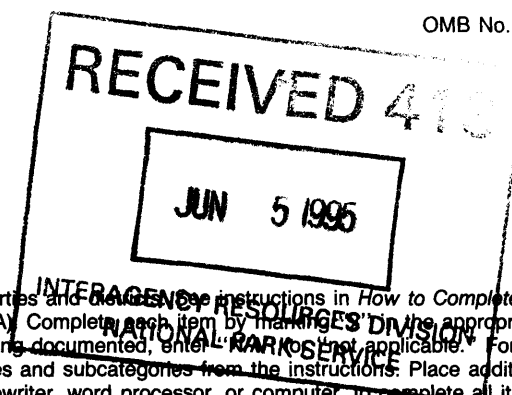


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" if not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lewis & Taylor Lumberyard Office

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 403 East Louisiana Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Rayne N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Acadia code 001 zip code 70578

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 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] June 2, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title W. Edwin Martin, Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 7/14/95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Eastlake

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

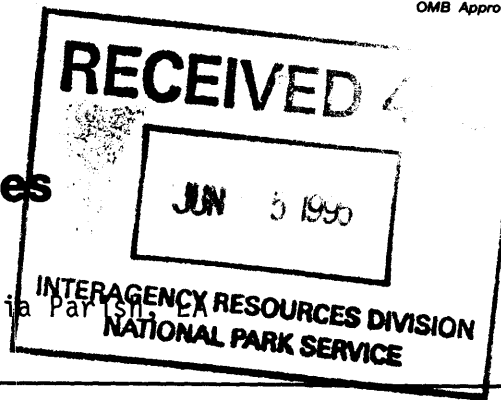
walls weatherboard

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office, Rayne, Acadia Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The Lewis & Taylor Lumberyard Office is a c. 1900 one story frame shotgun-type structure. The exact date of construction is unknown. It could have been built anytime between 1894, when the property was acquired by a lumber company, and 1903, when it first appears on a Sanborn map. (The 1898 Sanborn map does not show the appropriate section of town.) Except for its restrained Eastlake gallery, the building is extremely plain and cannot be attributed to any specific architectural style. Located at the edge of the central business district of the Acadia Parish community of Rayne, the recently rehabilitated structure faces a busy railroad track which bisects the CBD. Although the building has experienced a very short move from its nearby original site, it remains eligible for National Register listing.

Lewis & Taylor was one of a series of lumberyards which served the Rayne area at least as far back as 1885. Originally part of a compound located on the south side of the railroad corridor at the corner of Texas and Parkerson, the office building was moved to the north side of the railroad and one block to the east (see map) by Louis Privat, who purchased the lumberyard in 1913. Privat planned to construct a larger office building on the site and had done so by at least 1926, as shown on a Sanborn map of that date. (The candidate is shown in its present location on 1926 and 1933 maps.) Although it no longer has its related lumberyard buildings, the Lewis & Taylor office remains within sight of the railroad track and the Rayne central business district of which the office was a part.

The structure is one room wide and three rooms deep. The rear room is a few feet wider than the other two so that it can connect with the gallery attached to the building's facade and west side elevation. Eastlake elements found on this gallery include turned columns, brackets suggestive of the wheel motif, ball drop ornaments, and bands of sawtooth ornament outlining the roofline. The building's main door appears to be original. It features twin arched glass panes above rectangular wooden panels. Three other original entrances (two on the side gallery and one within the back wall of the rear room) survive. Although now very difficult to see because of over-painting, the words "Lewis & Taylor" are etched into the building's front gable.

On the interior, the front room features horizontally laid beaded boards above a vertical beaded board wainscot. The two are separated by a simple chair rail. Door and window surrounds in this room are molded, with bull's eye blocks anchoring the top corners of each surround. Interestingly, the two corner blocks on each surround match each other but do not match the others in the room. It is not known whether this treatment was done on

Continued

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office, Rayne, Acadia Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

purpose to display some of the lumberyard's products or was simply the result of using scrap materials during construction. Beaded boards also cover the walls in the central room, as well as the ceilings of the central and rear spaces. The walls of the rear room are sheathed in flush boards.

The Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office on the exterior looks much as it did originally, with the principal alterations being the removal of one window, one door, and a stoop with a shed roof from the east side of the structure (per a historic photograph). These changes may well have occurred at the time of the move. Also, two small windows have been added at the rear of the east side elevation. Minor alterations include the replacement of two broken two-light transoms with clear glass panes by stained glass panels and the installation of shutters on all windows. The building was deteriorated when the present owner acquired it. The damaged porch floor and some of the sawtooth ornament have been replaced, and each of the Eastlake columns has had its bottom portion boxed in to provide extra support to the damaged wood. Some of the rear siding has been replaced, and a storm door has been installed on the rear entrance. On the interior, the damaged ceiling of the front room has been replaced, Eastlake brackets have been installed between the front and central rooms, shelving has been added in two rooms, French doors have been installed between the central and rear rooms, and the rear room has been subdivided to create a bathroom space on its east side. The central room has received kitchen cabinets and other kitchen appliances. In accomplishing these changes and repairs, the owner has been careful to either preserve or replicate historic materials whenever possible.

Assessment of Integrity:

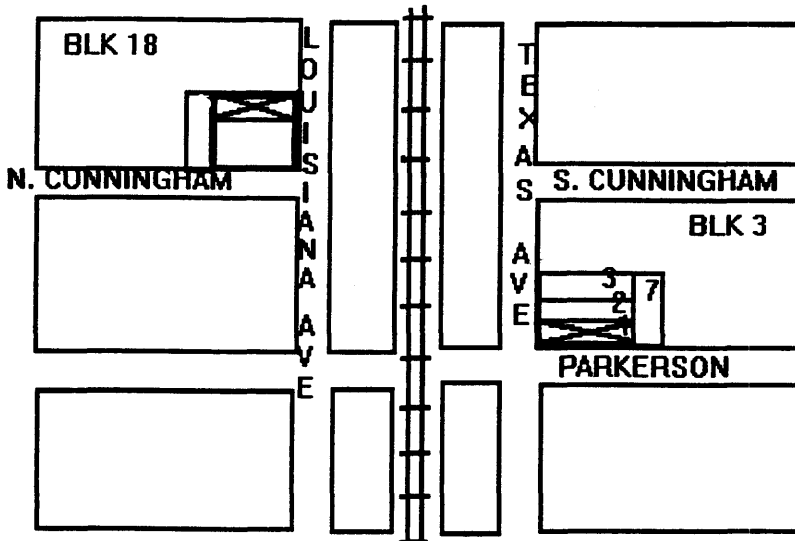
Despite the above changes, the building on the exterior looks much as it did originally. Although moved a short distance and no longer retaining its associated lumberyard structures, the building has such a distinctive appearance (i.e., a shotgun with an L-shaped porch) that it would be immediately recognizable to someone from the historic period as the old Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office, Rayne, Acadia Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3



**Block 18 is where house is now.
Block 3 is where house was moved from.**

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.)

- 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

commerce

Period of Significance

c.1900; c.1900-c.1915

Significant Dates

c.1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	5	7	0	7	0	0	3	3	4	4	9	8	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

2

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4

Zone		Easting					Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date May 1995

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kenny M. Guidry

street & number 8325 Roberts Cove Road telephone 318-334-2477 (work)
318-334-2042 (home)

city or town Rayne state LA zip code 70578

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office, Rayne, Acadia Parish

Section number 8 Page 1

The Lewis & Taylor Lumberyard Office Building is locally significant in the area of commerce because it is a rare survivor to represent the early look of the Rayne CBD. Frame commercial buildings such as the Lewis & Taylor office represent a clearly discernible chapter in the evolution of small town commercial sectors in the state, as explained below. The building is also a rare surviving lumberyard-related resource within a several parish area in South Louisiana. The period of significance in this respect, c.1900 to c.1915, corresponds to the building's use as a lumberyard office.

Like many towns across Louisiana, Rayne came into being when the railroad arrived in the area. In 1880, the Louisiana Western Railroad bypassed the nearby hamlet of Pouppeville. Dr. William H. Cunningham, a railroad employee, purchased land along the route and established a new town named Rayne Station after railroad official B. W. L. Rayne. Town lots went on sale in November 1880. As occurred so often in similar cases, the merchants of Pouppeville physically relocated their stores to the new community, as did church officials with their building. The town incorporated on March 20, 1883, while its first newspaper was founded in 1886. In that year the citizens of southwestern St. Landry Parish voted to break off from the mother parish and establish a new parish known as Acadia. Although most people assumed that Rayne, as the most important town in the area, would become the new parish seat, the honor eventually went to the rival town of Crowley. However, with a strong economy based on rice and lumber production, Rayne continued to flourish.

The development of the central business district which resulted from this prosperity was similar to that in other Louisiana towns of the period. The general trend was for the first generation of commercial structures to be of frame construction. These buildings were gradually supplanted by brick replacements as fires destroyed early buildings, city leaders passed laws requiring "fireproof" brick construction, and growing prosperity allowed merchants to invest in finer buildings. This pattern can clearly be seen in Rayne. Its first generation of commercial structures consisted of one and two story frame buildings which lined both sides of the east-to-west railroad corridor. This is verified by the 1898 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map--the first available for the town. Rayne suffered from a series of six devastating fires between 1900 and 1920. The first fire (1902) took five commercial structures, while two 1903 conflagrations destroyed an entire block plus at least eight more buildings. A 1908 fire took a large rice mill and mercantile warehouse, while a 1909 fire destroyed an important local department store. Finally, a 1917 explosion and fire destroyed a large hotel.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lewis & Taylor Lumberyard Office, Rayne, Acadia Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

Rayne received its first brick building (the Rayne State Bank) in 1901 and three more in 1902. The 1903 Sanborn map shows five masonry structures within the business district. By the time the 1933 Sanborn map was prepared, approximately half of the buildings in the central business district were of masonry construction. Today, there is little left to represent the early frame building look of the Rayne CBD. The majority of historic buildings are second or third generation brick structures. The candidate and possibly one other building survive to illustrate the early commercial look of Rayne. (There are three or four other frame commercial buildings in the CBD but they are clearly from the 1930s or perhaps even slightly later.)

The Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office is also locally significant in the area of commerce as a rare surviving resource associated with the retail sale of lumber during the great Louisiana lumber boom. Lumber production in the state was negligible until the late nineteenth century, when the industry began a steady climb to preeminence. 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 and lumber company towns. Often overlooked in an analysis of lumber boom related resources are lumberyards. Although the state's timber was shipped nationwide, it, of course, was also sold at retail lumberyards across the state as Louisianians embarked upon a feverish pace of building. (A large number of the state's towns came into being in this period and old towns received new buildings in the latest styles.) Sanborn maps from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show that even small towns had at least one lumberyard, and often two or three. Lumberyard compounds typically consisted of a prominent office building, various lumber sheds and sometimes a separate building to sell a specific product such as sashes or doors. Today extremely few lumberyard related resources survive. For example, the SHPO staff, which has traveled and worked extensively in the region, knows of only three such properties in a several parish area in southern Louisiana (the candidate, a complete lumberyard complex in Opelousas, and a large lumber shed in Abbeville). Although the Lewis and Taylor building has been moved a short distance, no longer has its lumber sheds and has been in residential use for some time, there is no question that someone from the historic period would recognize it, given its distinctive appearance, as noted in the assessment of integrity in Part 7.

CONTINUED

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard Office, Rayne, Acadia Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 3
9 1
10 1

Additional Historical Note:

After its c. 1915 move to the north side of the railroad, the Lewis & Taylor Lumberyard Office served as a private residence. It is now used as a bed and breakfast inn.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fontenot, Mary Alice, and Freeland, Paul B. Acadia Parish, Louisiana: A History to 1900, Vol. 1. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1976.

Fontenot, Mary Alice. Acadia Parish, Louisiana: A History to 1920, Vol. II. Lafayette, Louisiana: Acadiana Press, 1979.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, 1898, 1903, 1909, 1926, 1933.

Conveyance Records, Acadia Parish.

Historic photo showing Lewis and Taylor Lumberyard, copy in National Register file, Division of Historic Preservation.

Legal boundary description: "That certain lot and fractional lots of ground known and designated as Lot 3 and the east half of Lots 2 and 7 of Block 18 of the Cunningham Division to the City of Rayne, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, as per plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Clerk of Court of Acadia Parish, Louisiana."

Boundary justification: Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of land upon which resource is located.