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1995

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "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 Merchants and Planters Bank

other names/site number Old LP&L District Office Building

2. Location

street & number 110 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Lockport N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Lafourche code 057 zip code 70374

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.)
Carri Hobdy 2/23/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Carri Hobdy, Date
LA SHPO, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and 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:)

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register 3/30/95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check 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 - Financial Institution

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof other: tar and gravel, tin

other

Narrative Description

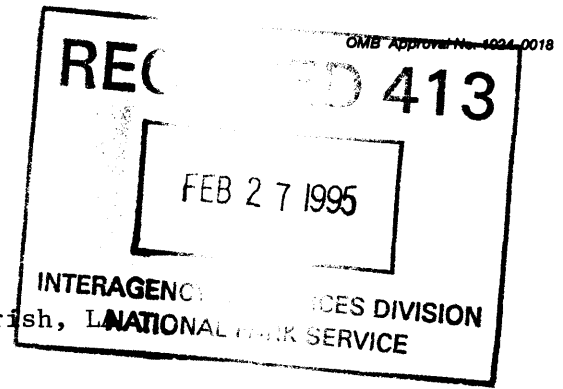
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Merchants and Planters Bank, Lockport, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1



The Merchants and Planters Bank (1910) is a two-story, masonry structure located within the Lafourche Parish community of Lockport. A restrained, vernacular interpretation of the Neo-Classical style, the brick building stands at the edge of the business district facing Bayou Lafourche near the point where the bayou and the Intracoastal Canal cross. The building has received two large additions but remains eligible for National Register listing.

The bank's corner location necessitates that two of its exterior walls be styled, and the resulting design is meant to be viewed from a three-quarter angle. It is on the building's two street-facing walls that its simple Neo-Classical details are found. They include:

- 1) thick pilasters which rise from a first floor belt course (see below) to support the parapet. Each pilaster features a molded base and capital.
- 2) a column marking the building's corner entrance, which consists of double doors standing a few feet behind the column. This column stands upon a thick brick pier which raises it to the same height from which the pilasters rise. It then rises as a free-standing column to the second story, where it becomes attached to the building's corner as an engaged column. The column's base and capital resemble those on the pilasters.

Other features of interest on the building include large recessed triple windows with accompanying transoms, a side door opening to the structure's original staircase, a watertable, window sills which extend to form the previously mentioned belt course, and two sets of narrow recessed double windows. The narrow windows are separated by a boldly corbelled brick pier, while elements resembling short pilasters rise from the top of each. The previously mentioned parapet encircles the building, but is decoratively shaped on only the two street elevations.

The sharp angle of the building's corner location has had a major effect upon its floorplan. This is not very evident on the first floor, which contains only one large room. This space originally served as the banking hall and has been altered to such an extent that its appearance is not noteworthy (see below). The influence of the corner location is quite evident on the second floor, which contains three rooms, a hallway, and a small bath. Two of the three rooms display unusual polygonal shapes. Otherwise, the upper floor's interior is completely undistinguished.

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**United States Department of the Interior
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Merchants and Planters Bank, Lockport, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

As mentioned previously, the bank has received two additions since its construction, but the exact dates of these cannot be pinpointed. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1922 (the only map available for Lockport) clearly shows that neither addition was in place in that year, while a historic photograph dating to 1942 shows both. One addition is a two story masonry structure which lacks the height of the original building. This addition has three rooms on the first floor and two rooms plus a bath on the second. Its facade is veneered and scored to resemble stone. Like the odd-shaped two rooms of the original section, the front room of the annex also has an unusual polygonal shape. An arched door cut into the former outside wall connects the original section and this addition on the first floor.

Also of masonry construction, the second addition is only one story in height. It originally consisted of four small offices, each with its own windows and door to the street. One of the offices was later enlarged by the addition of a kitchen so that the space could be used for meetings. A hallway connects three of the four offices to the bank, and there is a distinct change in floor level where the original structure and one-story addition meet.

Along with the additions, other alterations to the building include:

- 1) the loss of the structure's original cornice,
- 2) the installation of a large metal canopy on the building's two street elevations. In place by 1942, it was obviously added after the construction of the two-story annex.
- 3) the replacement of the glass within the main entrance's doors, the closing of a rear second floor exterior door, and the covering of some window transoms by wood.
- 4) the removal of the banking room's original partitions, the construction of one new partition in a different location, and the installation of ceiling tile in this room.

Despite these changes, the details which give the building its architectural distinction remain virtually intact. The original portion of the structure clearly stands forth from the two additions, which were themselves added during the historic period. And, although the

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

Merchants and Planters Bank, Lockport, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

canopy visually interrupts the line of the pilasters on the two street-facing elevations, the detailing itself remains intact. Finally, the "ghost" of the lost cornice is visible, and a historic photograph showing this detail exists to assist in any restoration. Even without the cornice the Merchants and Planters Bank is an architectural landmark within the community of Lockport. For this reason, it is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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 N/A
(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)

architecture

Period of Significance

1910

Significant Dates

1910

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:

Merchants and Planters Bank
Name of Property

Lafourche 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
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7	3	8	2	6	0
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3	2	8	2	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 January 1995

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

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana 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 Nelcie E. Guidry, President, Lockport Heritage Museum, Inc.
110 Main Street

street & number P. O. Box 416 telephone (504) 532-5272

city or town Lockport state Louisiana zip code 70374

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.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Merchants and Planters Bank, Lockport, Lafourche Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Merchants and Planters Bank is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark building within the community of Lockport.

Lockport was founded in 1833 when William Fields donated a tract of land to the Barataria and Lafourche Canal Company. Fields had owned all the land on both sides of Bayou Lafourche for several miles up and down the waterway from the future town's location. As part of the donation agreement, the company promised to construct a canal completing the water route between New Orleans and Bayou Terrebonne. The canal itself was completed in 1847, but the locks accompanying it were not finished until c. 1850. After that date, the west side of Bayou Lafourche at Lockport was used as a port for boats awaiting transfer through the locks. Prosperity came with the completed canal. By 1849 the community had a public school; by 1850, a Catholic church; and by 1875, a post office. It incorporated during the latter years of the nineteenth century.

Despite its long history, Lockport has few historic structures left to illustrate its early years. Much of the business district was destroyed by a tornado in 1893, and a catastrophic 1916 fire devastated several downtown blocks. Virtually the entire central business district of the small town contains undistinguished one-story structures dating to the early years of the twentieth century or later. While older residential areas survive, these appear to date only between 1885 and 1930. The houses here consist mainly of undistinguished Creole cottages, shotguns, and bungalows. Only a handful of houses with Eastlake, Queen Anne or Colonial Revival details may be found, and these details are extremely low-key. Against this background, the Merchants and Planters Bank stands as an architectural landmark. It is one of only four two-story commercial buildings in the CBD, and it is one of only two which make any attempt at architectural styling. In addition, although a vernacular interpretation, it is the only example of the Neo-Classical style within the community. For these reasons, the bank building is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

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Continuation Sheet**

Merchants and Planters Bank, Lockport, Lafourche Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Division of Historic Preservation, Historic Standing Structures Survey of Lafourche Parish,
Lockport Folder.

Historic photos of Main Street, Lockport, Louisiana, no date available. Copy in
National Register file.

Historic photo of Main Street, Lockport, Louisiana, 1942. Copy in possession of Lockport
Heritage Museum, Inc.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Boundary Description: See attached property plat map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines of parcel of
land upon which building is located.

LAFORCHE PARISH, LOUISIANA

T16S-R19E

SECTION 18

MAIN STREET
(FORMERLY
FRONT STREET)

R/W

Boundary

S54°01'32"E - 49.98'

ALUMINUM CANOPY

SIDEWALK

Lot 5

N58°19'00"E - 94.95'

LOT 6 BLOCK 28

OLD LP&L OFFICE BLDG.

S58°19'00"W - 113.95'

N31°41'00"W - 46.23'

Boundary

LAFORCHE STREET

R/W

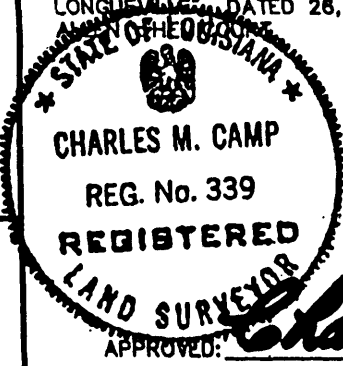
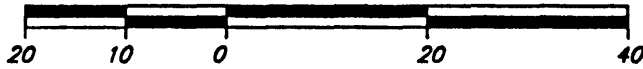
NCJ/CMC			
REVISED BEARINGS			
01/26/94			

REFERENCE BEARINGS TAKEN FROM PLAT ENTITLED "LAROISSE de la FOURCHE-INTERIERURE PLAN de LONGUEVALE" DATED 26, DECEMBER 1835, BY

Exhibit A
Page 2 Of 2

PLAN

GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET



APPROVED: *Charles M. Camp*

MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK

Lockport, Lafourche Parish, LA

DATE: JANUARY 18, 1994

PREPARED BY : T. BAKER SMITH & SON, INC.
CIVIL ENGINEERS-LAND SURVEYORS
HOUMA, LOUISIANA

CHECKED BY: N.C.J.
HECKED BY: C.M.C.
LEWANE: