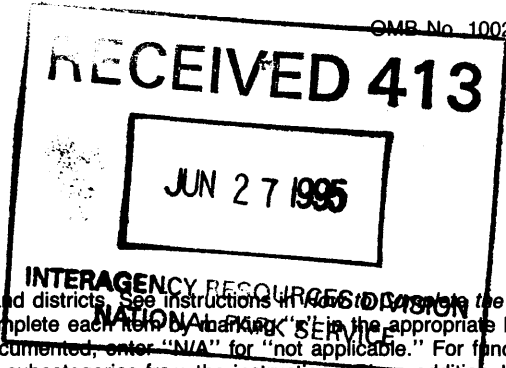


994



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. See instructions in Appendix I of 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 Breaux Bridge Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

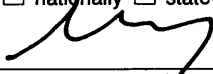
street & number bounded roughly by Bayou Teche, Van Buren St., Main St., & Bridge St. N/A not for publication

city or town Breaux Bridge N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county St. Martin code 099 zip code 70517

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.)


Signature of certifying official/Title W. Edwin Martin, Date June 23, 1995
Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State of Federal agency and bureau _____

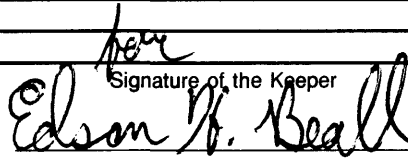
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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): _____

 Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 7-28-95
Entered in the National Register

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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
24	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
24	6	Total

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: department store/specialty store/financial institution

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store/restaurant

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Eastlake

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick, weatherboard, metal

roof other: tar and gravel; metal; asphalt

other

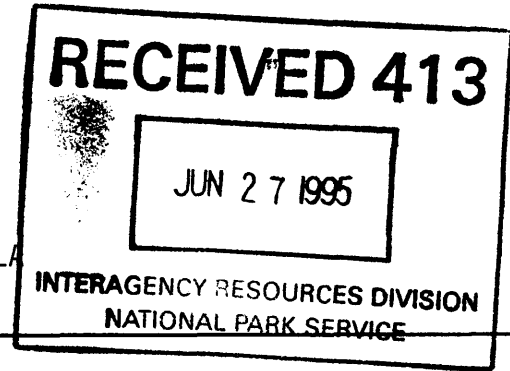
Narrative Description

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breaux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1



The boundaries of the Breaux Bridge Historic District encompass thirty buildings, both residential and commercial, in the old downtown. Contributing elements range from a c.1840 Creole cottage to c.1940 commercial buildings, although all but a few date from the twentieth century. The non-contributing rate is 20%.

Breaux Bridge, like other communities across the country, did not develop with separate commercial and residential sectors. The two were freely mixed in this small community on Bayou Teche. Although there were scattered commercial buildings on the east side of the bayou, the downtown proper was on the west side -- the nominated district. Here, along Bridge and Main streets, residences stood between or across the street from commercial buildings. Also, of course, two story buildings combined residential and commercial use. Washington Street, which parallels Bayou Teche, was commercial in orientation near Bridge St. and more residential further south. These historic use patterns are present today in the district, enabling one to "read" the community's development so-to-speak, as noted in Part 8.

The district's buildings are described in some detail in the inventory. From a more general perspective, the district can be described as having a mixed one and two story scale with residences interspersed among commercial buildings, as noted above. Unlike the typical period CBD in Louisiana, the commercial buildings are not entirely of masonry construction. Generally speaking, in the early twentieth century in town after town masonry buildings replaced frame ones as fires took their toll. Downtown Breaux Bridge is distinctive in this regard because there are surviving frame examples as well as brick buildings and four buildings sheathed in metal designed to resemble cut stone. Among the district's most character-defining historic resources are 4 galleried two story buildings (inventory #s 6, 13, 26 & 28), three of which are quite prominent because of their corner locations. Such buildings were once commonplace in Louisiana's small towns. The seven residences in the district include two bungalows, three galleried gable end cottages, a Queen Anne influenced cottage, and a Creole cottage used as a hotel. Also of interest are the surprising number of original wooden shopfronts which survive as do various historic commercial interiors.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2**BREAKDOWN BY PERIODS**

c. 1840 - 1880s	4
1890 - 1910	4
1911 - 1930	11
1931 - c.1940	5
non-contributing	6

INVENTORY

Note: In most cases buildings were dated using Sanborn maps (1899, 1907, 1912, 1923, 1929), as noted. Other sources such as historic photos are mentioned where appropriate. A few buildings, mainly those that post-date the 1929 Sanborn map, were dated based on the architectural evidence. Names that reflect current usages are not being used. Where a name is given, it is a historic name.

1. 225 Washington St. Contributing element. c.1880 one story frame cottage with porch under separate roof spanning facade; porch remodeled in bungalow style.
2. 219 Washington St. Contributing element. 1850s one story frame galleried cottage with paneled facade and a front entrance with a transom and side lights.
3. 213 Washington St. Non-contributing element. Less than fifty year old one story brick building with pedimented portico -- originally a church, now in commercial use.
4. City Hotel, Washington St. Contributing element. A one story frame Creole cottage (c.1840) which by at least the late nineteenth century was being used as a hotel -- known initially as Boudier Hotel, but by 1899 Sanborn map, and throughout the historic period, was known as the City Hotel. Rear wing appears on late nineteenth century

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

Sanborn maps; one suspects it was added for the hotel business. When acquired by the present owner, the house had received various additions/alterations; these have been and are being corrected as part of an in-progress tax credit rehabilitation project.

5. Washington St. Contributing element. c.1900 one story frame house with Queen Anne influenced polygonal bay and Eastlake galleries.
6. 105 Washington St. Contributing element. Now Woodman of the World facility; identified as Knights of Columbus Hall on 1929 Sanborn map. 1890s two story frame building with simple two-tier Eastlake gallery. Oddly enough, this building does not appear on Sanborn maps, at least in this location, until 1929. According to a local historian, it was moved to this lot in the early twentieth century, which would explain the discrepancy.
7. Bank of Breux Bridge, corner Washington and East Bridge. Contributing element. Built sometime between 1899 and 1907 Sanborn maps. One story corner brick building with distinctive curving parapet which accentuates what was originally a corner entrance. Openings along E. Bridge and at corner are modern and windows along Washington have been bricked in.
8. Washington St. Contributing element. c.1940 plain one story brick commercial building.
9. Washington St. Contributing element. Unusual type for a CBD -two story barn-like metal sided building with gambrel roof and decorative ventilators. Does not appear on 1929 Sanborn map, but appears to be over fifty years old.
10. East Bridge St. Non-contributing element. Wide one story building with modern metal facade created by combining and altering two historic buildings.
11. East Bridge St. Non-contributing element. One story building with less than fifty year old facade.
12. Non-contributing element. c.1950 one story brick building extending from Domengeaux St. back into the block to abut #11 (see map); entered from Bridge St. (between #s 11 & 13).
13. East Bridge and Domengeaux. Contributing element. Built sometime between 1912 Sanborn map and a 1914 photo in which it appears. Large two story corner galleried frame

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breau Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 4

building sheathed in rusticated metal intended to look like stone; historically commercial space below and residential above. Two-tier Eastlake gallery extends across the front and down the side. Second level has been largely enclosed and columns replaced on lower level. These alterations are being corrected, however, as part of an in-progress tax credit rehabilitation project.

14. Frank Pellerin Building. Contributing element. Built sometime between 1923 Sanborn map and 1927 flood. Simply detailed two story brick commercial building with original shopfront and interior character, including a pressed tin ceiling. Appears in 1927 photo with what looks like a metal awning. Present historic-looking gallery added within last few years.

15. Non-contributing element. One story historic building with modern metal facade.

16. Contributing element. c.1940 wide one story plain brick commercial building.

17. Contributing element. Small 1920s bungalow. Not on 1923 Sanborn map, but on 1929.

18. Begnaud's Hardware. Contributing element. Built sometime between 1899 Sanborn map and 1907 map. One story brick commercial building with corbelled cornice and original wooden shopfront with highly decorated cast-iron pilasters. Originally had a gallery, but present one, although sympathetic, is not historic.

19. Contributing element. Built sometime between 1912 and 1923 Sanborn maps. Small one story frame commercial building with shaped parapet.

20. Contributing element. It appears from the Sanborn maps that this one story gable fronted frame commercial building was built between 1912 and 1923.

21. Contributing element. This rambling early twentieth century one story frame building with a false front facade facing Main St. was historically as many as four small shops fronting onto Main St. according to Sanborn maps. However, today it is one building. One suspects that the uneven appearance of the false front is because each section denoted a different business. One also suspects that the slightly raised portion to the right as you face the building was originally the height of the section at the left corner (see photo).

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breaux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 5

22. Contributing element. c.1940 two story brick commercial building with a stepped parapet. Windows boarded up; shopfront level replaced.
23. Contributing element. c.1940 two story brick commercial building with stuccoed facade, stepped parapet, and glass blocks in transom. Shopfront is modern.
24. Non-contributing element. Modern brick facade applied to historic one story commercial building.
25. Contributing element. 1920s theatre (on 1929 Sanborn map but not 1923). Two story brick building with fly gallery; corbelled cornice; decorative projections at top on facade and segmental windows on facade. Alterations include boarding up the facade windows, bricking in a window on the side elevation and a modern shopfront.
26. Broussard Hardware Store. Contributing element. Large two story galleried corner frame building clad in rusticated metal designed to resemble stone. Historically commercial space below and residential above. Built sometime between 1912 and 1923 Sanborn maps -- undoubtedly very early in the range given the type. Retains its original pressed tin ceiling and much of its original hardware store accoutrements (shelving, cases, etc.). Two-tier gallery has simple posts which rest on brick bases on the lower level.
27. Contributing element. 1920s one story false front commercial building sheathed in rusticated metal designed to resemble stone.
28. Contributing element. Large two story frame building clad in rusticated metal designed to resemble stone. Built sometime between 1912 and 1923 Sanborn maps -- undoubtedly very early in the range given the type. Shown on 1923 map as "billiards and drinks" with a dance hall on the second floor. Facade features shaped false front and two-tier gallery; gallery at ground level, which wraps around side elevation, now features thin metal pipes as posts or columns.
29. Contributing element. 1920s frame bungalow.
30. Contributing element. 1850s one-and-a-half story frame galleried Greek Revival cottage. Present round porch columns are Colonial Revival; original square pillars are evident from surviving pilasters.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 6

ASSESSMENT OF INTEGRITY

The Breux Bridge Historic District easily conveys its historic appearance, as can be seen in the photos accompanying this submission. A non-contributing rate of 20% is well within the acceptable range and the contributing elements are in most cases very well preserved. It should also be noted that the non-contributing elements conform to the one and two story scale of the district. Admittedly, two of the non-contributing elements (#s 10 and 24) are glaringly modern; however, as can be seen in the streetscape views accompanying this submission, their impact is not as great as one might expect because of the strong visual presence of contributing elements -- most notably the various two story galleried commercial buildings.

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 N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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)

commerce
community planning & development

Period of Significance

commerce (c.1900-1945)
community planning (c.1840-c.1940)

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Breux Bridge Historic District is locally significant in the area of commerce because it represents the community's role as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area. Downtown Breux Bridge continued to be a major provider of goods and services into the modern era when downtowns were supplanted by strip development. The period of significance spans from c.1900, the date of the oldest commercial building, to 1945, the fifty year cutoff. The district is also of local significance in the area of community development because it epitomizes the manner in which the bayou town of Breux Bridge developed. The period of significance in this area spans from c.1840, the date of the earliest building, to c.1940, the date of the youngest contributing elements.

COMMERCE

The Breux Bridge area was settled by the 1760s, albeit sparsely. The town itself developed in the antebellum decades and was incorporated in 1859. It takes its name from the symbolic heart of the community, the bridge crossing Bayou Teche. Apparently the first bridge traversed from the land of Firmin Breux on one side to that of his son Agricole on the other. The community that grew up around the bridge came to be known as "le Pont des Breux," or simply "Pont Breux" (Breux Bridge).

Until the coming of the railroad in 1895, steamboats plying Bayou Teche were the means of transporting agricultural goods produced in the region to market. Sanborn maps from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as well as other sources show that the economy in this period was based largely on agriculture-related industries, chiefly cotton seed oil plants and two large sugar refineries in the immediate area. The turn of the century was characterized by considerable growth, with the population spurring from 850 in 1899 to 1500 in 1907. Growth slowed down in the next two decades, with the town having a population of 1800 in 1929.

The bayou/railroad town quite naturally emerged as a center for goods and services for its own citizens as well as those living in hamlets and plantations in the area. The nearest other towns of any size were Lafayette and St. Martinville, roughly ten and fifteen miles away, respectively. Such distances prior to the mid-1920s were particular obstacles because roads were unpaved.

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**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**

Breaux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

Downtowns such as Breaux Bridge's provided virtually all the goods and services a person could need. General mercantile stores of the type once found in various extant buildings carried everything from clothing, to furniture, to patent medicines, to buggy harnesses. In short, they were the Wal-Marts of their day. Frank Pellerin's Store (#14) specialized in furniture, per old photographs. Other surviving buildings housed hardware stores, a hotel/boarding house backing up to Bayou Teche, a movie theatre, barber shops, and more than one shop labeled "drugs." And, of course, it goes without saying that the Bank of Breaux Bridge provided invaluable services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As noted above, the Breaux Bridge Historic District is also locally significant in the area of community development because it epitomizes the manner in which the town developed. Although the railroad by the turn of the century had supplanted the bayou as the major transportation artery, the downtown remained more oriented toward the bayou and the bridge traversing it, as it had been originally. In short, what happened in some communities, the re-orientation of the commercial sector to the railroad, did not occur. (Note: The district boundaries do not include today's bridge for various reasons, most notably the fact that it is not quite fifty years old and that there are non-contributing elements beyond building #7 -- see map).

As explained in paragraph 2 of Part 7, the nominated district also exhibits the pattern of mixed residential/commercial development found on late nineteenth and early twentieth century Sanborn maps and seen in a few extant photos. As noted previously, the downtown featured residences and commercial buildings fairly freely mixed. Perhaps the most notable example is the residence located in the middle of an otherwise commercial two block stretch of Bridge Street. A residence of one type or another is shown in this location from as early as 1899 (per a Sanborn map). Other residences were across Bridge Street and down Washington, as they are today.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Breaux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Breaux Bridge, 1899, 1907, 1912, 1923, 1929.

1914 and 1927 photos of Bridge Street, copies in National Register file, Division of Historic Preservation.

Rees, Grover, "A Narrative History of Breaux Bridge, Once Called 'La Pointe'." Attakapas Historical Association Special Publication #4, St. Martinville, Louisiana, 1976.

Pourciau, Betty, editor. St. Martin Parish History. Baton Rouge, Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane, 1985.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**


Breaux Bridge Historic District, St. Martin Parish, LA
Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description: Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries were drawn to encompass the concentration of 50 year old buildings that comprise old downtown Breaux Bridge. They were easy to determine because areas adjacent to the district are characterized by modern construction and/or severely altered historic buildings. The town's Roman Catholic cathedral, which is two buildings beyond #28 (see map), seemed more appropriate for an individual listing.

BREAUX BRIDGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
St. Martin Parish, LA

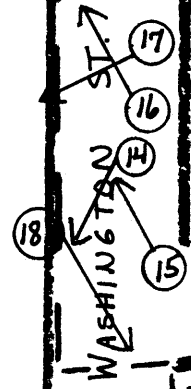
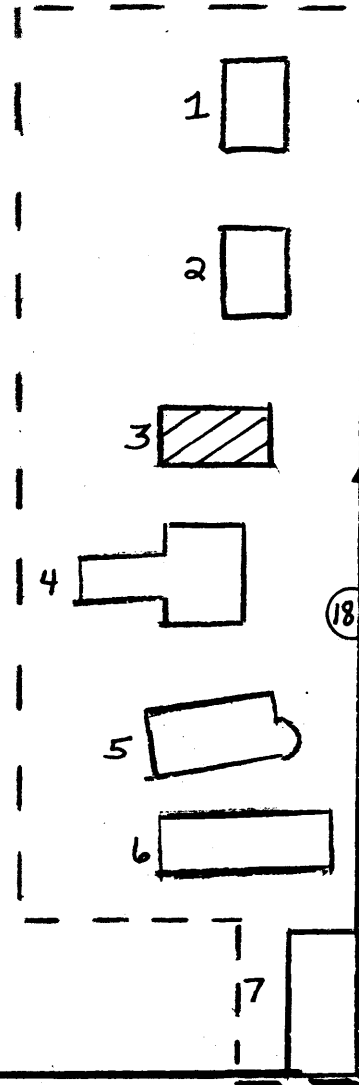


 non-contributing

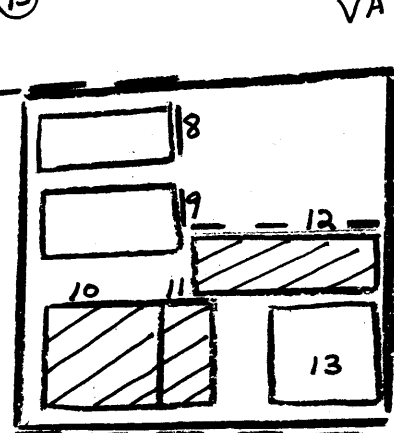
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--- BOUNDARY

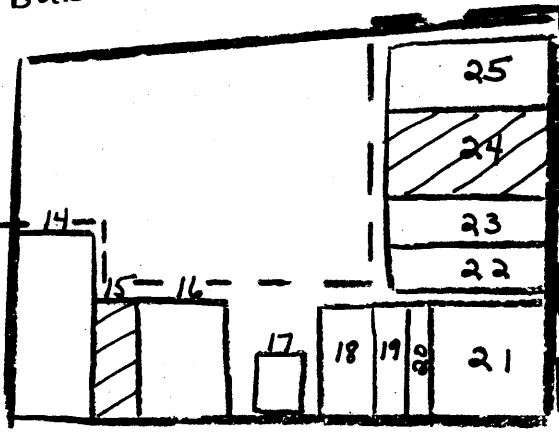
BAYOU TECHE




VAN BUREN ST.



Domengeatx



MAIN ST.

MODERN  SCHOOL COMPLEX

 BRIDGE ST.

