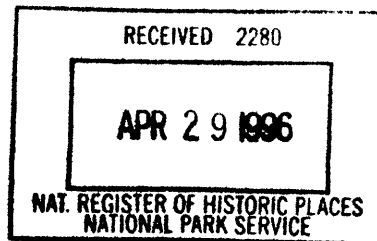


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 "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 McNeely Hotel

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 690 San Antonio Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Many N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Sabine code 085 zip code 71449

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.)

Jonathan Fricker 4/19/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy 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 commenting 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:)

Carlson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5/30/96

McNeely Hotel
Name of Property

Sabine Parish, LA
County and State

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)

Domestic - Hotel
Commerce/trade - department store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant / Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Other: tar and gravel

other

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet**

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

A restrained example of the Italianate style, the McNeely Hotel is a two story brick structure located on a busy corner site in the central business district of Many, the Sabine Parish seat. Although its original storefront and canopy have been altered since the building's c.1906 construction date, the architectural features which make it eligible for National Register listing remain intact.

Because of its corner lot location, the hotel is meant to be viewed from the diagonal. Thus, it features two ornamented elevations and a corner entrance. This entrance is marked by a support pillar for the second floor. Tall segmentally arched Italianate windows form an arcade along the upper level of the facade and street side elevation. These arches are emphasized by a thin projecting band of bricks. This band extends slightly beyond the window, then turns downward to join a broken belt course connecting the windows. Smaller Italianate windows, featuring similarly banded segmental arches and prominent sills, pierce the lower portion of the street side wall. The building's other side also contains segmentally arched windows, but this elevation lacks the window heads' projecting bands and the connecting belt course.

In addition to its Italianate windows, the structure has corbeled brickwork along its cornice line, corbeled brick panels on the facade's second level, a second and more pronounced molded brick belt course separating the first and second floors, and first floor piers with molded brick bases. The windows and doors within the storefront and the cast iron balcony currently attached to the building are not original. A historic photograph provided by a member of the McNeely family indicates that, except for its corner entrance, the original storefront was low key and typical of the period (see photo). The original canopy was a canvas awning which could be rolled up and down. It appears that at some time during the historic period, the McNeelys replaced this awning with a fixed canopy which wrapped around one corner of the building. The current cast iron balcony (added during an uncompleted 1980s rehabilitation) follows the outline of this canopy as recorded in the 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Many. The McNeelys' historic photo also shows multiple chimneys along the roofline. These provided an outlet for the smoke created by wood or coal burning stoves which were located in each hotel room. Although the chimneys remain, they have deteriorated to the extent that they are now barely visible above the building's cornice line.

The first floor originally contained two spaces separated by a brick wall. It appears that both spaces were stores. In addition to front entrances, both had side doors located near

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**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

their rear corners, and these openings survive. During the 1960s two openings were made in the connecting wall so that the spaces could be combined to serve as a large department store. Except for the surviving portions of the brick wall, some cubbyholes added at the rear during this period, and a surviving tile floor and ceiling also associated with the department store, the first floor has been gutted.

The hotel facilities were located on the second floor, whose plan remains intact. It consists of three parallel ranges of rooms separated by two long front-to-back hallways. There is also a cross hall toward the front. Beaded board ceilings, molded baseboards and plaster walls survive within some of the second floor spaces. The above mentioned historic picture shows that the building was originally constructed as a free-standing structure. Architectural evidence suggests that originally a side exterior staircase led to the second floor cross hall. This door was bricked in when a party wall structure was attached to the hotel's west side some time before 1929. Several lower floor windows on the west side also had to be bricked in at this time. Architectural evidence in the form of ghost marks and a bricked in opening suggests that the original outside stair may have been replaced by one on the exterior rear wall. A one story masonry party wall structure now adjoins the hotel's rear wall, and a modern, rough interior stairway at the rear of the building provides access to the second floor.

Although the storefront has been altered and the cast iron balcony is not original, they do not impact the Italianate characteristics and the decorative brickwork which historically were the source of the McNeely Hotel's architectural significance. And, as mentioned above, the cast iron balcony follows the outline of a canopy added by the McNeelys during the historic period. Also, it is appropriate for a building of this type. Because the building is a landmark within the town of Many (see Part 8), the McNeely Hotel is a legitimate candidate for National Register listing.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3



McNeely Hotel
Name of Property

Sabine Parish, LA
County and State

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.) N/A

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1906

Significant Dates

c. 1906

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

McNeely Hotel
Name of Property

Sabine 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 | | 4 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | | 3 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation date February 1996

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 Stephen B. Beasley

street & number P. O. Box 56 telephone (318) 256-9789

city or town Many state LA zip code 71449

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**

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The McNeely Hotel is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in the Many Central Business District.

Named for the commander at nearby Fort Jesup, Many was founded in 1844, one year after the creation of Sabine Parish. However, settlers had been in the area since 1830, when William Mains moved his family to the region from Mississippi. Although the nearby fort was a more important settlement, the Many site was chosen as the parish seat because of its central location. In December of 1844 a plat showing a courthouse square and eight streets was drawn and lots were placed up for sale. Although churches, businesses, homes, and a lodge hall were constructed, the community did not have its own municipal government until 1878. However, this government was inactive between 1884 and 1898. The population was 147 in 1880. Until the arrival of the Kansas City Southern Railway in 1896, merchants received their goods via steamboats or, after 1885, via the Texas and Pacific Railroad at nearby Robeline. Goods had to be carted to Many from the bayou port and railroad line. By 1901 the town occupied a square mile of territory. The first brick building in town, the Sabine Valley Bank, was constructed in 1901, but most of the town's buildings remained in frame construction. A 1906 fire destroyed three blocks within the business district, and two years later an additional two blocks were lost to fire. The McNeely Hotel was built shortly after the 1906 fire.

Today Many's historic central business district consists of a long street of stores and offices. The street's eastern end is characterized by several large open spaces; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show that historic buildings once stood on some of these lots. Although most of the extant structures appear to have been erected between 1906 and 1946 (the fifty year cutoff), a handful of modern structures are part of the streetscape. The majority of the historic (fifty years old or older) buildings are low key structures. About two-thirds either are very plain or have suffered alterations which have severely impacted their historic appearances. Most of the others have only slight decorative features worked in brick on their facades or along their cornice lines. Of the approximately thirty historic buildings standing along the main street, only two are of sufficient architectural quality and integrity to merit individual Register listing. With its numerous, pronounced Italianate window surrounds, its extensive and elaborate decorative brickwork, and its two ornamented elevations, the McNeely Hotel ranks as one of these locally important landmark buildings.

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Continuation Sheet**

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

Historical Note

The building was owned by the McNeely family from its c. 1906 construction date until the 1980s. In the early 1960s, the family leased the building to Nichols Department Store. As mentioned above, an attempt to rehabilitate the structure was made after its sale, but the project failed when the new owner suffered financial problems. Although currently vacant, the structure is now owned by a Many native who plans to rehabilitate it.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Belisle, John G. *History of Sabine Parish, Louisiana: From the First Explorers and Settlers to the Present*. Sabine Banner Press, 1912.

Historic photograph of the McNeely Hotel furnished by the McNeely family. Copy in National Register file.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Many, Louisiana, 1929, 1938.

Walking survey of Many Central Business District completed by National Register staff.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

McNeely Hotel, Many, Sabine Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Legal Boundary Description:

A certain tract situated in Block 7 of the original Town of Many, described as Lots 1, 2 and the east 10 feet of Lot 3; the north 25 feet, 6 inches of Lot 21; and a portion of Lot 18, described as beginning at the northeast corner of Lot 18, thence run south along the lot line 25 feet 6 inches, thence west 10 feet, thence north 25 feet 6 inches to the north line of Lot 18, thence east 10 feet to the point of beginning, as per plat on Conveyance Book A, Page 624.

This conveyance describing a tract of land measuring 60 feet, more or less, along San Antonio Avenue, and 100.5 feet, more or less, along Capital Street, together with all buildings and improvements thereon.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow property lines.