

SEP - 5 1995

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. **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 Erath, Auguste, Building

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 333-35 West St. Peter St. N/A not for publication

city or town New Iberia N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Iberia code 045 zip code 70560

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.)
Gerry Hobdy August 29, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerry Hobdy, Date
LA 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 certifying 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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
10/5/95

Entered in the
National Register

Erath, Auguste, Building

Name of Property

Iberia 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.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, Total. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects.

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)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival, Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick, walls brick, stucco, roof metal

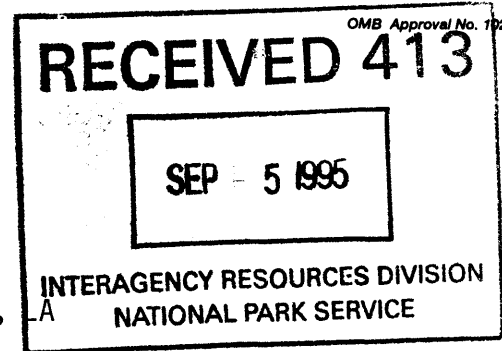
Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erath, Auguste, Building, New Iberia, Iberia Parish,
Section number 7 Page 1



The Auguste Erath Building is a two story brick combination residence and business constructed in 1884. Stylistically, it is transitional late Greek Revival/Italianate. Prominently located on a corner in downtown New Iberia, the building is adjacent to the city's railroad corridor. Historically, a railroad spur ran immediately adjacent to the northwestern side elevation. On the whole, the Erath Building is well preserved. The exterior looks almost as it did originally as does the upper residential floor.

The building constructed by Auguste Erath in 1884 to house his hardware business and living quarters is rather backward looking from an architectural standpoint. Indeed, in terms of its overall look, it could just as easily be from the 1850s. However, a closer inspection (molding profiles and other details) makes the 1884 date believable. In any event, the construction date is documented. A very early photo shows the date on a drain spout, and Erath's 1900 obituary notes that he opened his hardware business in the building in 1884.

The large building has a five bay main block with a narrower, but nonetheless fairly wide, wing extending from the middle of the rear, yielding an overall T shaped footprint. Perhaps the building's most distinctive exterior features are its decorative gabled parapets -- on the sides of the main block and the back of the rear wing. They feature two bands of dentils, and in the peak of one (a side elevation) the initials of the owner are prominently displayed in cast-iron. There are also decorative tie-bar ends in various places on the side elevations. The Erath Building's two Greek Revival front dormers are particularly handsome, featuring pilasters with molded capitals and a pediment. Other noteworthy features include nine over six slithead windows on the second floor with movable louver shutters and two large round head openings with shutters on the ground floor of the principal side elevation. The present balcony extending across the front of the building is not the original one, which was shallower and cantilevered. However, the original Italianate balustrade was re-used, causing one to not immediately notice this change. The balcony is presently supported by fairly thin metal poles. Originally there were four tall ground floor facade openings, evenly spaced. Today only two of these survive (see alterations below).

Auguste Erath's upper floor residence is very well preserved. It has a central hall plan with two rooms on each side in the main block. The hall becomes narrower in the rear wing, with two additional rooms on each side. The staircase to the living quarters is accessed from a door located on one side of the facade. As it ascends the staircase turns the corner (i.e., to meet the central hall at a right angle). The flush board ceilings upstairs are roughly fourteen feet high and feature a molded cornice. Most of the openings have raised four panel doors with porcelain knobs. The hinges feature two gudgeons of the type one might just as easily see in an earlier building. Six panel pocket doors are found between the two rooms on the west side of the main block.

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Erath, Auguste, Building, Iberia Parish, LA
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The residential quarters retain their five fireplaces. Their chimneys were built into the previously mentioned gabled parapets. One chimney top remains (at the top of the eastern gabled parapet). The three wooden mantels have the standard pilasters and an entablature, but are given an unusual appearance by the use of moldings superimposed on the pilasters, and two have applied star designs on the entablature. One also has an applied keystone at the center. The other two fireplaces have decoratively painted cast-iron mantels.

The Auguste Erath Building has experienced the following alterations since construction:

(1) As previously noted, the balcony has been replaced re-using the old Italianate balustrade.

(2) As previously noted, the ground floor facade has only two of its original four tall openings. The other two were, in effect, combined to make one large opening.

(3) The commercial interior has been greatly remodeled over the years, including a concrete floor, one wall furred out by a few feet, the installation of modern commercial display panels along the lower halves of the walls, etc. Surviving is a historic flush board ceiling and cross beams. Also, despite the furred out wall, it is still basically one large space, which one suspects was the case originally.

(4) The facade was covered with a smooth coat of stucco in the 1920s or '30s.

(5) The west front room upstairs received an unattractive rough coat of plaster.

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c. 1900 photo



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

1884

Significant Dates

1884

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:

Erath, Auguste, Building
Name of Property

Iberia 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.)

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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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 Division of Historic Preservation

organization National Register Staff date July 1995

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 Jonathan Himel

street & number 332 West St. Peter St. telephone 318-369-6498 (home)

city or town New Iberia state LA zip code 70560

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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Erath, Auguste, Building, Iberia Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 1

The Auguste Erath Building is locally significant in the area of architecture as a landmark in the New Iberia CBD.

New Iberia, known as the "Queen City of the Teche," is among Louisiana's oldest towns, having been founded in 1779 by a band of Spanish settlers under the direction of Don Francisco Bouligny and originally named "Nueva Iberia." It was incorporated in 1839 as the "Town of Iberia," and in 1847 the charter was amended and the name changed to New Iberia. When Iberia Parish was created in 1868, New Iberia was selected to be the parish seat. During the antebellum period the town achieved importance as a port due to the flourishing steamboat trade on Bayou Teche. The railroad arrived in the town in 1879, and steamboating entered a period of decline. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, New Iberia's economy was based upon such industries as sawmills, a sash and blind factory, a shingle mill, brick factories, a foundry, and rice mills.

Despite the town's great age, little survives from before the late nineteenth century. New Iberia's CBD is one of the largest in Acadiana, but unfortunately the historic building stock has suffered over the years. Numerous historic buildings have been demolished to make way for new development. For example, in the 1970s a whole block was removed to make room for a bayou side park. Today, roughly 60 to 75 historic buildings survive. The majority of these are either significantly modified on the exterior or are very simple, featuring no recognizable architectural style.

The CBD, however, is noteworthy for the quality of its landmarks. The Auguste Erath Building is one of about 10 landmarks identified by the SHPO in downtown New Iberia worthy of individual Register listing. It is one of the most important surviving buildings in the downtown because of its high degree of architectural integrity and the fact that it stylistically pre-dates almost all other CBD buildings. With its handsome denticulated gabled parapets and pedimented dormers, it is one of only three CBD examples of the transitional Greek Revival-Italianate taste. Of these three, it is easily the most intact. The other two, from the early 1870s, are completely modern on the first floor and their fenestration has been altered on the second story.

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Historical Note:

Auguste Erath, a native of Switzerland, moved to New Iberia in 1876 and erected a brewery and soda and seltz [sic] factory, according to his September 15, 1900 obituary in the *Weekly Iberian*. He went into the hardware business in the nominated building in 1884, and lived there until his death. A prominent citizen involved in various civic and business activities, Erath served for four years on the city council, from 1885 to 1889, the last two years of the term as mayor. He played a prominent role in the constuction of the Iberia and Vermilion Railroad from New Iberia to Abbeville and founded a town along the route which bears his name.

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Erath, Auguste Building, Iberia Parish, LA

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Survey of New Iberia CBD conducted by LA SHPO.

Historic photos of Erath Building, one from c. 1900 and one from 1920s or '30s.

Sanborn Insurance Company maps, New Iberia, 1892, 1895, 1899, 1904, 1909.

Auguste Erath obituaries, 1900, copies in Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Boundary Description: Please refer to enclosed plat map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land historically associated with the nominated building.