

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 16 1986

date entered FEB 13 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic Taylor Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors Warehouse; Lee Hardware Building

and/or common Lee Hardware Building

**2. Location**

street & number 719, 723, 729 Edwards Street N/A not for publication

city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Caddo Parish code 017

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	portion used as
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	warehouse
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	park
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
				<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. Sol Abramson

street & number 2080 Playa Road

city, town Rancho La Costa N/A vicinity of state California 92008

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caddo Parish Courthouse

street & number Room 103 500 Texas Street

city, town Shreveport state LA 71101

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Taylor Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors Warehouse (1904-05) is a huge approximately 67,000 square foot four story brick building located in downtown Shreveport. One of the city's numerous railroad lines is located about sixty feet from the warehouse and a spur runs immediately adjacent to the loading dock. The building's interior open warehouse character remains virtually unaltered and the exterior alterations have not been noteworthy enough to cause a serious integrity problem.

The common bond brick warehouse backs up to a high railroad embankment. Thus on the railroad side it appears to have only three stories, while on the other sides the full four stories are visible. Each elevation is articulated with modular bays and a brick cornice. The principal elevation (Edwards Street) faces away from the railroad. It is sheathed in higher quality brick with finer mortar joints than the rest of the building. It features an eleven bay shopfront with large rectangular windows above. Bays are separated by cast-iron columns at the shopfront level and by brick pilaster strips on the upper levels. Under each third and fourth story window is a brick panel edged in stone bolection molding. The other elevations feature pairs of segmentally arched windows with no pilasters to define the bays. The office area on the ground floor is distinguished on the exterior by a row of round arched windows. The only noteworthy interior features are the hypostyle columns. The ground story office area has unornamented cast-iron examples, while those everywhere else are of wood. The office area is not partitioned off from the warehouse space.

Since construction the only major change in the building has been the replacement of the original windows on the principal elevation with modern aluminum windows. This necessitated walling in part of each window opening in wood. In addition, the windows on the ground floor of the east elevation have been bricked in, although their original shapes remain. Finally, the original wooden window frames have been lost on the south elevation and portions of them are missing on the east elevation. Despite these changes, the building is still obviously a warehouse and hence still conveys the history it represents.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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** 1904-1905 **Builder/Architect** Builder: W. F. Taylor Co., Ltd., Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion A

The Taylor Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors Warehouse is locally significant in the area of commerce because it is an important exemplar of Shreveport's railroad era commercial history. Shreveport would not have been a regional commercial center in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had it not been for its status as a railroad hub. The most obvious visual reminders of this significant epoch in the city's commercial history would, of course, be railroad oriented warehouses. The Taylor Warehouse is being nominated as a rare surviving example of its type.

There are no less than six railroad lines converging upon Shreveport, with the first arriving as early as the 1850's. Following a familiar pattern, the Iron Horse gradually supplanted the steamboat as the major means of shipping and receiving goods. Beginning in the late 1830's the Red River became a major trade artery and Shreveport developed into a thriving commercial center. However, by the turn of the century the town had become a railroad hub and steamboats had virtually faded from the scene. This transition from steamboating to railroading is graphically illustrated in the following statistics: In 1877-78, 193,800 bales of cotton were shipped via the Red River. By 1886-87 the number had dropped to 55,128, with 322,538 bales being shipped by rail.

Cotton was still king at the turn of the century and Shreveport, with its numerous railroad lines, was a leading interior cotton market with only Memphis and Dallas exceeding it in inland port receipts. Another important product shipped out of Shreveport by rail was lumber. Incoming freight included, for example, merchandise for wholesale warehouses such as the one being nominated.

As would be expected, numerous warehouses were built near or next to the various rail lines and spurs, often taking their shape from the track alignment. These buildings illustrate the shift of commercial activity from the Red River to the railroad tracks and in so doing represent an important epoch in Shreveport's economic development. Although there are only five remaining examples of railroad oriented warehouses in Shreveport, late nineteenth-early twentieth century Sanborn maps reveal that there were once at least two dozen or so in the downtown area.

The warehouse being nominated is one of the two largest remaining examples.\* It was built for W. F. Taylor to house his business, "The W. F. Taylor Co., Ltd., Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors." Construction began in December 1904 and was of sufficient interest to merit a front page headline in the Shreveport Journal. The building's newsworthiness seemed to stem largely from what was referred to as its "mammoth" size. The reporter pointed out that the location was "an ideal one" for a wholesale house. "It is situated," continues the article, "at a place where easy access to several railroad tracks may be obtained and special tracks running to the warehouse will be placed in by the Missouri, Kansas and Texas and Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific railway companies." It was projected that

CONTINUED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History and Analysis of Significance of Lee Hardware Building Prepared by Townsley Schaub. Based upon considerable research in primary sources such as Sanborn maps, conveyance records, contemporaneous newspapers, etc. as well as secondary sources. Copy of report and most of documentation in Register file, LA State Preservation Office.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @7/8ths of an acre

Quadrangle name Bossier City, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 1 5 4 2 9 9 0 0 3 5 9 7 2 5 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

Boundary lines follow property lines. Legal property description on Item 10 continuation sheet.

### 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 State of Louisiana  
Division of Historic Preservation  
organization National Register Staff

BASED UPON DATA AND ANALYSIS SUBMITTED  
BY TOWNSLEY SCHAUB

date November 1985

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state X 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 6, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 2-13-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered FEB 13 1986

Continuation sheet Taylor Warehouse  
Caddo Parish, LA

Item number 8

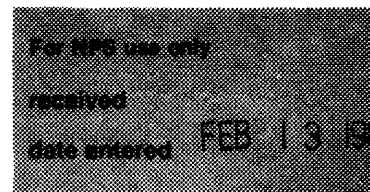
Page 1

Significance (continued)

the building would be completed by June 1905, and the 1906 Shreveport City Directory lists the Taylor Company Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors at that location. In 1910 the building was purchased by the Lee Hardware Company to house its regional wholesale hardware business and remained in this use until 1955.

\*The other warehouse of roughly similar size has three stories. Of the three remaining examples, one has three stories and about 30,000 square feet and the other two have two stories and about 30,000 square feet. The latter look more like conventional commercial buildings of the period than they do warehouses.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**



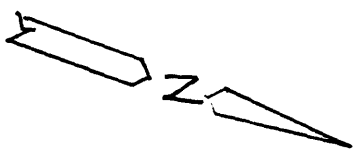
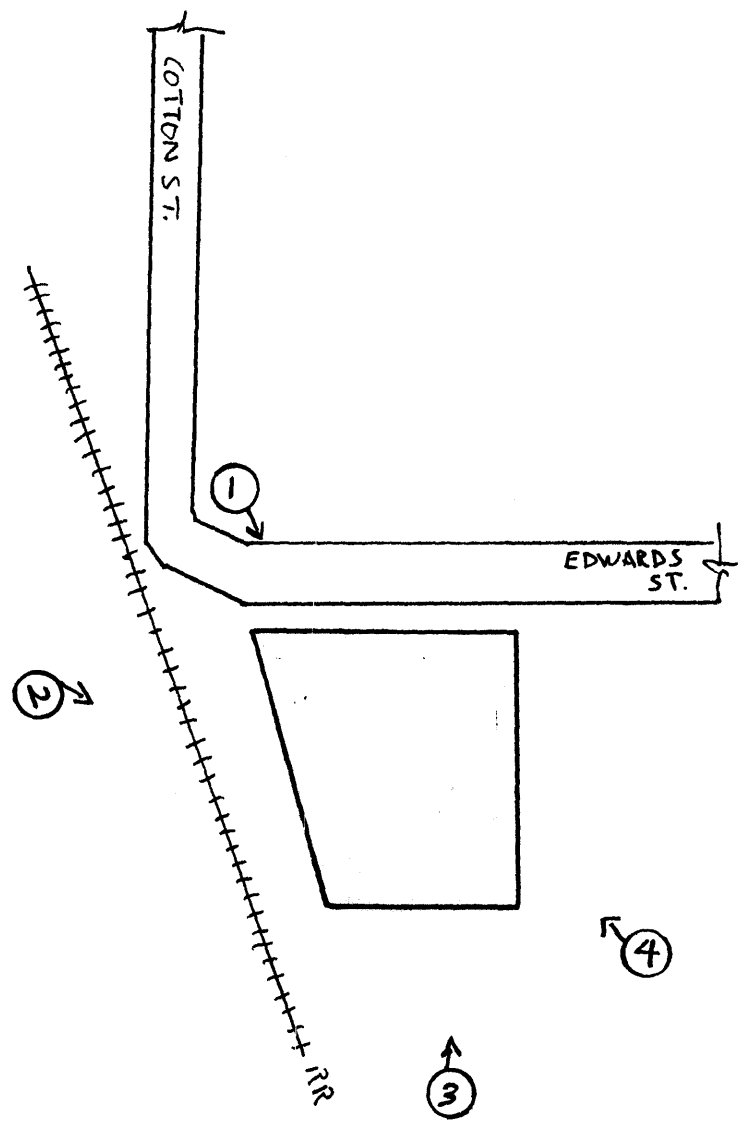
Continuation sheet Taylor Warehouse (Lee                      Item number    10                      Page    1  
Hardware)                      Caddo Parish, LA

Item 10: Legal Property Description

A parcel of land in Block 43, City of Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana, more fully described as follows: From the most northerly corner of Block 43, being the south intersection of Crockett Street and Market Street, run thence southeasterly along the northeast line of Block 43 a distance of 130.0 feet to the point of beginning of parcel herein described; run thence southeast along the northeast line of Block 43 a distance of 110.0 feet; run thence southwest and parallel to the center line of Crockett Street a distance of 160.2 feet to the center line of closed alley (Book 455, Page 13); run thence southeast along the center line of alley and parallel to the center line of Market Street a distance of 18.3 feet; run thence southwest and parallel to the center line of Crockett Street a distance of 10.0 feet to a point on the southwest line of alley as per Book 455, Page 13; run thence southwesterly a distance of 158.3 feet to a point on the northeasterly line of Edwards Street, said point being 341.4 feet southeast of and at right angles to the center line of Crockett Street and 33.0 feet northeast of and at right angles to the center line of Edwards Street; run thence northwest along the northeast line of Edwards Street a distance of 153.4 feet to the southeast line of alley as per Book 455, Page 13; run thence northeast along the southeast line of alley and parallel to the center line of Crockett Street a distance of 170.2 feet to a point on the northeast line of 20.0 foot alley as per Book 455, Page 13 and shown on plat in Book 100, Page 324; run thence northwest and parallel to the center line of Market Street a distance of 25.0 feet, said point being 163.0 feet at right angles to the center line of Crockett Street; run thence northeast and parallel to the center line of Crockett Street a distance of 150.2 feet to the point of beginning, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, including paving of the loading area.

NB: For the record, the only building on said property is the Taylor Warehouse (also known as Lee Hardware Building).

TAYLOR WAREHOUSE  
SHREVEPORT, CADDO PARISH,  
LA.



(NOT TO SCALE)