

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

For NPS use only

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

received DEC 20 1984

date entered 18

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

1. Name

historic Elizabeth Hospital Building

~~not~~ common Elizabeth Town Hall

2. Location

street & number Mimosa Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Elizabeth N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish county Allen code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	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 Town of Elizabeth (318) 634-5100

street & number P. O. Box 457

city, town Elizabeth N/A vicinity of state LA 70638

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen Parish Courthouse

street & number Fifth Street

city, town Oberlin state LA 70655

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elizabeth Hospital Building (1924) is a two story frame structure located in a semirural setting in the small community of Elizabeth. It has received only minor alterations since construction and hence can easily convey its historical associations.

Some controversy exists concerning the date of construction of the hospital building. A stone on the front steps bears the date 1924, but a building which looks very much like the present one appears in a March 1923 publication. Some older town residents recall that an earlier hospital was damaged or destroyed by fire and restored or rebuilt shortly thereafter (accounts differ). We are using 1924 as the official construction date.

The somewhat diluted Colonial Revival style structure is two rooms deep with a central corridor running from end to end. The five part facade is eleven bays wide with a central aedicule motif arched entrance under a pediment. The exterior features three different types of clapboarding, which lends a subtle textured effect. The nine over one windows are set singly and in pairs; frames are unadorned. The building is surmounted by a system of low hip roofs with exposed rafter ends. The interior is relatively plain with bungalow style panel doors and simple cornices. All of the floors are hardwood except for the operating room which has a tile floor.

Assessment of Integrity:

The Elizabeth Hospital Building is currently being renovated and the bagasse board walls are being replaced with sheetrock. This has caused only a minimal difference in appearance. The window surrounds, cornices and other historic woodwork features are being retained. In addition, a fire egress door has been cut at each end of the building (side elevations). In our opinion, these changes should be regarded as minor since they make little visual difference.

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

Specific dates 1924 **Builder/Architect** Builder; Industrial Lumber Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion A

The Elizabeth Hospital Building is locally significant in the area of industry because it best represents the community's origins and early history as a lumber company town.

The sawmill town of Elizabeth was founded, owned, and operated by the Industrial Lumber Company. The company already owned two mills in nearby Oakdale and one in Vinton when in 1907 it located a new mill site at Elizabeth and platted the town. The mill site and adjacent town site were in the heart of a 70,000 acre parcel of long leaf yellow pine acquired by Industrial in 1905.

The huge Elizabeth mill began operation in 1909 and had a daily capacity of 160,000 feet of lumber when operating single shift. The company's two mills in Oakdale each had a daily capacity of 75,000. The three were linked by company built railroads, with Elizabeth serving as Industrial's headquarters. Elizabeth was also the home of three smaller allied industries: Producers' Turpentine Company; Southern Wood Products Corporation (turpentine, pine oil, pine tar and charcoal); and Calcasieu Manufacturing Company (turpentine, resin, and paper from otherwise unusable stumps). These companies, which were part of the Industrial "family," enabled the parent company to boast that "the entire original crop produced by the land has been utilized without waste."

Industrial was also quite proud of its motto "Builders, not spoilers." According to a 1923 company publication, Industrial devoted considerable attention to developing suitable cutover land for agricultural use. Specific activities in Elizabeth included a colonization plan, a sweet potato curing plant, a canning plant, and experimental farms.

This 1923 company publication, although obviously biased, is an invaluable pictorial and written record of Elizabeth's "golden age." It even has an aerial view showing a town much much larger than the present one. In addition to the large mill and allied operations, there was a company office, a large mercantile company, a hospital, a civic auditorium, several schools, hotels, six churches (three white and three black), and a movie theatre, not to mention housing for the workers, management, etc. Also, as was often the custom in company towns of the period, Industrial provided outdoor recreational facilities such as a golf course, two bathing clubs, and a park complete with an open air pavilion. Elizabeth's permanent residents numbered about 3,000 in 1923.

According to an individual who has lived in the community since 1911, Industrial shut down operations in 1940, whereupon Elizabeth became a paper mill town. (Apparently Industrial's interests were purchased by a paper mill.) As indicated previously, today's Elizabeth (at least the historic portion) is a considerably reduced and depleted version of the 1923 boom town. The mill is gone, and the only non-residential buildings remaining are the hospital, the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Stewart, Milton I. A Message of Progress; The Industrial Past and Present and its Own Home Town, Elizabeth, Louisiana. March 1923. Copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.
Personal communication with George Laird, who has lived in Elizabeth since 1911.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property @3/4ths of an acre

Quadrangle name Elizabeth, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	1	9	5	6	0	3	4	1	4	4	5	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 enclosed to-scale plat map. Boundaries lines follow the property lines of the lot on which the building stands.

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 National Register Staff
Division of Historic Preservation

ASSISTED BY MAYOR WARREN CLARK;
JEWEL GUNTER, TOWN CLERK; AND
GEORGE LAIRD AND DOROTHY LEJEUNE,
BOTH RESIDENTS OF ELIZABETH.

organization State of Louisiana

date Oct. 1984

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone (504) 922-0358

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

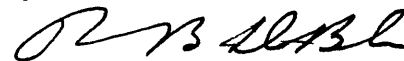
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 December 10, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 1-18-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered	JAN 18 1977

Continuation sheet Elizabeth Hospital Bldg. Item number 8 Page 2

8. Significance (cont'd)

company built Methodist church, and a small Catholic church which may or may not have been built by Industrial. There are also 50-75 workers cottages as well as several larger fairly plain houses which were presumably for managers and other upper echelon employees.

The State Historic Preservation Office feels that, of these extant resources, the hospital building best represents Elizabeth's history as a lumber company town. The staff at first thought there might be an eligible district in Elizabeth, but careful investigation revealed that the workers cottages have been altered too much (original porch columns replaced with iron columns, modern windows and doors, and side carport extensions). The handful of "big houses" and the two churches have not been seriously altered on the exterior, but they were used only by certain groups and not by the entire town the way the hospital was. In Elizabeth's heyday there were numerous public buildings and facilities used by the community as a whole, but today the hospital is the only one remaining. Also, of the extant buildings, it best represents the paternalism evident in lumber towns such as Elizabeth. In short, it illustrates that Industrial "took care of its own" in a manner no other extant resource can.

Map of Center
of Woodland Subdivision
Caldwell, LA

Area E 206.9
Net to State

MIMOSA DRIVE

N52°59'W
168.97

N16°08'W
98.96

N29°14'E 89.91

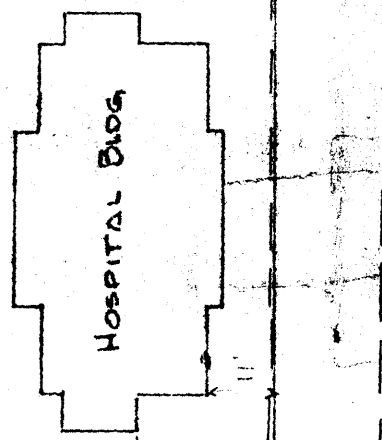
S30°01'W
58.5

S59°59'E
241.52

3

1

2



BOUNDARY

Elizabeth Hospital
Building
Parish, LA.

Building faces
Mimosa Drive.

SURVEY PLAT

Showing Lot To Be Deeded By
CALCASIEU PAPER CO

Located in

HOSPITAL AREA-WOODLAND SUBDIVISION

ELIZABETH, ALLEN PARISH, LA

Caldwell, LA

R A Fenstermaker

February, 1966

Engineer

Scale 1/4" = 40'