

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Genius Brothers Building  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number corner 8th St. and 4th Ave. N/A  not for publication  
city, town Kinder N/A  vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Allen code 003 zip code 70648

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Leslie P. Tassin 5/11/90  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Date  
Recreation and Tourism  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Amy Federman 6/27/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/specialty store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

other: early 20th century  
commercial vernacular

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof tar  
other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Genius Brothers Building (1916) is a single story brick commercial vernacular structure located on Eighth Street in the small town of Kinder. There have been some alterations over the years, but the building's architectural identity survives well intact.

Laid up in common bond brick, the building features two shopfronts, one of which has a corner entrance. Originally, it contained two separate stores. The original metal fixed awning is surmounted by a transom level (windows covered over) and a paneled parapet. The parapet top culminates in a central pediment shape and is surmounted by three concrete pineapple finials. The shopfronts retain their original shape and configuration, although the glass and kickplates are replacements. An interesting feature of the shopfront level is that the piers are coated with concrete which is lightly scored to resemble cut stone. The rear and north side of the building feature segmentally arched openings, most of which have been bricked in, although the outlines are clearly visible. The south side of the building is a party wall which formerly divided it from an adjacent commercial building. This adjacent building was recently demolished. To prevent moisture penetration at the top of the former party wall, the present owner applied a strip of standing seam metal sheathing (about 3 feet in height).

The interior is modern looking, with plywood paneling and a lowered acoustical tile ceiling. The original pressed metal ceiling is still in place above the acoustical tiles. In addition, the old beaded board walls appear to be still intact beneath the plywood paneling. The only other noteworthy interior alteration has been the removal of the brick wall which previously divided the two shops.

Assessment of Integrity

Despite the above changes, the building is still obviously an early twentieth century commercial building. Its massing, shopfront configuration, rooftop details, awning and corner entrance remain intact. There is no doubt that patrons from its historic period would still recognize it today.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
commerce

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
1916-late 1920s

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
1916-late 1920s

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Genius Brothers Building is locally significant in the area of commerce as a rare reminder of Kinder's historic role as a commercial hub.

The town developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a small commercial center servicing nearby logging operations and local farmers. It was incorporated as a village in 1903 and as a town with a population of 1,088 in 1911. Growth began with the coming of the Kansas City, Watkins and Gulf Railroad in 1890 and was spurred by a lumber boom in western Allen Parish which lasted into the 1920s. Kinder was not a lumber company town, nor did it participate significantly in the transport of timber to the sawmill boom town of Lake Charles. Its raison d'etre was trade and service for the local population. An exhaustively compiled local history describes over thirty businesses which flourished in Kinder during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These ran the gamut from confectioneries, to livery stables, to rice field canal dredging, to dry goods, to soda bottling. There was also a theatre, a restaurant, a bank, a dentist and several barbers and beauticians. The Genius Brothers Building was divided in two. One half contained the Genius Brothers Pharmacy and "modern" soda fountain while the other half contained the area's only men's clothing store.

Kinder's decline as a commercial hub began with the decline in the local lumbering industry in the later 1920s. In the period after World War II, the automobile made it possible for people to shop in other places. Most of the town's historic commercial buildings have disappeared. Today only seven remain, one of which (an old hotel) is in the process of demolition. As one of the survivors, the Genius Brothers Building is a significant reminder of Kinder's one-time local commercial preeminence. (For the record, the other buildings in town are also very basic commercial vernacular structures and are in a comparable state of integrity. The only one earlier than the candidate building is from 1914, and the others look to be from the 1920s. Also, the buildings in question do not group together to form a district.)

NB: The closing date for the period of significance was chosen to coincide with the beginning of the decline of Kinder as a commercial hub, as noted at the beginning of the last paragraph.  See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Andrus, Ethelinda J. and Cornish, Grace H. Looking Back at Kinder. Lake Charles, Louisiana: Calcasieu Printing Company, 1985.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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5	1	4	3	8	0
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3	3	7	2	6	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the lot upon which the building stands, said lot being Lot 20 of Block 3, Town of Kinder, and measuring 56' in width along 8th St. by 180' in depth along 4th Ave.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

Boundary lines follow property lines of the lot upon which the building stands.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1990  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804