

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 9 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Coushatta Bank Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 103 Carroll Street N/A not for publication

city, town Coushatta N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Red River Parish code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Red River Parish Courthouse

street & number Carroll Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 485

city, town Coushatta state LA 71019

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 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 Coushatta Bank (c.1890) is a two-story, brick, false front commercial building located in the oldest (the river town) portion of Coushatta. Despite a few alterations, the bank retains its National Register eligibility.

The building features wide mortar joints on the sides and narrow red colored mortar joints on the false front. Most of the windows have segmentally arched tops, and the facade windows on the second story are set in deep recessed panels. The lower story of the facade features three ornamental cast-iron pillars with fluted bases, sinuous relief sculpture, and stylized leaf capitals. At one time there was also a plate glass shopfront with a transomed door on each end. However, since that time the front has been partially bricked in and only the doors and the pillars remain. The facade is surmounted by a brick paneled frieze consisting of bricks set with the corners pointing outward. This in turn is surmounted by a full entablature of pressed metal with a garland frieze and a heavy modillion cornice.

The interior features a single side staircase, plaster walls, beaded board wainscoting, beaded board ceilings, and chimneys set within the brick walls. The chimneys were for stoves; there were never any fireplaces. In the rear of the lower story is a brick vault.

Alterations:

In addition to the bricking in of the lower facade, the following changes have occurred in the bank:

- (1) An end portion of the pressed metal entablature has been lost.
- (2) Two of the side windows have been replaced and partially bricked in.
- (3) Metal awnings have been installed in the upper story.
- (4) In about 1930 a rear frame addition was built.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these losses and changes, the bank is still the commercial landmark of Coushatta. It still retains all the features, mentioned in Item 8, which contribute to its significance. In addition, the rear addition does not affect one's view of the commercial false front. Moreover, the awnings and the bricking in are changes which are easily reversible.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1890 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Coushatta Bank is locally significant in the area of architecture as the commercial landmark of the town of Coushatta.

The parish seat of Coushatta has experienced three periods of growth. The town first developed as a port on the Red River in the second half of the nineteenth century. Most of the old river town area has been lost due to the caving in of the Red River bank and fires in 1874, 1880, and 1918. Only the bank and three residential type structures remain today from this initial period of development. In the early-twentieth century a second town center developed, at some distance from the first, around the railroad. In the mid-twentieth century a third town center developed, at some distance from the first two, around Louisiana Highway 71.

All this has yielded a commercial building stock of about forty older structures, most of which date from the 1920's, '30's, and '40's. With one exception, these buildings are invariably plain with no shopfront ornamentation and little decorative brickwork. Relatively few have even a brick cornice. The single exception is the Coushatta Bank, which is the only commercial building featuring a pressed metal entablature, segmentally arched windows, decorative cast-iron pillars, and an ornamental brick frieze. All in all, it is Coushatta's only commercial structure which could be described as "Victorian" in character.

NB: The attached Determination of Eligibility form was based upon information provided by a consultant. The present nomination form was prepared by the National Register staff of the Division of Historic Preservation after it conducted a comprehensive survey of the cultural resources of Coushatta in July of 1983. Should any discrepancy be noted between the two documents, the nomination form should be regarded as the authoritative source. You will note that the Determination of Eligibility form mentions the bank as a rare survivor of the river town development. We are not claiming significance on the basis of this argument in the nomination because the bank was built near the end of the river town era and hence its role in the nineteenth century commercial development of Coushatta is difficult to assess. By contrast, the architectural argument was obvious and easily documented by the survey.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Old photo showing Coushatta Bank in its original appearance.

Windshield survey of Coushatta conducted by Division of Historic Preservation staff on July 9, 1983.

CONTINUED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately .1 acre

Quadrangle name Coushatta, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	6	1	6	3	1	4	1	0	3	1	5	4	1	1	2	1	4	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 attached sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
Division of Historic Preservation
organization State of Louisiana

Assisted by Robin Kuckyr
P.O. Box 15050
New Orleans 70175
date July 1983
504-899-7379

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

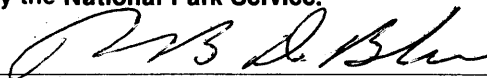
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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



title State Historic Preservation Officer

Robert B. DeBlieux

date August 1, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/8/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Coushatta Bank Building

Item number 4

Page 2

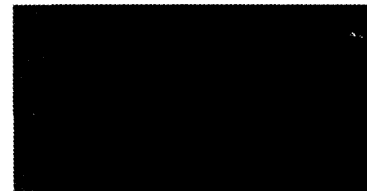
4. Owners

Judy Demarest
P. O. Box 159
Coushatta, LA 71019

Stella Bates
12 Columbus Avenue
Valhalla, New York 10595

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

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Continuation sheet Coushatta Bank Building Item number 9

Page 2

9. Bibliography (continued)

Red River Bridge and Approaches, Coushatta, Louisiana. Report #2, February 1979,
U. S. Dept. of Transportation and La. Dept. of Transportation and Development.

COUSHATTA BANK BUILDING COUSHATTA, RED RIVER PARISH

SITE BOUNDARIES
ARE PARALLEL TO
BUILDING FACADES,
DISTANCES AS SHOWN.
THE BANK FACES CARROLL
STREET (U.S. HWY 84).

