

1044

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 03 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 St. Landry Lumber Company
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 215 N. Railroad Ave. N/A not for publication
city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county St. Landry code 097 zip code 70570

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>6</u>	<u>0</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 June 30, 1989
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept of Culture, Recreation and 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. 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): _____

William Byrne Entered in the National Register 6/7/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Revival (office bldg)no style (remaining bldgs)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboard; metal

roof tinother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Landry Lumber Company is a late nineteenth/early twentieth century retail lumberyard located on a linear strip of land between the railroad and North Railroad Avenue to the west of downtown Opelousas. There are four buildings attached in a "U" shape and two large rectangular sheds to the south (see sketch map). The complex is amazingly intact, and hence easily conveys its historical significance.

St. Landry Lumber's developmental history, which can be traced with Sanborn maps and a historic photo, is somewhat complicated and will be dealt with building by building. Suffice it to say that the present appearance is basically the same as it was in 1912, with one relatively small exception.

Office Building (Building A on attached map)

The centerpiece of St. Landry Lumber is a two story Queen Anne Revival residential-looking building constructed in about 1890. Sanborn maps for 1885 and 1892 do not show the appropriate section of Opelousas, but the 1896 map clearly shows the present building as the office of what was then J. T. Stewarts Lumberyard. (It was St. Landry Lumber by the 1912 Sanborn map and was acquired by the present owner's family in the 1920s.)

The office building is fairly elaborate in massing and detailing considering its functional use. It has a cutaway bay facade under a wide crowning gable. The first story of the bay is surmounted by a skirting roof with prominent corner overhangs which echo the overhanging corners on the main frontal gable. Both sets of overhanging corners are supported by large elaborate scrollsawn brackets. In addition, the skirting roof culminates in a projecting ornamental gable over the front door. Both this gable and the larger main gable feature scrollsawn vergeboards. The main gable is additionally ornamented with various patterns of imbricated shingles as is the upper portion of the skirting roof. Finally, the various overhanging corners are marked by hanging pendants. Windows are two over two plate glass.

The ground floor interior's most prominent feature is a balustrade cordoning off the cash register area. Some of the beaded board walls have been covered in the front room, but they remain intact in the rear room. The walls of the rear room are fitted with shelving.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Landry Lumber Company, Opelousas, St. Landry Parish

Section number 7 Page 1

Building B:

This building is the exception to the previous general statement that the complex presents its 1912 appearance. Originally a single story open lumber shed, it was enclosed with clapboards, enlarged slightly, and given a second story sometime between 1912 and 1921.

Building C:

This is an enormous vertical board sided lumber barn built between 1907 and 1912. It has a central enclosed driveway between lumber stalls and is surmounted by a monitor roof.

Building D:

This single story, gable roof, clapboard lumber shed existed as part of the complex in 1912. By 1921 the gable roof had been raised and the shed had acquired a second story with an elevated catwalk across the complex to the new second story of Building B. Sometime before 1927, the catwalk was removed, and sometime after 1927 the second story was removed, the roof was lowered, and the building resumed its original appearance. (This conclusion is based by comparing the Sanborn maps, a c.1910 photo and the building's present appearance.)

Building E:

This frame gable roof lumber shed first appears on the 1896 Sanborn map. The present corrugated metal siding probably dates from about 1930.

Building F:

This gabled vertical board sided lumber shed was added to the complex sometime between 1897 and 1907.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

St. Landry Lumber Company, Opelousas, St. Landry Parish

Section number 7 Page 2

WH
337838



c. 1910 photo of St. Landry Lumber Co.

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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

industry

c.1890-c.1930

~~c.1890-c.1930~~

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 St. Landry Lumber Company Lumberyard is of statewide significance in the area of industry because it is one of few resources left to represent the great Louisiana lumber boom. This immensely important economic force produced many structures, buildings, and towns, but relatively little has survived.

Lumber production in Louisiana was negligible until the late nineteenth century, when the industry began a steady climb to the top. The boom years are loosely defined as c.1890 to c.1930, with the meteoric growth occurring in the first two decades of the twentieth century. By 1920 Louisiana ranked second in production nationwide, although the industry was already on a downward curve. The 1920s is largely a decade of decline as the previously vast timber resources played out. During the boom years the Louisiana landscape was dotted with sawmills, many of them quite huge. For example, in 1909 there were as many as 641 operating in the state. The lumber boom was made possible by a simultaneous upsurge in railroad construction and embraced virtually the entire state.

Sanborn maps, company records, old photos, and other primary sources are available to document the look of the lumber boom landscape. The pattern of development was for lumber companies to either locate their mill complex on the edge of an existing town or build their own town, complete with a commissary, housing, an office building, churches, schools, an opera house, etc. In addition, there were logging camps with makeshift houses. Finally, although Louisiana's lumber was shipped nationwide, it was also sold at retail lumberyards across the state.

In the historic period the Louisiana landscape was replete with hundreds of sawmill complexes, scores of sawmill towns with all their related buildings, logging camps, and retail lumberyards. Given the pervasiveness of the lumber boom and the vast number of associated resources, it is amazing how little is left. Historic sawmills were demolished once they had outlived their usefulness, and the State Historic Preservation Office is aware of only one left in the state. Lumber company towns were once about everywhere, ranging in size from Bogalusa, home of the "world's largest sawmill," to smaller communities such as

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Opelousas, 1885, 1892, 1896, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1921, 1927.
Historic photo of St. Landry Lumber.

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 @ 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	5	8	7	5	0	0
Zone				Easting			

3	3	7	8	3	0	0
Northing						

C

B

Zone				Easting			

Northing							

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to enclosed sketch map. As shown, the northern boundary is Grolee St., the western boundary is the railroad, the southern boundary is Bellevue St., and the eastern boundary is Railroad Avenue.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Boundary lines follow the above mentioned natural boundaries to encompass the extent of St. Landry Lumber. These also happen to be the property lines.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1989
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

St. Landry Lumber Company, Opelousas, St. Landry Parish

Section number 8 **Page** 1

Clarks in Caldwell Parish. The State Historic Preservation Office has identified only about a half dozen historic sawmill towns to survive with any degree of integrity. Some no longer exist at all, while others retain just a few scattered buildings from the historic period. Commissaries, once the focal point of a sawmill town, are very few in number (probably less than six).

It is against this background that the significance of the St. Landry Lumber Company Lumberyard should be measured. Although historic retail lumberyards may not be as directly associated with the lumber boom as a mill, company town, or a commissary, they nonetheless represent a component of the phenomenon. They marketed the mills' lumber locally, and given the amount of wood construction that occurred in Louisiana at the time, there must have been at least one in any good-size town. Although a study of the subject has not been made, the State Historic Preservation Office staff has traveled the state extensively over the last dozen years and knows of no other historic lumberyard complex. Indeed, it is quite amazing that St. Landry Lumber has survived to this day with the same appearance it had in the 1920s. Given the rarity of resources connected in any way with the lumber industry, the State Historic Preservation Office feels St. Landry Lumber is an excellent candidate for the National Register.

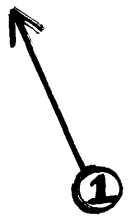
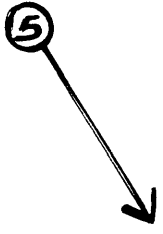
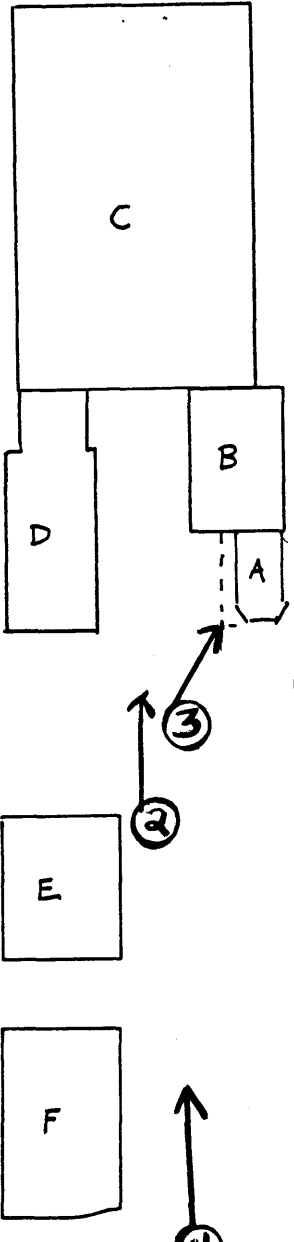
Note: The period of significance for the St. Landry Lumber Company Lumberyard is defined as c.1890 - c.1930, the years of the lumber boom it represents.

GROLEE ST.

ST. LANDRY
LUMBER CO.
OPELOUSAS,
ST. LANDRY
PARISH LA.

WH
337838

RAILROAD



BELLEUE ST.

N. RAILROAD AVE



--- BOUNDARY

SCALE 1" = 50'