

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Calcasieu Marine Bank

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 840 Ryan Street

/not for publication

city, town Lake Charles

/vicinity

state Louisiana

code LA

county Calcasieu

code 019

zip code 70601

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<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.

Leslie P. Tassin
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

January 24, 1991
Date

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:) _____

Amy Federman

1/11/91

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 (storage)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls limestone

roof tar
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Calcasieu Marine Bank (1928) is a three story limestone-faced building designed in the neo-classical style by the noted New Orleans architectural firm of Favrot and Livaudais. It occupies a corner location in downtown Lake Charles and has received only a few minor alterations.

The central three bays of the facade are the focal point of the bank's exterior neo-classical styling. This section juts slightly forward to create a multi-plane surface. It features three two story round arch windows and a pair of colossal order engaged columns which are echoed in a pair of pilasters. Both columns and pilasters have papyrus leaf capitals. This impressive central section is surmounted by a full entablature and a shaped parapet crowned by a prominent eagle with spread wings. (The eagle is the symbol of Calcasieu Parish.) The frieze is enriched with dentils and bas relief medallions depicting the various types of settlers in Calcasieu (Indian, Spanish, etc). The striking eagle rests on a base ornamented with volutes and patera. The previously mentioned round arch windows are framed by pilasters with egg and dart molding. Each round arch is richly molded and accented with a volute-shaped keystone. The remainder of the windows on the facade are of the standard square head variety. All of the bank windows are of bronze and feature a multi-pane pattern. The round arch ones are particularly noteworthy, complete with an elaborately worked central band.

The front doorway, also of bronze, is outstanding. It is ornamented with lion's head pulls; various types of molding such as rope and egg and dart; and a cornice crowned with a central medallion flanked by horns-of-plenty, a series of urns and volutes, and corner eagles. The central medallion bears the date 1928 and the bank's original name, Calcasieu National Bank of Southwest Louisiana. It also depicts a car, a train, and an unknown building in the background.

Other noteworthy exterior features include:

- (1) the building's full entablature on the facade and side elevation;
- (2) the fenestration on the side elevation (two story round arch windows and square head); and
- (3) an original one story side wing.

The bank's interior is very well preserved and is quite an impressive public space. The entrance vestibule, with its marble walls and denticular cornice, leads to a grand banking hall with colossal order Corinthian pillars on all

See continuation sheet

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Calcasieu Marine Bank, Calcasieu Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

sides. The pillars and other wall surfaces are covered in bagasse boards treated to resemble orange marble. The boards were applied in blocks, giving an overall scored effect. The intricately worked column capitals feature an eagle on each elevation. The elaborate coffered ceiling is enriched with various sorts of bold moldings and patera in the center of the smaller panels. Other noteworthy features of the banking hall include: (1) terrazzo floors; (2) the original chandeliers and sconces; (3) marble counters; (4) a bold cornice with egg and dart molding, rope molding, and dentils; and (5) bronze teller cages ornamented with pierced panels depicting griffins, Indians, pineapples, etc.

Three sets of stairs (located in three of the corners) lead to the mezzanine level. Occupying the front of the mezzanine level is a linear board of director's room featuring ceiling medallions formed of anthemions, the original chandeliers, a parquet floor, an elaborate multi-layer cornice, and mahogany doors and baseboards. The third floor of the bank contains storage rooms, a record vault, and a dining room. The side wing contains a massive vault and a safety deposit room with its own vault and "privacy booths" for customers.

Alterations to the bank have been quite minimal. A marble bench and bronze tables were taken from the banking hall and placed in Calcasieu Marine's new bank. The side wing has received various alterations, including removal of marble counters, covering the original floor, and the installation of ceiling tiles. In about 1970 the party wall separating the bank and the adjacent building was pierced with doorways, and a narrow tinted glass walkway was built at the second floor level to provide further access between the two buildings. (Only the bank is being nominated to the Register, per the boundary justification.)

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)
architecture

Period of Significance
1928

Significant Dates
1928

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect: Favrot & Livaudais

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Calcasieu Marine Bank is locally significant as an architectural landmark within the city of Lake Charles. It achieves this distinction because of its monumental neo-classical facade and grand, richly ornamented banking hall.

The Calcasieu Marine Bank's landmark status is particularly pronounced because the City of Lake Charles has lost so much of its historic non-residential architecture. Due to booming prosperity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Lake Charles had a truly outstanding downtown with numerous landmarks. Old photos show a very impressive, very urban-looking central business district.

Although the city retains a significant and large collection of historic residences, its downtown has been almost completely destroyed, due largely to a relentless campaign of demolition and modernization waged in the prosperous '50s, '60s, and '70s. The end result is that Lake Charles has only about ten architecturally noteworthy non-residential buildings left, one of which is Calcasieu Marine Bank. Of these survivors, it is the only commercial building and one of only two to feature monumental neo-classical articulation.

The bank's architectural landmark status rests upon : (1) its pretentious facade, complete with two story round arch windows framed by colossal order engaged columns and pilasters and crowned by an eagle; and (2) its grand, richly ornamented, virtually unaltered banking hall, which is easily one of the most impressive public spaces in the city.

It should also be noted that Calcasieu Marine Bank is one of a group of buildings in Lake Charles designed by the noted New Orleans architectural firm of Favrot and Livaudais. This extremely prominent, quite prolific firm received numerous major commissions beginning in the wake of the fire of 1910 and continuing on through the '20s. Their extant work includes the Calcasieu Parish Courthouse, the Lake Charles City Hall, the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, the Calcasieu Marine Bank, and various schools and residences.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Blueprints/drawings in possession of Calcasieu Marine Bank.

N/A 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 1,5 4,7,9 1,0,0 3,3 4,3 8,8,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow property lines on the east, south and west. The northern party wall boundary (see map) requires some explanation. As noted in Part 7, this party wall was pierced with doors in about 1970 to provide access to the adjacent Weber Building. Also, a narrow glass walkway was built at the second story level. We questioned NPS about cutting the boundaries and were told that they could be drawn to exclude the Weber Building, per the attached letter. For the record, the Weber Building and Calcasieu Marine Bank were never historically related.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1990
 street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160
 city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Calcasieu Marine Bank
Lake Charles, LA
Calcasieu Parish

