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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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Thibodaux Multiple Resource Area Continuation sheet Lafourche Parish, LA Item number 7 & 8

Building #11 UTM: 15/710600/3298020

Original Name: CITIZENS BANK OF LAFOURCHE

Present Name: CITIZENS FINANCE CORPORATION BUILDING

413 West Fourth Street

Owner: Stan F. Toups 413 West Fourth Street Thibodaux, LA 70301

1910

Contractor: Joseph A. Robichaux

Local Significance: Architecture

The Citizens Bank of Lafourche is a single story brick Beaux Arts building consisting of a central block and two rounded end wings. The plan is very axial, with a central entrance facing a bank vault across an open banking hall. The yault is set in its own decorative pavilion. The banking hall is surmounted by a rectangular domical vault with a stained glass lantern. This unusual vault registers on the exterior as a sort of rectangular dome surmounting the entire central block. The building also features an aedicule motif entrance surmounted by two cornucopias and an oculus. Both the side wings and main block have paired modillion entablatures. Other noteworthy exterior features include lunette windows, decorative cartouche panels and a marble water table.

Since construction, a second story has been added to one of the side wings, ceiling and wall tiles have been installed on the interior, and a corner doorway has been replaced. None of these changes have affected the building's National Register eligibility because it still retains the features which contribute to its architectural significance (see significance statement below).

Significance:

There are undoubtedly over one hundred 50+ year old commercial buildings in various states of integrity in Lafourche Parish. Most of these are either simple late nineteenth-early twentieth century plantation stores or fairly plain examples of the ubiquitous "commercial vernacular" style. The Citizens Bank of Lafourche is one of only two commercial buildings in the parish representing the high style eclectic architectural trends of the early twentieth century. Its domical roof, rich detailing, grand facade, and axial planning distinguish it as the parish's most complete commercial statement in the then prevailing Beaux Arts taste.



