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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 22 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 City Hotel

other names/site number Hotel Darden

2. Location

street & number LA Hwy 120 and Rains Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Marthaville N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Natchitoches code 069 zip code 71450

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.)

Gerrit Hobdy 3/11/93
 Signature of certifying official/Title Gerrit 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 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 *Delores Byers* **entered in the National Register** Date of Action 4/22/93

City Hotel
Name of Property

Natchitoches Parish, LA
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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	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)

DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

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**

City Hotel, Marthaville, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The City Hotel is a two story frame galleried building located in the heart of the small community of Marthaville. Because its styling is minimal and very low-key, the "no style" category is being used. The hotel has received relatively few alterations since it was built c.1881 in response to the coming of the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

The hipped roof hotel has a full gallery on both stories. The plain square posts have simple molded capitals. The Italianate balustrade is original on the second story and replicated on the first due to severe deterioration. The hotel is sheathed in clapboards on all elevations except the front, which features drop siding. The entrance and a doorway opening onto the second story gallery reflect central halls. Both have side lights and transoms. The wider first floor entrance was made narrower within the last twenty or thirty years by moving the side lights closer together and filling in the spaces on the side. Other exterior alterations, all fairly minor, include concrete front steps, removal of the chimney tops, the enclosure of a portion of the gallery on the rear ell wing for a bathroom, and a small addition to the rear of the ell wing.

The floor plan (both floors) consists of two capacious rooms on each side of a central hall. At the ground level a long dining room extends beyond the core to form, along with the kitchen, an ell wing. Except for the central halls, the interior spaces are covered in fairly narrow gauge flush boards. The central halls feature the same drop siding as on the facade. All of the original mantels survive downstairs. The simple design consists of a pair of molded panels surmounted by an entablature-like molded panel and a molded shelf. There are no mantels in the two upstairs west rooms; those in the east rooms are salvaged.

Assessment of Integrity

Although there have been a few alterations, the City Hotel looks very much as it did when it was built. There is no question that it would be recognizable to its patrons from the historic period.

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)

transportation

Period of Significance

c.1881-1943

Significant Dates

N/A

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:

City Hotel
Name of Property

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

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 January 1993

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana 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 Mr. Thomas Eason

318-747-2607 (h)

street & number 2832 Patricia Drive telephone 318-868-7630 (w)

city or town Bossier City state Louisiana zip code 71112

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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

City Hotel, Marthaville, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The City Hotel is locally significant in the area of transportation because it is the only resource left to represent the town's very important railroad history. The period of significance spans from c.1881, the date of construction, to 1943, the fifty year cutoff for significance. The railroad remained an important force up to and past the fifty year cutoff, and the hotel continued to service it.

The small community of Marthaville was settled in the 1850s. John Jackson Rains, an early settler, is considered the founder. A post office with the name Marthaville was established there in 1855. The name honors Rains' wife. The most important event in the town's history was the arrival of the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1881. This transportation artery made possible a bustling economy based on sawmills and cotton gins. Historic photographs show frame gable fronted business houses lining the railroad corridor. The town was incorporated in 1884.

Realizing the need for a hostelry to service the railroad, Rains built the hotel under consideration across the street from the depot. Its principal patrons were salesmen ("drummers") and other individuals who had traveled to Marthaville by rail to conduct business. Railroad hotels such as the one in Marthaville were a common phenomenon. They were, in effect, the airport hotels of their day.

Today, the City Hotel is the only resource left to represent the town's railroad history. The depot has been demolished, and even the tracks have been removed. Businesses and industries which thrived because of the railroad in an indirect way represented it, but they too do not survive. Essentially there is no historic downtown Marthaville. Were it not for the hotel, one could not tell from the built environment that Marthaville had been a railroad town.

The hotel was owned by the Rains family until Mrs. Rains' death in 1898. It then went through a succession of owners before being purchased in the 1920s by the Darden family, who operated it for many years as Hotel Darden. Exactly when it ceased being a hotel is not known, although it is certain from various recollections that it was in the post-World War II years.

The Eason family has owned the building since the 1960s. The present owner, Tommy Eason, lives there on a part-time basis. A sign in the front yard reminds passersby of the building's history as a railroad hotel.

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Continuation Sheet**

City Hotel, Marthaville, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

Jennings, Thomas F. "The Town of Marthaville and Surrounding Community."
Marthaville, 1969. This typescript history includes historic photographs.

Historic photos of City Hotel and Marthaville in possession of hotel owner.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

City Hotel, Marthaville, Natchitoches Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

Lots 17 & 18, Block 37, Town of Marthaville, Louisiana

Justification

Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.