United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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OMB NO. 1998 .

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

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city, town	Broussard	N <u>/A</u> vicinity of	eengreecional-dictrict-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
state	LA code	22 county	Lafayette Parish	code 055
3. Clas	ssification			
Category _X_ district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture X commercial A educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X_ private residence religious scientific transportation other:
street & number		vicinity of	state	
5. Loca	ation of Lega			
courthouse, reg	istry of deeds, etc. La	fayette Parish Cou	rthouse	
street & number	Buchanan and Main	Streets (no specif	ic address) P.O.	Box 2009
city, town	Lafayette		state	LA 70502
6. Rep	resentation i	n Existing	Surveys	
itle Historic	al Sites Inventory,	Lafavosto has this pro	nerty been determined elig	uble? ves X no
	Parish 2 volum			
prepared	1976 and June 1977 by Lafayette Region	al Planning Commis	federalstate	e <u>X</u> county <u>Iocal</u>
,	urvey records Lafayette	-		
city, town	Lafayette		state	A

7. Description

Condition excellent fair 	Check one unaltered X_ altered	Check one X_ original site moved dateN/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Broussard Multiple Resource Area consists of ten individually nominated buildings and a five building district. All but one of the fifteen date from the turn-of-the-century (c.1890-c.1910), and the majority are Queen Anne Revival residences. Except for those in the district, the buildings in question are scattered throughout the small semirural crossroads community of Broussard. None have been seriously altered; hence there is no integrity problem.

Broussard, an open semirural community of about 3,000 people, is located in the flat canefield country of southern Lafayette Parish. When incorporated in 1884, Broussard was a remote village; however, today the town is directly in the path of the rapidly expanding city of Lafayette, which is presently experiencing an oil boom. It is thought that within a few years Broussard will be engulfed by suburban development.

The town retains the type of broad and open feeling, with widely spaced buildings, which would have characterized a typical turn-of-the-century crossroads community. However, in the past twenty-five years the historic semirural cohesiveness of the community has been violated by the construction of numerous modern buildings and the demolition of several older structures. As a result, what would undoubtedly have been considered a worthy historic district has been badly fragmented. What remains is a number of landmark turn-of-the-century structures (mainly residences) set amid an infill mixture of modest turn-of-the-century/ early twentieth century structures and glaring modern buildings.

After making numerous on-site visits and reviewing the survey, the State Historic Preservation Office was of the unanimous opinion that the old part of town, as a whole, did not constitute an eligible Register district. If such an area had been cordoned off, it would have had an intrusion rate of about fifty percent. But this was not the only problem. Many of the intrusions are large and some are set directly next to the sidewalk. This is in contrast to the town's historic structures, most of which are set back in large well treed yards. Hence demolition, distances between historic structures, and prominent intrusions have eliminated almost all vestiges of the cohesive turn-of-the-century architectural character which the old part of Broussard at one time had. This cohesive character would have been the only possible basis for an overall historic district nomination for the town. Because it no longer existed, the staff concluded that a large historic district nomination for the greater part of old Broussard was not possible.

There is, however, one small remaining area where the turn-of-the-century structures still dominate the scene. This is a small district consisting of five historic structures set either side of Main Street in the center of town. The three large frame residences dominate the district's two small commercial buildings. This is an important aspect of the district because it shows that small crossroads communities at the turn-of-the-century often had no commercial main street as such. "Main Street" was often as much residential as commercial, and the residences were often more impressive.

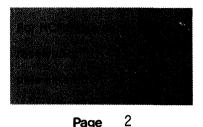
Although the town of Broussard dates back to the 1870's, its most conspicuous development took place between c.1890 and c.1910. This turn-of-the-century growth spurt replaced most of what existed before and created the town's present architectural heritage. In many ways this growth reflected a contemporaneous boom in the production of sugar which affected much of southern Louisiana. In Broussard that prosperity was generated by the massive

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number

Area

7



7. Description (continued)

Billeaud Sugar Mill which was substantially improved and enlarged in 1889. (The mill is not included in the nomination because it is outside of the town limits.) The products of this economic boom can be seen today in the following resources being nominated: eight substantial frame Queen Anne Revival houses, three late Italianate frame commercial buildings, one late Italianate residence, one frame commercial vernacular store, and a large brick school building which reflects the late Italianate taste. (The home of the founder of Broussard is also included in the nomination even though it dates from c.1876.)

These architectural products of the sugar boom are somewhat isolated in time. The town had grown to the level its prosperity would support by about 1910. After that time little of consequence was built. Construction in Broussard did not begin again until the 1960's when oil prosperity began to introduce commercial intrusions into the area, as previously described.

Architectural Character

All but four of the multiple resource area's fifteen buildings fit into one of the following two categories:

I. The Queen Anne Revival Residences:

These share the following characteristics:

- a) Each is of frame construction.
- b) Each has one principal story however high it is raised and however much space the garret may have.
- c) Each has galleries.
- d) Each has an unusually large amount of typical turn-of-thecentury manufactured ornamental detailing.
- e) Each is in a good state of architectural integrity.

In addition, most have large lots but with only a modest setback.

II. The Late Italianate Commercial Buildings:

Most of these share the following characteristics:

- a) Each is set directly along the street front.
- b) Each is a frame structure with a pressed tin facade.
- c) Each has a relatively elaborate cornice line for a small commercial structure.
- d) Each is in a good state of integrity.

THE SURVEY:

The foundation for the Broussard survey is a two volume historical sites inventory

CONTINUED

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Page 3

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 7

7. Description (continued)

of Lafayette Parish prepared by the Lafayette Regional Planning Commission under the auspices of the Lafayette Council of Governments. The first volume, which covers structures built before 1880, was published in June of 1976. The second volume, which covers the period 1880 to 1920, was published in June of 1977. A photograph, written description, historical sketch, and bibliography are provided for each building inventoried. The project was funded through a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The actual survey work was done by the following professional planners who were on the staff of the planning commission at the time: Albert C. Sonnier, Jr., F. Michael Hollier, Gregory K. Moroux, Mariano Alesi, L. Edward Castille III, Lorna Guynn, Daniel Higginbotham, Barbara Hebert, and Vilma Rodriguez.

The above two volumes of survey data were supplemented with a survey of Broussard conducted by the State Historic Preservation Office in the summer of 1981. This was necessary for two reasons. Firstly, the aforementioned document concluded with the year 1920, rather than the National Register fifty year cutoff. Secondly, it was found to be incomplete for the years it covered. Hence, it was necessary for the State Historic Preservation Office, assisted by local citizens and with the cooperation of the city government, to fill in these "gaps."

In preparing this nomination, the State Historic Preservation Office carefully evaluated each 50+ year old building within the Broussard town limits and selected those for which a plausible case could be made for architectural or historical significance on at least the local level. For reasons which have already been explained, a large district was ruled out. With only one exception, those properties selected were so chosen because of their demonstrable architectural significance. The one exception, the Valsin Broussard House, was selected for its historical significance as the home of the founder of the town. The reason for this solitary selection was that nothing else of historical significance (as opposed to architectural) remains within the town limits of Broussard, Nothing survives in the town from prior to 1876. After that time, the only major historical developmental focus of the community was the Billeaud Sugar Mill, which is outside the town limits, and hence could not be considered for this submission.

NB: The survey forms for the individually nominated buildings were revised by the State Historic Preservation Office. However, the survey forms for the buildings within the Main Street District were not revised because it was decided that they contained enough information to suffice for a district inventory.

8. Significance

Specific dates c. 1876; c. 1890-c. 1910 Builder/Architect Multiple Resources

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria B and C

Broussard's architecturally significant resources are all outstanding examples of turn-of-the-century architecture on at least the local level. They represent most types of structures which would normally be found in a prosperous crossroads community of the period. Taken as a whole, they represent Lafayette Parish's finest collection of turn-of-the-century structures. In addition, the Valsin Broussard House, is locally significant in the area of exploration/settlement because it was the home of the founder of the town (see survey form).

The superiority of Broussard's turn-of-the-century architecture within the context of Lafayette Parish is obvious to even the most casual observer. Other collections in the parish pale in comparison. Other small towns such as Carencro, Scott, and Youngsville each have a few (less than five) above average examples of turn-of-thecentury architecture; however, in most cases, the residential examples are noticeable only because of their applied manufactured ornamentation. Lafayette, one of the state's larger cities and the parish seat, has a large number of turn-of-the-century residences, but the vast majority are plain and unpretentious. Again, in most cases, the above average examples are so considered because of manufactured ornamentation. For example, as far as the State Historic Preservation Office can determine, there are only two examples in Lafayette that even have turrets. As far as turn-of-the-century commercial architecture is concerned, the parish has only about twelve or so examples.

By comparison, Broussard is significant because it contains, especially for a small town, so many first-rate examples of turn-of-the-century architecture. The collection is noteworthy not for its size, but for the superiority of each individual example. There are only four known examples of Italianate commercial buildings remaining in the parish, and three of these are in Broussard. St. Cecilia School and 106 Pierre Street are two more rare surviving examples of the Italianate taste in Lafayette Parish. (Most of the parish's 50+ year old buildings reflect later styles.) As has already been noted, the superiority of noteworthy examples of Queen Anne Revival residences in other towns in the parish rests largely upon the application of manufactured ornamentation (for example, Eastlake porches). By contrast, the superiority of the examples in Broussard rests additionally upon their elaborate massing and upon the variety of specific features employed on each residence (turrets, cupolas, multiple gables, projecting bays, double columns, stained glass, etc.).

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 8 Area

Page 2

8. Significance (continued)

If one considers the overall architectural significance of Broussard's nominated buildings, two themes emerge. These are the Queen Anne Revival as applied to residential architecture and the late Italianate style as applied to commercial, residential and institutional architecture.

I. The Queen Anne Revival

The eight nominated Queen Anne Revival residences of Broussard are among the twenty-four finest examples of period residential architecture in Lafayette Parish. (These twenty-four were chosen from a total survey count of 111 late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences for the entire parish. Actually this 111 figure is probably low.)

Queen Anne Revival architecture in Louisiana is known for the following characteristics:

- (1) elaborate and "picturesque" massing, particularly in the roofline;
- (2) the use of long galleries which accentuate the massing of the house;
- (3) the use of different surface materials on the same structure;
- (4) the use of different shapes and sizes of windows in the same structure; and
- (5) the use of bay windows and turrets.

Six of the nominated Queen Anne Revival residences in Broussard have broad galleries which echo the basic massing of the house. Six have areas of scalloped shingles which enliven the basic clapboard surface. In addition, three of them have at least <u>three</u> different surface materials. All the nominated Queen Anne houses have at least two forward facing gables which enliven the roofline and six of them have more than two. (This is in contrast to the usual example with its single forward facing gable.) All of Broussard's nominated Queen Anne Revival houses have at least two different windows types and five of them have at least three. Six of the nominated Queen Anne residences have at least two bay window projections and three of them have turrets with bell cast cupolas. (There is only one other Queen Anne house with a cupola in the entire parish.) Finally, all of Broussard's nominated Queen Anne houses are well above average in terms of size.

Of the 111 or more period residences in Lafayette Parish, most are simple frame Queen Anne cottages with only hesitant decorative touches. Others are late examples of raised cottages with Eastlake or Colonial Revival details. With few exceptions, these other period residences are smaller than the nominated Queen Anne Revival structures in Broussard. In addition, they are not as richly or as assiduously treated with characteristic Queen Anne Revival features.

CONTINUED

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 8

Page 3

8. Significance (continued)

II. Late Italianate Style

The Broussard Multiple Resource Area contains five Italianate structures: three tin sided commercial buildings, one residence, and one institutional building. These are significant as a group because they are among six surviving examples of the Italianate taste in Lafayette Parish. Historical research indicates that at one time there were many more examples. Most of these were lost in the redevelopment of the parish which has taken place as a result of the previously mentioned oil boom.

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 8 Area



Page 4

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BROAD HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT:

The town of Broussard is situated in the center of an area identified as Cote Gelee by the Acadians who began settling around nearby St. Martinville in the 1760's. Although French trappers and Indians lived in and around the Cote Gelee prior to this time, it was not until the exiled Acadians arrived that permanent settlement began. Some of the early families included the Broussards, Comeauxs, Landrys, Breauxs, Girouards, Menards, and LeBlancs. By the end of the century the landscape was dotted with small Acadian farms.

As the nineteenth century progressed, these farms became increasingly interspersed with ever-expanding sugar plantations as south Louisiana experienced the economic growth of large-scale agricultural production. The prosperity generated by "King Sugar" was, of course, interrupted by the Civil War, and the Cote Gelee area suffered economically along with the rest of the state.

It is in the years immediately following the war that the town of Broussard has its origins. A railroad from New Orleans to Morgan City had been completed before the war and work commenced in the late 1860's on extending the road further west toward what would become Broussard.

In 1870, perhaps anticipating the coming of the railroad, Valsin Broussard contracted with a Mr. F. J. Rosk, an engineer, to lay out a town on part of his sugar plantation. Following the drawn plans, Valsin Broussard donated the eight arpents of land on which the present Catholic church and cemetery are located. As construction of the rail line continued and reached completion to his town, Broussard donated the land for a railroad depot. The first train from New Orleans arrived at Valsin Broussard's community in 1879.

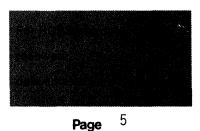
It is important to note at this point in the historical narrative that Valsin Broussard's c.1876 house is the oldest extant structure within the Broussard town limits. Nothing survives within the town limits to represent Broussard's earlier history.

The new community on Broussard's plantation began to grow as lots were sold, and in 1883 a small church was built. In 1884, the town of Broussard was duly incorporated and received a charter which provided for a government consisting of a mayor, council, clerk and marshal. In that same year the first public school was opened, having been built on land donated by Valsin Broussard. Two years after incorporation, in 1886, the town was reincorporated and a new government was put into place.

A pivotal event in Broussard's history occurred in 1889 when Martial Billeaud converted his horse powered syrup mill into a steam powered sugar factory. The new factory was constructed at a cost of \$50,000 and had a daily capacity of four hundred tons of cane. Now area sugar planters had a local mill for their product. The Billeaud Sugar Mill brought a tremendous wave of prosperity to Broussard which coincided with the previously mentioned sugar boom in southern Louisiana as a whole. All but one of the properties being nominated (the founder's home) reflect this turn-of-the-century prosperity.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 8 Area



From the early years of settlement the majority of the land in the Broussard area was cultivated with sugarcane. However, this has been changing in the last thirty or so years because the community is directly in the path of an ever-expanding Lafayette. Beginning in the 1950's, Lafayette's development as an oil center has produced an urban growth explosion. The largely agricultural sugarcane economy of the Broussard area has increasingly begun to change to a fast growth urban development. Land formerly used for agricultural purposes is now the site of subdivisions, apartments, shopping centers and industrial parks. This trend accelerated in the early 1970's. As a result, many of Broussard's Victorian and earlier homes and businesses have been torn down.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

To date there have been no official preservation activities resulting from the survey. However, the town government hopes to use the listed multiple resource package as a springboard to enact a preservation ordinance. Despite the lack of municipal action, a number of private preservation initiatives have taken place. Of the town's five most pretentious Queen Anne Revival residences, two have been converted into restaurants, one has been rehabilitated for use as a branch bank, and another has been reworked for a commercial art studio.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Research/Survey Report on Broussard's History and Historic Architecture. Prepared by Lafayette Regional Planning Commission, August, 1982. Copy located in Broussard National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

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<u>national</u> <u>state</u> <u>X</u> local the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 5), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated cording to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. ate Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert B. DeBlieux date January 26, 198)n
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Continuation sheet for other listings

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 9 Area

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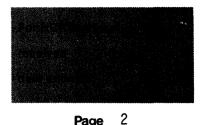
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9. Bibliography (continued)

<u>Historical Sites Inventory</u>, <u>Lafayette Parish</u>. Vol. I: June, 1976. Vol. II: June, 1977. Prepared by Lafayette Regional Planning Commission under the auspices of the Lafayette Council of Governments. Copy located in Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheetBroussard Multiple Resource Item number 10 Area



Page

10. Geographical Data

Building #XV	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-599450-3335625
Building #2 🗸	01/4 acre	UTM: 15-599550-3335600
Building #3	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-599600-3335500
Building #4 🧹	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-599650-3335425
Building #5	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-599750-3335545
Building # 6	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-599800-3335550
Building # /	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-599700-3335525
Building #81	01/4 acre	UTM: 15-599800-3335700
Building #9	01/4 acre	UTM: 15-600100-3335750
Building #10	@1/4 acre	UTM: 15-600065-3335840

Main Street Historic District:

03 acres

UTM: 15-599950-3335450

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The boundaries of all single nominated properties, except #s 5 & 8, are as follows: Each is encompassed by a rectangle the sides of which parallel the principal facades of the building at a distance of 10 feet.

Boundaries for #5 are determined by a rectangle the north and west sides of which parallel the sides of the building at a distance of 10 feet. The south and east sides follow the curblines of the adjacent sidewalks.

Boundaries for #8 are determined by a rectangle the north, south and west sides of which parallel the building facades at a distance of 10 feet. The east side is determined by the west curbline of Morgan Street.

Boundaries were drawn to encompass the resource buildings themselves. There was no reason to take in any additional land because the area has no significant landscape features.

The boundaries of the Main Street District are shown on the enclosed district sketch map.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Page

2

Continuation sheet Broussard Multiple Resource Item number 11 Area

11. Form Prepared By: (continued)

The National Register staff of the Division of Historic Preservation was assisted in the preparation of this nomination by the following:

Town of Broussard, The Honorable Charles A. Girouard, Mayor

Broussard Historic Preservation Committee, Chuck Billeaud, Chairman

Mike Hollier, Lafayette Regional Planning Commission

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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10.	St. Cecilia School		Keeper	Anda De Clelland 3/	
			Attest	accept Patrick Andrus 3/14	

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service For NPS use only **National Register of Historic Places** received **Inventory**—Nomination Form date entered 2 m 2 Page Continuation sheet Item number Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group ١ Broussard Multiple Resource Area Name Louisiana State Nomination/Type of Review Date/Signature 3/14/83 Helores Byen "11. St. Julien House Entered in the Keeper National Register Attest 12. Keeper Attest 13. Keeper Attest 14. Keeper Attest Keeper 15. Attest 16. Keeper Attest Keeper 17. Attest Keeper 18. Attest Keeper 19. Attest Keeper 20. Attest