

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

For NPS use only

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

received MAY 17 1984

date entered JUN 14 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Lafayette Hardware Store

and or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 121 West Vermilion Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lafayette N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Lafayette Parish code 055

**3. Classification**

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

**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. Lafayette Parish Courthouse

street & number 221 W. Main Street P. O. Box 2009

city, town Lafayette state LA 70502

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Lafayette Parish Historical Sites Inventory, Section II has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Lafayette Regional Planning Commission

city, town Lafayette state LA

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## 7. Description

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|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <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    |   |   |

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

The Lafayette Hardware Store (c. 1890) is a two story, false front, frame Italianate commercial building located in downtown Lafayette. Having been little altered since construction, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

Originally the ground story consisted of two separate stores, each with a row of Eastlake columns down the middle. Sometime in the early twentieth century the dividing wall was removed and a row of bracketed posts was installed in its place. This created a large single space with three parallel rows of columns. Other than this, the beaded board interior is largely unaltered. Even most of the shelving is original. The sides feature small two-pane windows downstairs and six over six windows upstairs. The front features plate glass windows upstairs with a totally original shopfront below. The shopfront features large plate glass windows, transoms, Italianate cast-iron columns, multiple molded skirting boards, sets of double glass doors, and a hanging fixed awning. The false front itself is sheathed with pressed metal in various patterns including rock-faced stone and brincade. There is also an engaged column on a base set between the double windows on each side of the upper facade. The false front terminates in a full entablature, a modillion cornice, a paneled parapet, two raised paneled tablets, and a crowning pediment.

In addition to the early twentieth century change already mentioned, there is a tin covered lean-to in the rear which appears to be about fifty years old. These alterations have not impaired the store's National Register eligibility because both are minor. In any case, the store still retains the features which contribute to its significance. (See Item 3)

## 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/<br>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** Probable builders: Mr. & Mrs. George Hopkins

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

The Lafayette Hardware Store is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a commercial landmark within the context of the city of Lafayette.

This can be seen in the following respects:

1. It is a full blown, two story frame Italianate commercial building. As such it is the city's only remaining example of a type which was once the standard large commercial building in small and large towns across the state.
2. It is one of the city's oldest commercial buildings. It dates from c. 1890, while almost all of Lafayette's fifty or so other older commercial buildings date from the post-1900 period.
3. It is an almost perfect surviving example of a late nineteenth century commercial building. It stands as a museum piece, retaining all of its pressed metal ornamentation and a totally original shopfront. Moreover, except for the c. 1915 removal of the central wall, its historic interior commercial space remains completely intact. The hardware store is believed to be Lafayette's best preserved older commercial building. Although it would be considered an extreme rarity in any South Louisiana town, the store is particularly important for Lafayette. In the past thirty or so years the city has experienced an oil boom with rapid redevelopment and the resultant loss of much of its downtown patrimony. The fifty or so older commercial buildings that do survive are, for the most part, nondescript and much altered.

### Historical Note:

Tax records of 1890 indicate that Mrs. George Hopkins was assessed \$400 for the lot and improvements thereon. On February 3, 1891, an act of exchange put Theodule Hebert, Jr. in possession of the property. (Mr. and Mrs. George Hopkins exchanged their lot with improvements to Mr. Hebert for another lot.) The Lafayette Hardware Store has been in operation in the building since 1915.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical sketch of property prepared by City of Lafayette, copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name Lafayette, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 594360 3343780  
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 curb lines and property lot lines, as shown on the enclosed plat map.

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 Division of Historic Preservation ASSISTED BY CITY OF LAFAYETTE

organization State of Louisiana date March 1984

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 Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 10, 1984

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

*for Allous Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 6-14-84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Lafayette Hardware Store Item number 4

Page 1

4. Owners

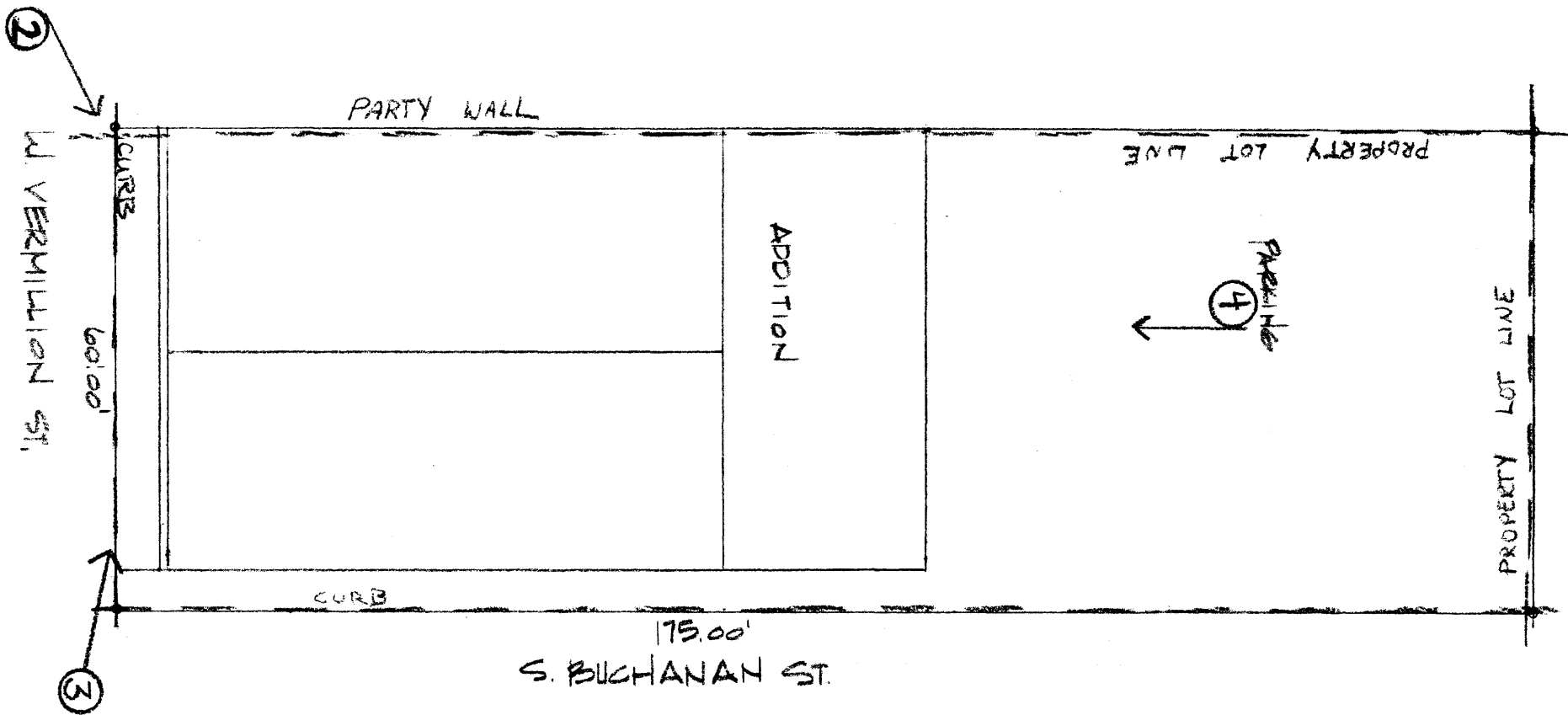
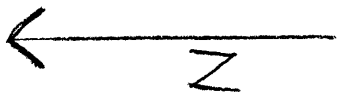
Michael Voorhies  
115 Ponderosa Lane  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
318-856-6973

Lelia D. Angelle  
1609 Myrtle Boulevard  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
318-234-1943

Yvette Beichner  
120 Victoria Lane  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
318-856-5865

Mrs. Paulette V. Purser  
2101 Glencove Lane  
Gretna, LA 70053

Mr. Dan W. Voorhies  
1511 South Hearthiside  
Richmond, TX 77469



==== LAFAYETTE HARDWARE ====

==== SITE PLAN 1" = 20'-0" ====

Lafayette,  
Lafayette Parish, LA

— — — BOUNDARY