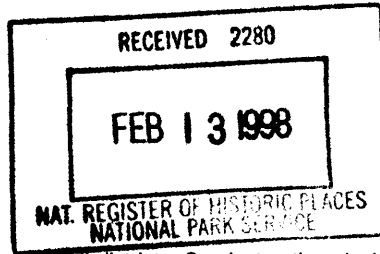


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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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 *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 Lutzenberger Foundry & Pattern Shop Building

other names/site number New Iberia Foundry & Machine Shop

2. Location

street & number 502 & 505 Jane St. N/A  not for publication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.)

*Gerri Hobdy* 2/3/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Gerri 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 commenting 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 3.12.98 Date of Action

Lutzenberger Foundry

Iberia Parish, LA

Name of Property

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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	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)

Industry / manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce / specialty store (pattern bldg.)

Commerce / warehouse (foundry)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick, metal

roof metal

other

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

Lutzenberger Foundry, Iberia Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

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The Lutzenberger Foundry is composed of two commercial industrial buildings located across the street from one another in New Iberia on the bank of Bayou Teche--the foundry and machine shop building and the pattern shop building. Due to the buildings' minimal styling details, the term "no style" will be applied to this nomination. The pattern shop is a two-storey building sided with corrugated tin. Sanborn maps describe the pattern shop building as "iron clad" and indicate a construction date between 1892 and 1895. The same corrugated material was used to fashion window and door shutters, which when closed, give the effect of a "window-less" building; the roof is metal as well. The foundry and machine shop building is a one-storey brick building built in 1882. Each building has retained its integrity despite a change in use to both and minor modifications to the pattern shop building.

The pattern shop building has undergone two one-storey additions--one to the rear of the building and the other to its southern side. These additions apparently occurred after 1931, as they do not appear on Sanborn maps from that date. They are sided in corrugated tin also, although the window and door openings are not covered by that material. According to the owner, the building's exterior has recently been re-coated in zinc.

Much of the front office area of the building's interior has been altered to accommodate a modern office while also adhering to the code standards of the State Fire Marshall. Modifications to the pattern shop primarily included the installation of a metal door between the office and storage areas and a lowered ceiling height. The modern acoustic tile ceiling appears throughout the office area except in the reception area, where the original ceiling remains visible. The beaded board walls in the original office area (as indicated on Sanborn maps) are also extant. The original entrance door, which features stained glass and Eastlake details, has been re-located to the interior, where it now separates two office areas. The current owner also recently made an addition of sills, aprons, and surround trim to the interior of the windows.

The rear area of the pattern shop building, once the woodworking area and now used for storage, continues to house the four lathes which were used in the production of the pattern molds. The upper story of the building (which has not been modified) houses many of the wooden pattern molds produced and used by the foundry, which have remained virtually untouched since the foundry's operation. Many of these patterns are marked in paint with the name of the individual or company who ordered the pattern, as well as a date indicating when the pattern was completed. Some patterns also indicate the type of part that the pattern was designed to mold. For example, a part manufactured for the Iberia Cypress Lumber Company is labeled with the company's name, a 1911 date, and the words "Heater Bottom."

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lutzenberger Foundry, Iberia Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

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The foundry and machine shop building is a one-storey brick building, which is currently used as a storage building for a woodworking shop. The front and end walls, which form the gables of the building, extend above the roofline to create parapets with simple, but decorative, brickwork. The front gable is pierced by arched double entrance doors and four arched windows--two at either side of the doors, and two smaller windows above the doors. The doors and window shutters are crafted of iron. A small rectangular opening (now boarded) is located above the smaller upper windows. The front, rear, and side façades of the building are also decorated with small iron medallions.

Each side of the building also features four iron-shuttered windows. One iron-shuttered window and one iron door are located at the rear façade. Sanborn maps indicate that the furnace was located as an appendage to the south side of the rear of the building; two iron chimneys were also apparently present. Also, a small building was once attached to the north side of the foundry, which is alternately referred to as a machine shop and a boiler shed on Sanborn maps. This appendage was still in place as of 1931, but is no longer extant.

The dirt-floored interior space is completely open, with the exception of a crane, which protrudes from the approximate center of the south wall and extends across the interior of the building. The crane, which is certainly the most significant aspect of the interior, is constructed of heavy vertical and horizontal timbers affixed to the wall and truss system, as well as three diagonal members which act as bracing.

The crane and hook used to hold the iron bucket which transported the molten iron is also anchored at the center of the building by a series of four metal tie-bars which run through the corners of the building to the exterior, where they are further anchored to the ground by cables. An exterior buttress attached to the crane through the building provides additional bracing to counter-balance the weight of an iron bucket filled with molten iron. This bucket--as well as the scale used to weigh both iron and the coal for fuel--is still located on the site, to the rear of the building. The crank, wheel, and chain system which allows the crane its range of movement is still in place, and according to the owner, the crane remains fully functional.

A survey of the foundry building and surrounding grounds gives a clear impression of the previous use of the site, as slag and pieces of coal dot the ground. The building itself also suggests its former use--the wall surrounding the area where the coal oven was located is charred with soot.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Lutzenberger Foundry, Iberia Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

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**Assessment of Integrity:** The foundry and machine shop building is in good general condition, although the iron doors and shutters and some bricks have begun to deteriorate. Also, some of the brickwork has been repaired due to automobile collisions with the building. The alterations to the pattern shop building are not only minor, but essentially reversible ones, and thus have no major effect to the building's integrity. Therefore, the Lutzenberger Foundry remains a strong candidate for the National Register not only because it has retained its architectural integrity, but also by virtue of its significance as a rare and primarily untouched example of an industrial site.

**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)

industry

**Period of Significance**

1882 - 1947

**Significant Dates**

1882, 1892-95

**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:

Lutzenberger Foundry  
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.)

1 

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3	3	2	0	4	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

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 National Register staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1997

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 Jem Products, c/o Reving Broussard, Jr.

street & number 505 Jane Street telephone 318-365-7266

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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lutzenberger Foundry and Pattern Shop Building, Iberia Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

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The fundamental importance of these individual buildings lies not so much in their architectural significance, but instead with their historic significance as a rare surviving example of a once important and now largely defunct industry within Louisiana. Moreover, the fact that many of the components which comprised the foundry and made its operation possible still survive--pattern molds, lathes, crane, bucket, scale--is testament to the integrity of the site as a clear representation of an historic industrial site.

The Lutzenberger Foundry utilized cast iron in its manufacturing process, which differs from wrought iron in that it has a much higher carbon content (.04% versus 4-6%). As a result, wrought iron is very malleable and strong, but cast iron is brittle and prone to breakage. Nevertheless, the primary advantage of casting is that it allows specific items or designs to be re-made or cast many times with relatively little difficulty. Cast iron is characterized by a molded appearance and rough surface on the unfinished interior areas. Many books were published during the nineteenth century which provided technical information on all of the aspects of cast iron and the foundry business.

Although iron was not readily available as a resource within Louisiana, the Northeastern and Midwestern states traditionally provided much of the iron used in the U.S. cast iron industry in the form of pig iron (also known as cast iron). These "pigs" of iron were produced near the source of retrieval for the ore by smelting the iron from the ores and allowing it to flow into molds, where it then cooled and could be shipped to foundries. Once received by a foundry, the iron could be remelted at 2000° to 3000° and cast into a pattern.

Foundries were heavily reliant on the skill of pattern-makers, who created the wooden designs which were used to produce molds for the casting process. Pine and mahogany were generally accepted as the best woods for this use, although other woods were occasionally used as well. A pattern made from a smooth, straight-grained, and well-seasoned wood guaranteed the pattern's repeated use if properly cared for and stored. In preparation for casting, the wooden patterns were placed into a special sand which held the shape of the pattern and withstood the high temperature of the molten iron. These wooden pattern molds were typically designed to allow for the ¼- to ⅛-inch shrinkage which occurred during the cooling process following casting.

The molder not only fitted the pattern into the sand or other molding medium, but also designed the vents through which gas escaped as the iron was poured into the mold (the vents were shaped into the sand). The mold was further prepared with a coating of coal dust or another



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lutzenberger Foundry, Iberia Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 2

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substance which prevented the iron from seeping into the sand. Once the iron was poured and the mold cooled, the casting was smoothed and prepared as a final product.

Within the Lutzenberger Foundry, this process began in the pattern shop, with the production of the wooden patterns which formed the designs of the various parts manufactured by the foundry. In the foundry, the pig iron was melted in the furnace, which was located to the southern end of the rear of the building. A large crane held an iron bucket of molten iron with a hook and poured the iron into the sand molds. Presumably, the front area of the building was used for storing the finished products, as it is referred to as the "machine shop" on Sanborn maps, while the rear is called the "foundry."

German immigrant F.S. Lutzenberger established the F.S. Lutzenberger Foundry and Machine Shop in 1871, employing 40 to 50 men who did castings and repairs for steamboat and sugar mill parts. The foundry was established at a time when a great deal of work was available within the iron industry--the repair of old sugar mills and construction of new mills created a demand for production of the various parts necessary for the operation of a mill, which were typically fabricated from iron. As the number of sugar mills decreased, work apparently came in the form of parts for steamships. The Lutzenberger Foundry and Machine Shop was a business significant enough to warrant a night watchman, even in its earliest years of operation in the 1880s.

The original foundry was located on the bank of Bayou Teche downstream from the foundry's current site. History suggests that this original foundry burned in 1882, but was immediately rebuilt at its current site. The Simon family, descendants of Lutzenberger, operated the foundry until it was sold to the Voorhies family. One source indicates that a machine shop and supply house was founded by Paul Voorhies in late 1917; this may be the year that the foundry was sold. The foundry was later known as the New Iberia Foundry and Machine Shop.

Although one source suggests that the foundry was established in 1870 (not 1871) as the Stott and Lutzenberger Foundry, other sources indicate that Lutzenberger and Stott operated separate foundries. Sanborn maps dating from 1885 and 1892 refer to the business as the F.S. Lutzenberger Foundry and Machine Shop. No available documents refer to the company by another name until 1895, when the company is referred to as the New Iberia Foundry and Machine Shop on Sanborn maps. Maurine Bergerie, author of *They Tasted Bayou Water: A Brief History of Iberia Parish*, writes that the foundry's last casting occurred in 1953 and that the company was at the time of her writing (1962) known as the New Iberia Foundry and Supply

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Lutzenberger Foundry and Pattern Shop Building, Iberia Parish, LA

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Company. The buildings' current owner says that the company was known in 1963 as the Voorhies Machine and Supply Company.

According to the research of Ann Masson and Lydia Owen, 23 foundries operated in New Orleans during the nineteenth century. In 1869 alone, seven foundries existed in the city. Also, various smaller towns throughout Louisiana most likely would have supported foundry businesses as the result of nineteenth and early twentieth century industry. In south Louisiana specifically, the existence of sugar mills would have demanded ready access to iron mill components. Thus, while iron may not have been as readily available in Louisiana as in other states, it is clear that the iron industry is one which flourished. Only one of these New Orleans foundries is known to survive; the only other known foundry within the state is located in Jeanerette, and it slightly post-dates the Lutzenberger Foundry. Thus, the Lutzenberger Foundry represents an important aspect of Louisiana's commercial industrial history, not only as a rare surviving example of an industrial site, but also as an almost pristine example of such a site, having retained many of the important components associated with the foundry's production.

The period of significance spans from 1882, the date of the foundry's construction, to 1947, the current fifty-year cutoff. The iron industry for steamboat parts was important into the early years of the twentieth century and iron foundries supplied parts for the state's sugar mills up to and past the fifty-year cutoff. As noted above, the Lutzenberger Foundry remained in operation into the early 1950s. And while one presumes that the industry was on the wane in the later years of the period of significance, any date other than the fifty-year cutoff seemed arbitrary.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Lutzenberger Foundry, Iberia Parish, LA

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Christian, Marcus. *Negro Ironworkers of Louisiana, 1718-1900*. Gretna: Pelican, 1972.

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Masson, Ann M. & Lydia J. Owen. *Cast Iron and the Crescent City*. New Orleans: Gallier House, 1975.

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps. New Iberia. 1885, 1892, 1895, 1899, 1903, 1904, 1909, 1925, 1931.

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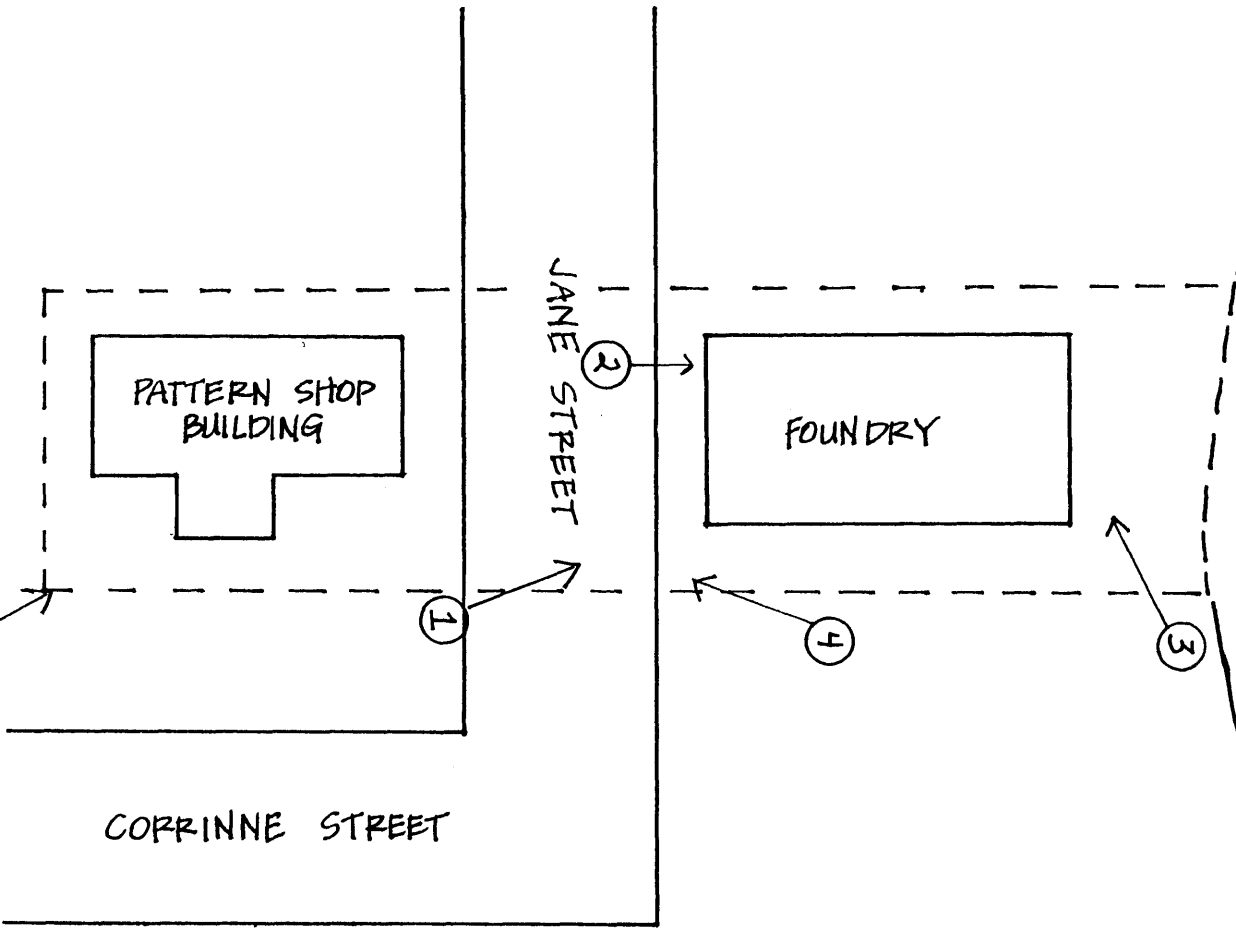
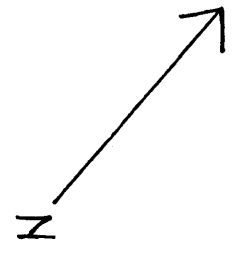
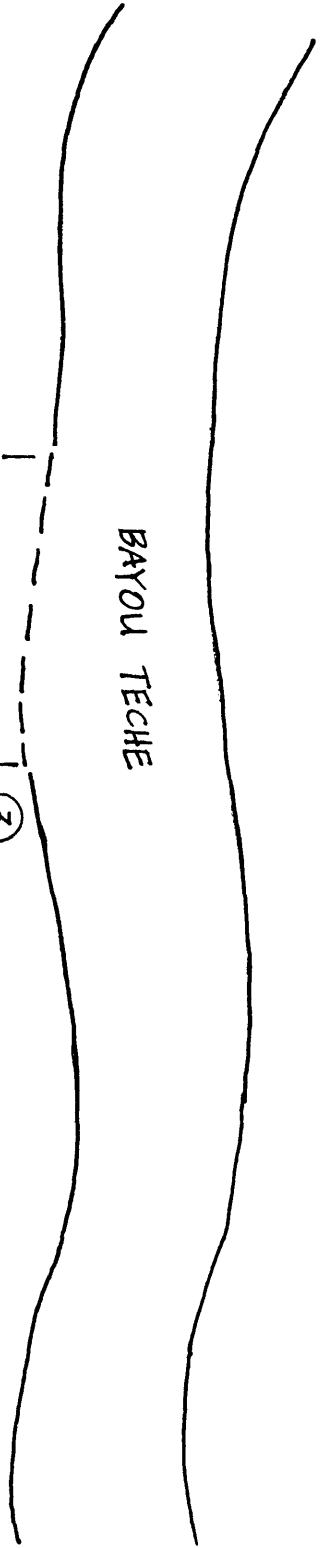
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lutzenberger Foundry and Pattern Shop Building, Iberia Parish, LA  
Section number 10 Page 1

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Boundary Description: Please see enclosed sketch map.

Justification: Boundaries were chosen to discretely encompass the two nominated buildings and to show the relationship of the foundry to Bayou Teche. They do not follow property lines because of nearby non-contributing elements under the same ownership.



LITZENBERGER FOUNDRY &  
PATTERN SHOP BUILDING  
IBERIA PARISH, LA

1" = 40'  
--- BOUNDARY