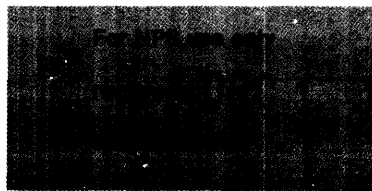


EW 10/11/82

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



982

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

1. Name

historic Jean Marie, Saux, Building; A La Renaissance des Chenes Verts; LaMothe's City
and/or common N/A Park Restaurant

2. Location

street & number 900 City Park Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of congressional district
state LA code 22 county Orleans Parish code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence (apts.)
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jack M. and Martha R. Sands
street & number 841 No. Hennessey
city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of state LA 70119

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Conveyance
street & number 421 Loyola Avenue
city, town New Orleans state LA 70112

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jean Marie Saux Building (1860) is a two-story brick commercial structure located on City Park Avenue immediately across from the original main entrance to the New Orleans City Park. The surrounding area is a prosperous upper middle class neighborhood of the period 1900-1925. Despite numerous changes, the building retains enough of its historic fabric to convey its historical associations.

The building began in 1860 as a two-story common bond brick commercial structure with two-story galleries on two sides. A coffeehouse occupied the ground story and living quarters occupied the upper story.

Features of the building which date from the mid-nineteenth century include:

- (1) The brick walls of the building.*
- (2) The truss type roof structure.*
- (3) The galleries, excluding details and columns.*
- (4) The transomed French doors on the upper gallery.*
- (5) The basic form and mass of the building.*

In the late-nineteenth century the following changes were made:

- (1) The lower story was stuccoed and the upper gallery brickwork was whitewashed.*
- (2) A corner entrance was added on the ground story.*
- (3) Cast-iron columns were installed to replace the old square wooden posts on the lower gallery.*
- (4) The galleries were extended to the east approximately thirty feet to create a large open dining area.*

In the early-twentieth century the following changes were made:

- (1) Two large plate glass shopfront windows were installed in the ground story.*
- (2) The upper gallery columns and balustrades were replaced with the support structure for a screened porch. (The screening has been removed.)*
- (3) A stuccoed extension was added to the rear of the building in an easterly direction.*

In the mid-twentieth century the following changes were made:

- (1) Walls were erected within the open dining area (created by the aforementioned gallery extension) to form an enclosed space leaving a gallery much reduced in its depth.*
- (2) The ground story was completely redecorated for a lounge.*

Assessment of Integrity: See Item 8

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1860-1930 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Jean Marie Saux

Building dates from 1860, with alterations noted in Item 7.
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Saux Building is locally significant in the area of exploration/settlement because it is a landmark in the history of the development of the City Park-Mid City residential area of New Orleans. It is the only extant resource which represents the area's entire history. Moreover, the building is inextricably linked with the City Park, which was the most important force in the development of this half square mile neighborhood. The City Park-Mid City area is roughly bounded by Bayou St. John, City Park, and the Lafitte Street railroad yard.

The New Orleans City Park initially opened in 1859, but for the first thirty years of its existence it was isolated from the city in a more or less rural setting. After the Civil War the park languished because of lack of city funding. During this period the park was largely devoted to cattle and dairy cow grazing. In 1891 the City Park Improvement Association rescued the park and redeveloped it using an Olmsted plan. During the years that followed people came to the park by the thousands. In 1899 the Park Board, in cooperation with some residents along Alexander Street, obtained a grant from the city to pave Alexander Street from Canal Street to the park entrance. The park area became fashionable, and was consequently redeveloped in the early years of this century as a densely packed upper middle class residential area. During this period, the neighborhood, which had been an underpopulated semirural area, achieved its present character with Queen Anne Revival houses and large, pretentious bungalows.

The Saux Building is the neighborhood's oldest structure by at least thirty years. Jean Marie Saux built the coffeehouse in response to the initial opening of City Park in 1859. The coffeehouse was located directly across the street from the park's main entrance. Saux foresaw a prosperous trade in selling refreshments to visitors who made the "all day" trip by mule railroad from New Orleans to the park. (The city extended a special line to service the park.) By 1860 Saux's coffeehouse and City Park were successfully in operation and were well patronized. For many, stopping for refreshments at the coffeehouse was part of the recreational experience of visiting the park.

After the Civil War, during the "lean years," the park and the Saux Building continued to operate in tandem. During the 1870's the park keeper, E. A. Peyroux, appointed Saux to oversee the park and to tend the cattle for the surrounding dairy interests. Saux also sold dry wood from the park. He was thus able to supplement his now meager income from the coffeehouse.

As the park recovered from its lean years, so did the coffeehouse. In 1893 the Saux Building was purchased by restaurateur Fernand Alciatore, the third son of Antoine Alciatore, founder of the nationally famous Antoine's Restaurant. Fernand Alciatore converted the failing coffeehouse into a first class restaurant which developed a citywide reputation. Alciatore made the described late-nineteenth century renovations. He also renamed the coffeehouse "A La Renaissance des Chenes Verts," a name essentially chosen to celebrate the reestablishment of the park. "Chenes Verts" was a reference to the park's many noteworthy live oaks. Alciatore retained ownership of the building until 1901.

CONTINUED

9. Major Bibliographical References

Research Report Prepared by Sally Evans Reeves. Copy located in Saux Building National Register File, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

NB: This report was based upon a considerable amount of research in primary sources too numerous to mention. A complete bibliography is located in the file.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .2 acre

Quadrangle name New Orleans East, La.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	8	0	0	4	5	3	1	3	2	1	0	2	1	8	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing									

B

Zone			Easting						Northing									

C

Zone			Easting						Northing									

D

Zone			Easting						Northing									

E

Zone			Easting						Northing									

F

Zone			Easting						Northing									

G

Zone			Easting						Northing									

H

Zone			Easting						Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jack M. and Martha R. Sands

organization N/A

date September 1982

street & number 841 No. Hennessey

telephone 504-486-7751

city or town New Orleans

state LA 70119

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 22, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda DeWitt
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/12/83

Attest: *Patricia Andrews*
Chief of Registration

date 1/10/83

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet *Jean Marie Saux Building* Item number *8* Page *2*

8. *Statement of Significance (Continued)*

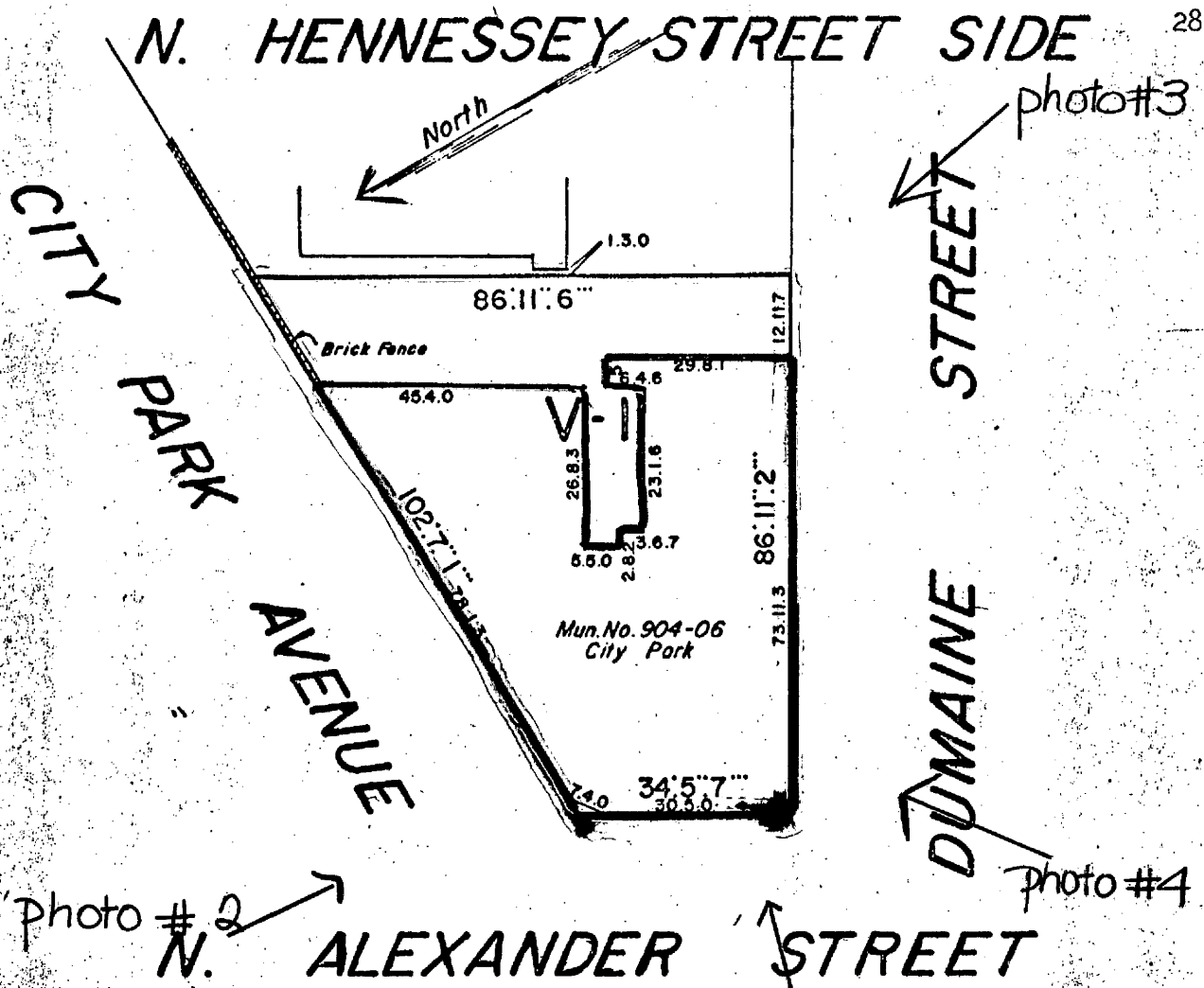
In 1912 the Saux Building was bought by the New Orleans Brewing Company, which leased it to Frank LaMothe. LaMothe was the former proprietor of "LaMothe's Restaurant and Oyster Saloon" at 137 St. Charles Street, the business that claimed to be New Orleans' oldest restaurant. LaMothe changed the Chenes Verts' name to "Lamothe's City Park Restaurant," and advertised a "fine banquet hall and accommodations for ladies" in local directories and in City Park festival programs.

The restaurant's citywide prominence ended with prohibition. After that time it was operated by a succession of owners as a purely local establishment.

The Saux Building's role as purveyor to park patrons seems to have been historically without significant competition. In any case, it is the neighborhood's only commercial type building today.

Undoubtedly the City Park-Mid City neighborhood developed because of City Park. The history of the Saux Building is so closely linked with the park that in many ways it stands for the entire history of the area. No other extant resource in the neighborhood reflects its total history the way the Saux Building does. Development in the area was started by the park in 1859, but the park was completely redeveloped in the 1890's. So the Saux Building is all that remains to represent the park's early development and subsequent decline. These are significant phases of the neighborhood's history because there could have been no blossoming of the area at the turn-of-the-century if there had not already been a city owned park ripe for redevelopment and an existing transportation corridor.

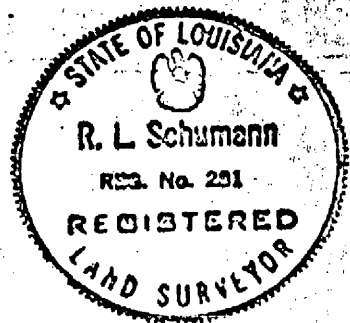
Much of the 1860 building survives, certainly enough to make it easily recognizable as a nineteenth century New Orleans galleried commercial building. But in a larger sense, changes made in the building reflect periods of growth and prosperity which coincide with the redevelopment of the park and ultimately with the blossoming of the neighborhood. The building should therefore be regarded as an architectural continuum representing the area's history from 1860 to 1930. Taken in this light, the original features plus the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century features should be considered as contributing to the property's significance.



SAUX BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS

SURVEY OF
LOT V-1
SQUARE 570
SECOND DISTRICT
ORLEANS PARISH, LA.

Made at the request of
Clarence Favret, Jr. Attorney



Nov. 17, 1971

Metairie, Louisiana
Certified Correct

R. L. Schumann
Surveyor

boundary of nominated area.

Scale: 1" = 30'