

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 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 Bank of Addis  
other names/site number Old Post Office Building  
Hebert Building

2. Location

street & number 7843 Ray Rivet Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Addis N/A vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county West Baton Rouge code 121 zip code 70710

3. Classification

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

LP Jan January 8, 1992  
Signature of certifying official Leslie 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:)

**entered in the National Register**

Alvaris Bryan 2/3/92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
COMMERCE/Trade: Financial institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
VACANT/Not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)  
No style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)  
foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof metal  
other concrete

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Bank of Addis is a small boxy one story brick building constructed in 1920. It stands facing the railroad tracks which mark the West Baton Rouge Parish community's once thriving commercial and governmental district. Despite some changes and additions, the structure retains its National Register eligibility.

The facade of the building's original section features 1) a single bay entrance porch, 2) a double door with a transom, 3) two sets of paired windows surmounted by flat arch lintels constructed of brick, 4) cast concrete quoins, window sills, and voussoirs (the latter displaying bas relief foliage designs), 5) a corbelled brick cornice, and 6) a stepped parapet featuring cast concrete panels and a cast concrete coping. On the interior, only the bank's vault survives from the historic period. Its door is highlighted by a surround featuring cast acanthus leaves and beaded molding.

The building has undergone the following alterations since its construction:

- 1) the installation of a gabled roof above the formerly flat roof behind the parapet. The gable hides two scroll-like ornaments which connect the parapet's higher central bay to the lower bays on each side.
- 2) the construction of a two-story addition at the structure's rear. This addition was completed in separate stages, with the structural clay tile lower story seeing completion several years before the frame second story was added.
- 3) the replacement of the original square cast concrete porch pillars with round metal columns.
- 4) the replacement of the original doors and the installation of screen doors on the facade.
- 5) the replacement of the bank's original sign (painted on the parapet's central panel) with one recognizing the building's later use as a post office, and the painting of the words "Hebert Building" on one side elevation. This sign reflects the building's actual ownership at the time it served as the community's post office.
- 6) the virtual gutting of the interior.

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Although the change in roofline is regrettable, the Bank of Addis retains sufficient integrity to justify its recognition by the National Register. Most of the facade's important elements remain intact, and the rear addition hardly shows from the front. As a result, any person from the historic period could not fail to recognize the building. Finally, the change in signage is itself historic. As the only surviving building from Addis' historic commercial district, the Bank of Addis is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

(see continuation sheet for historic photo)

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1921 photo of Bank of Addis

**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

1920 - c.1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1920 - c.1930  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Bank of Addis is locally significant in the area of commerce because it is the only building which survives from the community's historic central business district. Its period of significance spans from 1920, the date of construction, until c. 1930, when it ceased being used for commercial purposes.

The Town of Addis was founded in 1881 or 1882, during the final phase of construction of the Texas and Pacific Railroad's line between New Orleans and Texas. This route was part of the company's transcontinental network, designed to connect the East and West coasts via a southern route. First called Baton Rouge Junction, the community was created as a division point for the railroad. Citizens changed the village's name to Addis sometime between 1908 and 1910 to honor the railroad official who instigated an important period of growth.

J. W. Addis served as Superintendent of Motive Power and Rolling Stock for the Texas and Pacific. It was this man who convinced the company to build a depot, hotel, round house, coal chute, water tank, and cinder pit at Baton Rouge Junction in 1904. Once these facilities were completed, the community experienced a new spurt of growth which led to its incorporation in 1915. By 1920 it was thriving and supported several business establishments. In addition to the railroad's properties, these businesses included two hotels, four general stores, a meat market, drug store, fruit stand, saloon and dance hall, pool hall, bakery, cotton gin, syrup mill, an ice storage company, and the Bank of Addis. Thus, Addis was the commercial hub which served the numerous railroad employees stationed there as well as the sugar cane growers who populated the surrounding countryside. This commercial preeminence lasted until after World War II.

The bank itself was chartered in 1919 and apparently erected its new building the following year. (The property was purchased in February 1920, and the bank is shown in a photo dated 1921.) It continued in operation as the Bank of Addis until 1925, when its officers had the business' charter amended to create the Port Allen Bank and Trust Company. The facility in Addis then

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Kellough, Elizabeth and Mayeux, Leona, Chronicles of West Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge: West Baton Rouge Bicentennial Commission, 1979).

"Historical Profile of the Town of Addis," in National Register file.

Windshield survey of Addis by National Register Staff.

Historic Photos of buildings in Addis central business district.

Photo of Bank of Addis dated 1921.

See continuation sheet

- 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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	_____	_____	_____
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D	_____	_____	_____
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Legal property description: A certain lot of ground located, lying and being designated in the Village of Addis, Parish of West Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, on the east side of the Texas and Pacific Railroad right-of-way measuring 40' in width by a depth of 120' feet between equal parallel lines; said lot commencing at a point 75' from the center line of the right-of-way of the Port Allen New Roads Branch of the Texas and Pacific Railway and being bounded now or formerly on the east and north by property belonging to William Gassie, Jr., on the south by property formerly belonging to Leodore  See continuation sheet Guidry, now owned by William Gassie, Jr., and on the west by a public road 50' in width.

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow property lines of lot upon which the bank is located.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1991  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: Town of Addis  
P. O. Box 237  
Addis, LA 70710

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operated until about 1930 as the Trust Company's Addis Branch. After that, the building apparently remained vacant until 1936, when Joseph H. Hebert purchased it and converted it into a post office. It served in this capacity for almost 42 years.

Today the once thriving Addis central business district exists only in photographs and the memories of long-time residents. With the exception of the bank building, all of the town's historic commercial structures have disappeared. As the only survivor, the Bank of Addis is a significant reminder of the village's one-time important commercial role.