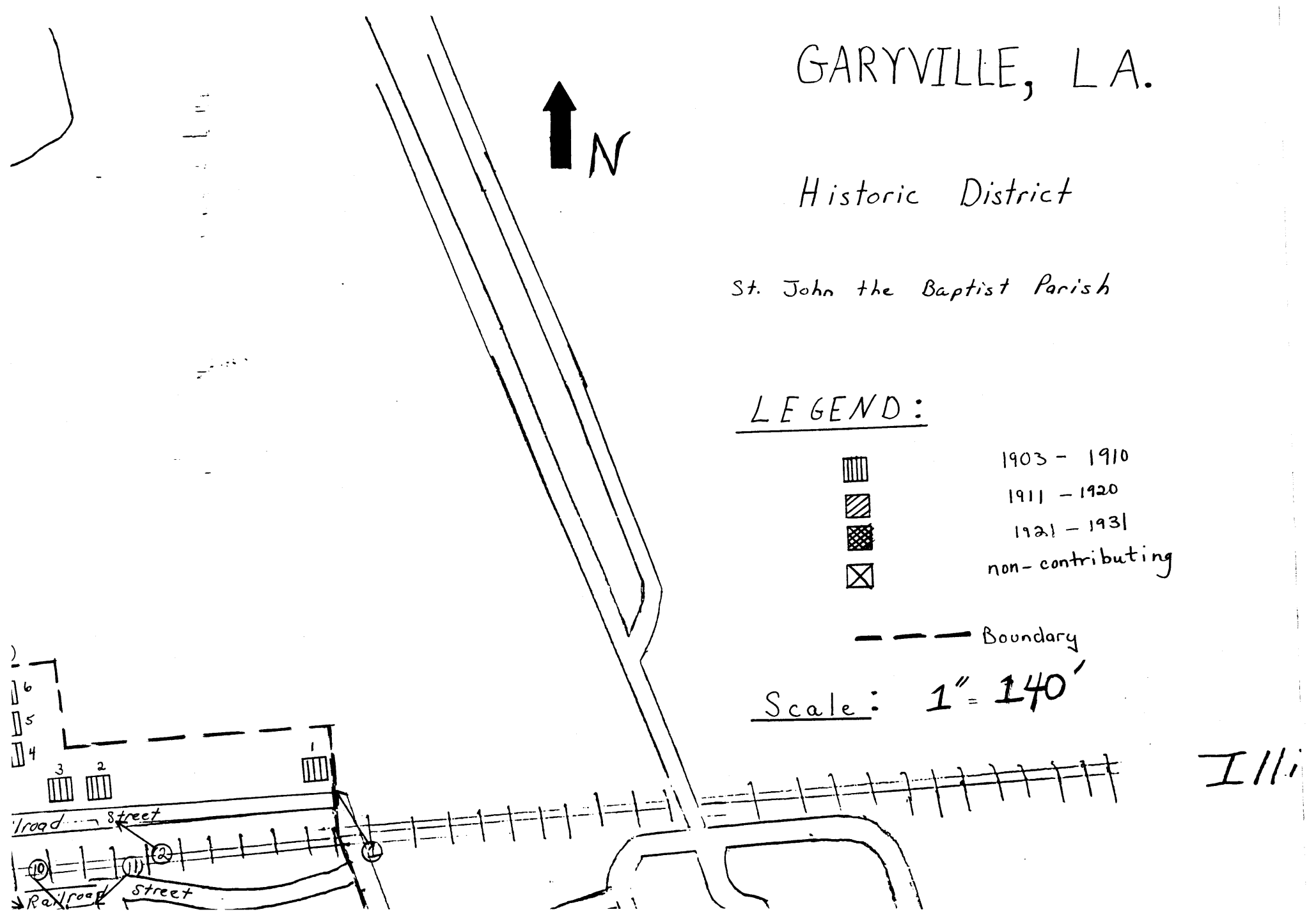
1921 - 1931



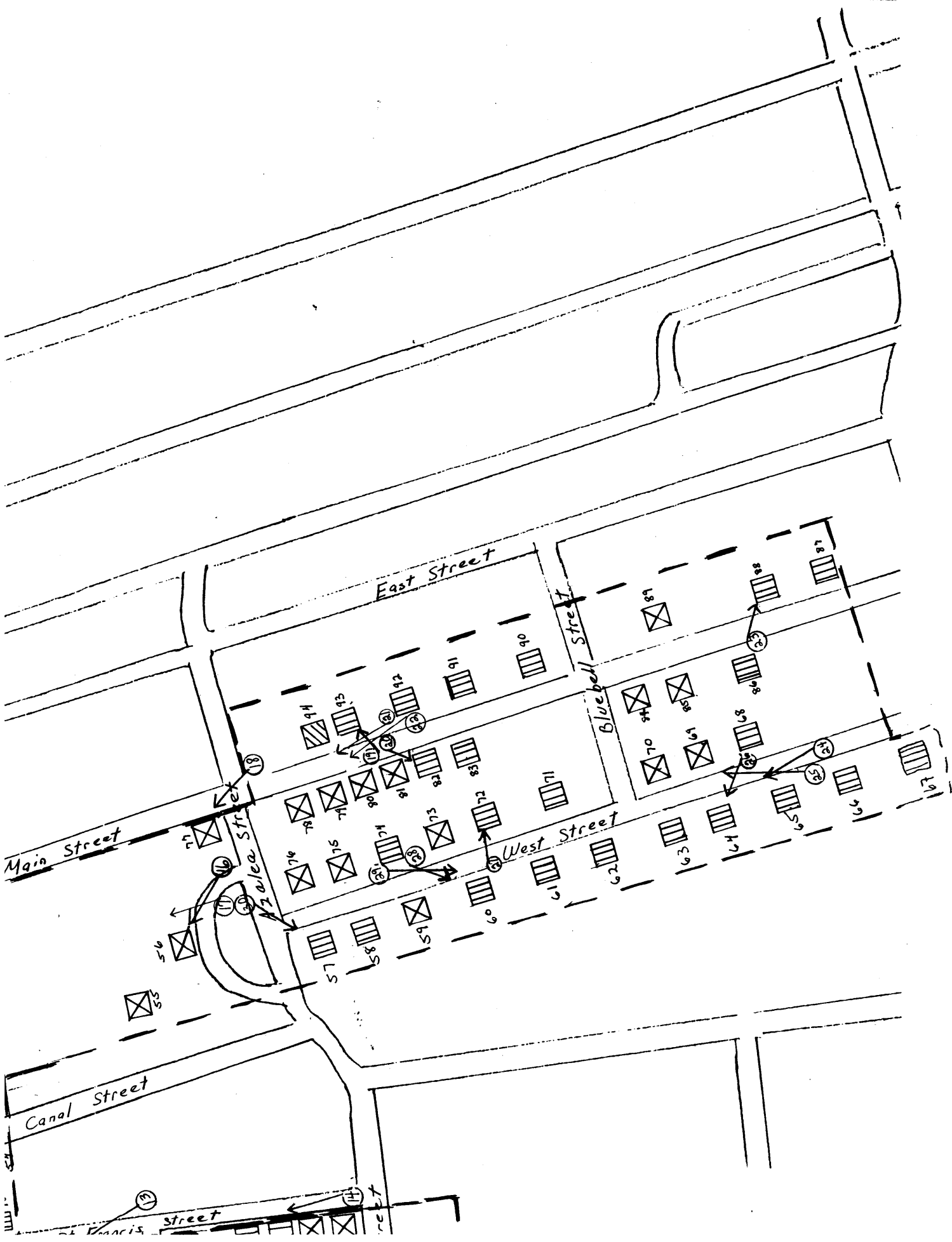
non-contributing

--- Boundary

Scale: 1" = 140'



III





S

