

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

For NPS use only
received AUG 8 1986
date entered

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

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

1. Name

historic _____

and/or common Downtown Monroe Historic District

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by the Ouachita River, Interstate 20, N/A not for publication
Catalpa Street, and Jefferson Street

city, town Monroe N/A vicinity of _____

state LA code 22 county Ouachita Parish code 073

3. Classification

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

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ouachita Parish Courthouse

street & number 300 St. John Street P. O. Box 1862

city, town Monroe state LA 71201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Monroe Historic District boundaries encompass fifty-seven commercial and institutional buildings located adjacent to the Ouachita River. Except for two buildings, contributing elements date from the period 1890 to 1936. The district retains its historic character despite some demolition and a 35% intrusion rate.

The present city of Monroe traces its origins to Fort Miro and its associated Spanish post. The post was established in the 1780's, and the fort was built in 1790. In 1811 former Spanish commandant Don Juan Filhiol donated a three hundred foot square to serve as the courthouse site. The only building thought to date from anywhere near this early period is the old Clerk of Court's Office (#24). It was apparently built in 1816, although this is difficult to verify from architectural evidence.

In 1820 Monroe was granted a charter as a town, and in 1871 it was incorporated as a city. During these years it became a processing and shipping center for cotton and cotton products. The town grew and developed around the courthouse square. The previously mentioned Clerk of Court's Office and the Isaiah Garrett Law Office (1840-#20-National Register) are the only remaining pre-1890 buildings in the district.

Continued economic activity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was undoubtedly a significant factor in changing the Monroe townscape. In addition to the continuing importance of cotton to the local economy, a statewide lumber boom during the period had a tremendous impact. For example, the 1913 Sanborn Insurance Company map collection devotes only one sheet to the central business district and five sheets to lumber yards. Of course, the Ouachita River and both a north-south and east-west railroad were crucial to this late nineteenth-early twentieth century prosperity. One can see this prosperity in the district's building stock, particularly in the pretentious row of 1890's Italianate commercial buildings along Grand Street (#s 1, 2, and 4-9). Overall, the period of lumber boom preeminence (c.1890-c.1920) accounts for some 33% of the district's building stock,

During these years Monroe certainly exhibited a healthy architectural conservatism. For example, one still sees full-blown Italianate commercial buildings constructed as late as 1913 (#s 31 and 32). The original Ouachita National Bank Building (1906, #33) is also somewhat backward looking. Despite its colossal temple front, it has overly vertical proportions redolent of the Victorian Renaissance Revival. One can make a similar observation regarding St. Matthew's Catholic Church (#53). Perhaps the district's most striking building, it has a mid-Victorian "muscular" Gothic style which would have been thought very old fashioned in 1899 when it was built,

Additional development in Monroe was spurred by the discovery of the Monroe Gas Field in 1916. By the mid-1920's the field was regarded as the "world's greatest gas field," and its impact on the city was considerable. Thirty-five percent of the district's buildings date from the historic gas boom era. Some of these are major landmarks reflecting at least in a general sense the prosperity of the period. Three are Chicago style skyscrapers with neo-classical details (#s 15, 34 and 38), and one is an extremely elaborate Modernistic skyscraper (#51). Other landmarks from the period include the Ouachita Parish Courthouse (#19), the Federal Courthouse (#54), the Ouachita Parish High School (#21-National Register), and the Central Savings Bank (#50). Although these are not skyscrapers, they are all relatively

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7. Description (cont'd) Ouachita Parish, LA

large buildings, and each is a strong stylistic statement. Overall, most of the district's 1920's and '30's landmarks are in a fairly severe neo-classical style, although the Modernistic and Jacobean Revival styles are also represented.

Style - Period Breakdown

Pre-Civil War	4%	2
1890-1910	23%	13
1911-1920	10%	5
1921-1936	28%	17
Intrusions	35%	20

The Monroe district has a somewhat open character for an urban area. By examining Sanborn maps of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, one sees that the district was once more tightly packed. In the 1950's and '60's there was a good deal of demolition to provide for additional parking. Of course, this demolition also reflected the fact that, with suburbanization, many of the older buildings downtown had fallen into disuse. Despite this, the district retains its cohesiveness because it is composed of large buildings which relate to each other even from a long way off. In addition, the district is usually seen as a single entity because it is cut off from the surrounding city either by large blocks of modern buildings or Interstate 20. Finally, the Monroe district retains its cohesive singular identity because of its scale. Whereas most of present-day Monroe is characterized by one to two story strip development, the district is marked by six major structures which range in height from six to eleven stories. These mark the district off from the rest of the city and give it a separate identity.

Contributing Elements

The Monroe Historic District is significant as a superior example of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century townscape (i.e., up to 1936). There are certain elements (see Item 8) which give it this superior status, but the district should also be viewed as a tout ensemble of its period. Other 50+ year old elements which do not directly contribute to the district's superiority are important because they lend cohesiveness to the overall building mix. They also help establish the general historic flavor of the area. Hence any 50+ year old structure which has not been altered beyond recognition is considered a contributing element for purposes of this application.

Integrity of Contributing Elements:

Apart from three special cases and the loss of historic shopfronts, Monroe's contributing elements remain largely intact. Of course, some of the district's commercial buildings have been "slipcovered" and are listed as non-contributing elements. The most notable loss of historic shopfronts, in varying degrees, occurs in the party wall strip along the west side of Grand Street. Most of these are Italianate buildings, and despite the loss of their shopfronts, they still retain

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Ouachita Parish, LA

Description (cont'd)

the principal elements of the style (pressed metal or brick decorative cornices, segmentally arched windows, cast-iron hood molds, ornamental parapets, etc.). Also, it should be noted that virtually every other old central business district in the region has a similar problem. As far as the State Historic Preservation Office is aware, no town in northeastern Louisiana retains a significant complement of historic shopfronts.

The aforementioned special cases are the old Clerk of Court's Office (#24), the courthouse (#19), and an Italianate commercial building (#32). Although the Clerk of Court's Office was stuccoed over in the twentieth century, its original form, massing and architectural identity remain. It is still easily recognizable as an early nineteenth century small office structure. The neo-classical courthouse received two symmetrical wing additions in the 1960's. But this has not affected its character within the district. The additions duplicated the building's neo-classical styling so well that even a trained observer cannot tell that they are not original. Building #32 has lost its Italianate parapet, but it still retains copious brick detailing in many other places. Moreover, because it is the only instance of a loss of this kind, its effect upon the district is minimal.

Intrusions:

Although the district's 35% intrusion rate is relatively high, it is certainly not without precedent in Louisiana Register districts. (There are four Register districts in the state with an intrusion rate of over 30%, with the highest being 36%.) In any event, percentage figures alone should not be the determining factor, but rather the size and character of the intrusions and how well the area is able to absorb them and retain its historic character. Roughly 80% of Monroe's intrusions are only one story high, and most are remodeled older buildings; hence they do not significantly disturb the streetscape. Very importantly, the intrusions in virtually every case are easily overwhelmed by the much larger and visually stronger historic buildings. The general view photographs accompanying this submission are more telling than percentage figures in demonstrating that the Monroe district retains its historic character. (See particularly General Views 15, 17, 18, and 19.)

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Ouachita Parish, LA

MONROE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

1. Contributing element. c.1890 two story brick Italianate commercial building with polychromy effects, segmental parapet, and completely original cast-iron shopfront.
2. Contributing element. J. S. Bloch Building (Ferd-Levi Building). National Register. 1893 two story brick Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, brick pilasters, a corner entrance, a parapet formed of molded brick panels, and elaborate cast-iron shopfront.
3. Contributing element. c.1900 one story small brick storage building (deteriorated).
4. Contributing element. 1890 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building. Stucco worked into rockface stone pattern with piers and vousoirs. Original windows replaced with stained glass and modern awning added.
5. Contributing element. 1891 two story brick Italianate bank building. Elaborate parapet consists of corbel table, blind arcade, three paneled tablets, and a crowning central gable. Modern replaced shopfront.
6. Contributing element. c.1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, cast-iron window caps with gables, and pressed metal modillion cornice. Everything at shopfront level replaced except for cast-iron columns.
7. Contributing element. Same as #6.
8. Contributing element. Same as #6.
9. Contributing element. c.1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building with cast-iron window caps and pressed metal modillion cornice. Everything at shopfront level replaced except for cast-iron columns.
10. Contributing element. c.1925 one story relatively plain stuccoed neo-classical commercial building with cartouches and Greek key cornice. Shopfront level completely replaced.
11. Contributing element. c.1925 plain two story brick commercial building; altered shopfront.
12. Contributing element. c.1925 relatively plain one story brick commercial building with pediment shaped parapet. Altered shopfront.
13. Non-contributing element. Two story parking garage.
14. Non-contributing element. Small modern service station.

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Ouachita Parish, LA

MONROE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY (CONTINUED)

15. Contributing element. c.1925 nine story Chicago style brick commercial building. Diapered brick. Upper story set in cement bands like a frieze.
16. Contributing element. 1903 three story Italianate stuccoed commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, pressed metal cornice, and central gable parapet.
17. Contributing element. 1903 two story brick Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration. Shopfront altered, although some of cast-iron columns remain.
18. Non-contributing element. c.1950 small one story buff brick commercial building.
19. Contributing element. 1924 four story neo-classical parish courthouse with limestone facing. Features impressive colossal columnar piano nobile. c.1950 wings styled to resemble existing building.
20. Contributing element. Isaiah Garrett Law Office. 1840 one story brick plain residence historically used as a law office. National Register.
21. Contributing element. 1924-1930 Ouachita Parish High School. Three story neo-Jacobean brick building with Flemish gable parapets and cast cement trim (N.R.),
22. Non-contributing element. 1940's-'50's two story brick commercial building.
23. Contributing element. 1927 three story brick and limestone courthouse annex done in a low-key Italian Renaissance palazzo style. Has rear extension in same style and one story modern side wing (south) designed to be in keeping.
24. Contributing element. Believed to have been built in 1816, although difficult to verify from architectural evidence. One story clerk of court's office with gable parapet. Original brick surface stuccoed in twentieth century.
25. Non-contributing element. c.1910 two story brick building converted to garage facility c.1940 with "modernistic" front.
26. Non-contributing element. 1983 two story stuccoed school.
27. Non-contributing element. Four story brick school; designed 1934, completed 1944.
28. Contributing element. 1911 two story handsome pedimented neo-Palladian brick church with dome. (First Baptist Church)

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MONROE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY (CONTINUED)

29. Contributing element. c.1935 six story neo-classical brick office building with free-standing columns on top floor and arched windows on second floor.
30. Non-contributing element. c.1960 small one story office building.
31. Contributing element. c.1913 three story brick Italianate commercial building with arched windows and elaborate shaped parapet. Shopfront replaced.
32. Contributing element. c.1913 three story brick Italianate commercial building with triple arched windows on second story and original cast-iron columns at shopfront level. Parapet removed.
33. Contributing element. Original Ouachita National Bank. 1906; Drago & Smith, Architects. Neo-classical limestone temple with composite order fluted columns. Pediment features dentils and modillions and is crowned by an anthemion.
34. Contributing element. c.1920 eleven story brick and limestone bank with neo-classical ornamentation, including colossal Doric articulation of the nine and tenth stories and pilasters on the ground story. (Ouachita National Bank)
- 35-37 Non-contributing elements. One story older commercial buildings that have completely new fronts.
38. Contributing element. Ouachita National Bank Building. c.1925 eight story brick neo-classical office building with a cornice ornamented with dentils, modillions and anthemions; upper story set in frieze; low-key Chicago style.
39. Contributing element. c.1930 two story neo-classical brick commercial building with cast concrete garlands and swags in entablature and swan neck pedimented door.
40. Non-contributing element. One story older commercial building with completely new front.
41. Non-contributing element. Same as #40.
42. Contributing element. 1914 & 1916. Two story brick neo-classical commercial building featuring engaged columns.
43. Contributing element. c.1925 six story brick neo-classical commercial building with terra-cotta sheathing. Decorative elements include pilasters, reeded panels, medallions, anthemions above cornice, and a Vetruvian scroll.
- 44-48. Non-contributing elements. One story older commercial buildings with completely new fronts.

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MONROE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY (CONTINUED)

49. Non-contributing element. c.1940 one story low-key modernistic commercial building with replaced shopfront.
50. Contributing element. Central Savings Bank & Trust Co. 1920's two story neo-classical bank featuring portico with papyrus capitals on columns and pilasters. Side elevation articulated with same pilasters.
51. Contributing element. Francis Hotel. 1934 eleven story brick and terra-cotta Modernistic skyscraper with stylized classical motifs in spandrel panels, vertical shafts between windows, and rooftop finials. Building also features an elaborately articulated two-stage water tower.
52. Contributing element. Rectory for St. Matthews Catholic Church. c.1935 two story brick vaguely Gothic residence.
53. Contributing element. St. Matthews Catholic Church. 1899 brick Gothic church with frontal tower and contrasting light terra-cotta trim. Its massiveness is reminiscent of the mid-Victorian Gothic Revival.
54. Contributing element. United States Courthouse and Post Office. 1932 three story Modernistic courthouse with post office space on ground story. Features marble facing, fluted window slits, and elaborate stylized bas relief.
55. Non-contributing element. c.1950 two story brick vaguely Modernistic commercial building.
56. Contributing element. c.1930 plain one story brick commercial building.
57. Contributing element. c.1930 plain two story brick commercial building.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1816-1936 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Monroe Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture as the finest historic central business district in northeastern Louisiana. This region includes the parishes of Union, Lincoln, Jackson, Ouachita, Caldwell, Morehouse, Richland, Franklin, East Carroll, West Carroll, and Madison.

Monroe has traditionally been regarded as the economic capital of northeastern Louisiana. Of the 230 towns in the area, about twenty have historic central business districts, and of these, Monroe's is easily the finest. Monroe's architectural superiority is based upon two primary considerations: the commercial Italianate style and architectural landmarks.

No commercial buildings remain in the region from the Greek Revival period. The earliest commercial buildings one sees are in the Italianate style. Only a handful of towns retain Italianate commercial buildings, and in those which do, one generally finds one or two isolated, low-key examples. By contrast, Monroe has twelve examples (21% of the building stock), some of which are very elaborate. In addition, the district features an impressive more or less continuous row of eight Italianate buildings which constitutes the only wholly Victorian commercial streetscape remaining in the region.

The Monroe district is a regional "mecca" of late nineteenth-early twentieth century eclectic architecture, containing eight examples which are either on the Register or considered to be eligible on a regional basis by the State Historic Preservation Office. These are the Ouachita Parish High School (#21-N.R.), St. Matthew's Catholic Church (#53), the 1906 Ouachita National Bank Building (#33), the Ouachita Parish Courthouse (#19), the Central Savings Building (#50), the Francis Hotel (#51), the Federal Courthouse and Post Office (#54), and the First Baptist Church (#28). In addition, the district has three Chicago style skyscrapers, the region's only examples.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Monroe, 1886, 1890, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1909, 1913.
- Brasseaux, Carl A., Conrad, Glenn R., and Robison, R. Warren. The Courthouses of Louisiana. Lafayette, Louisiana: Center for Louisiana Studies, 1977.
- Franks, Kenny A. and Lambert, Paul F. Early Louisiana and Arkansas Oil. Texas A & M University Press, 1982.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property @ 48 acres
 Quadrangle name Monroe North and Monroe South, LA Quadrangle scale 1:24000
 UTM References

A	1 5	5 8 3 0 8 0	3 5 9 6 5 0 0	B	1 5	5 8 3 3 2 0	3 5 9 5 8 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 5	5 8 3 1 0 0	3 5 9 6 5 4 0	D	1 5	5 8 2 8 0 0	3 5 9 6 2 8 0
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See enclosed map for description and continuation sheet for justification.

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 Assisted by James E. Green, Monroe Planning & Urban Development Dept.
 organization Division of Historic Preservation date June 1986
State of Louisiana
 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

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 1, 1986

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

John A. Brown
 Keeper of the National Register

Nat. Hist. Register

date 9-4-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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date entered

Continuation sheet Monroe Historic District

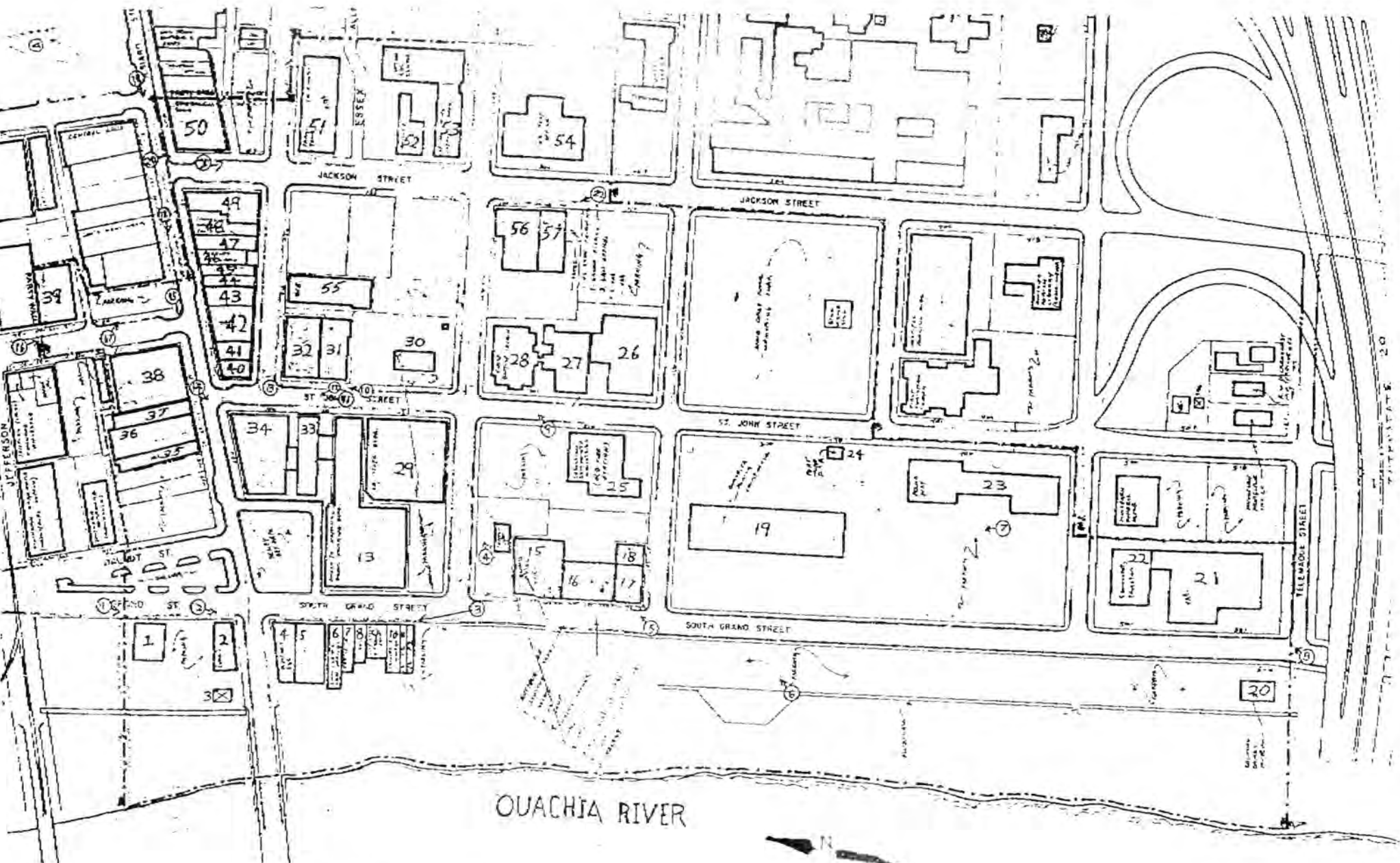
Item number 10

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Ouachita Parish, LA

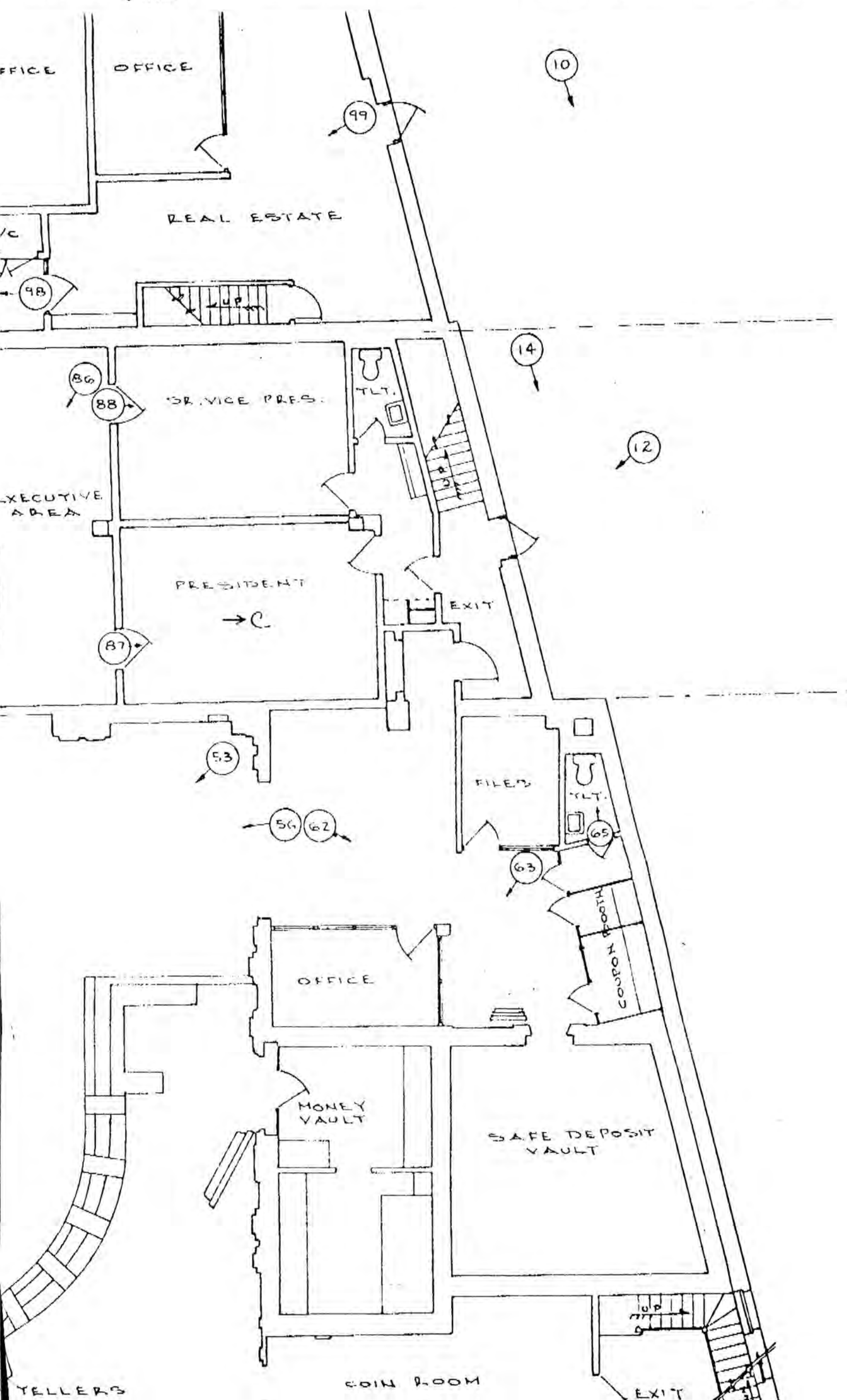
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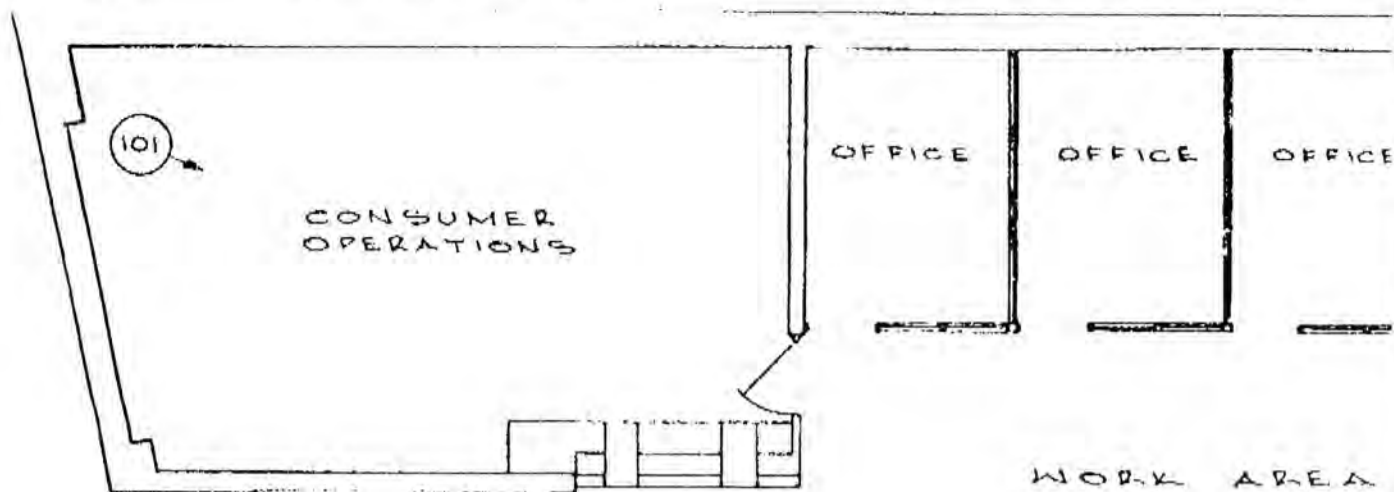
In most instances the district boundaries are clear, obvious, and easy to delineate. The western boundary follows the Ouachita River. The southern boundary abuts Interstate 20, and beyond the Interstate is a nondescript residential area. The undulating eastern boundary is determined in large part by large low-scale modern buildings located along St. John, Jackson, and Catalpa Streets (see map). East of the district on Desiard Street is an area of older buildings, virtually all of which have been altered beyond recognition. The northern boundary abuts an area of severely altered older buildings. The boundary line is irregular in order to take in building #39 (see map). Although it may look somewhat awkward on the map, Building 39 forms a continuous urban space with Buildings 33, 42, and 43. Photo #16 shows an urban vista which is a distinctive part of the district's character.



No 50 = CENTRAL BANK
 300 DESIARD STREET
 MONROE, LA. 71211

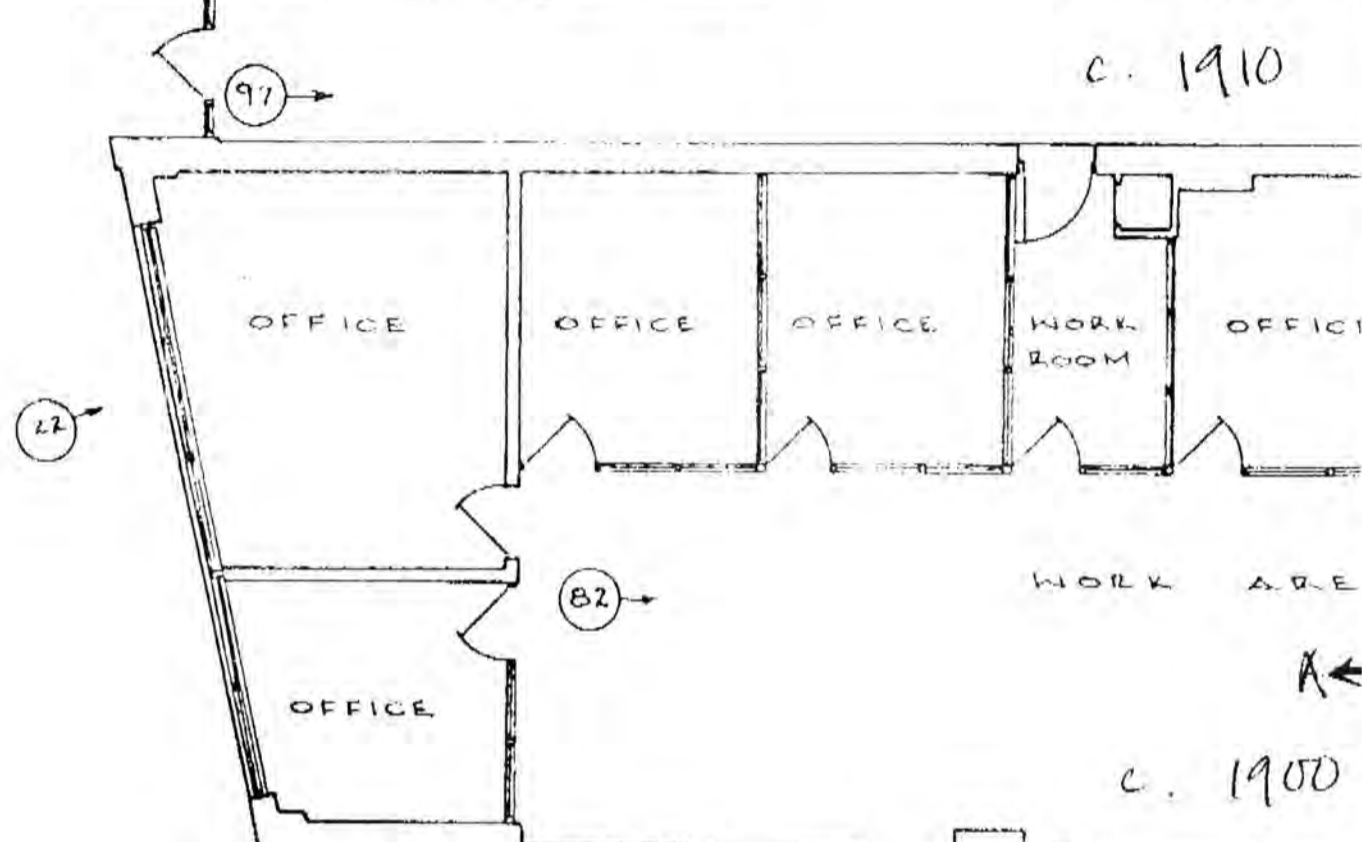
MONROE HISTORIC DISTRICT





WORK AREA

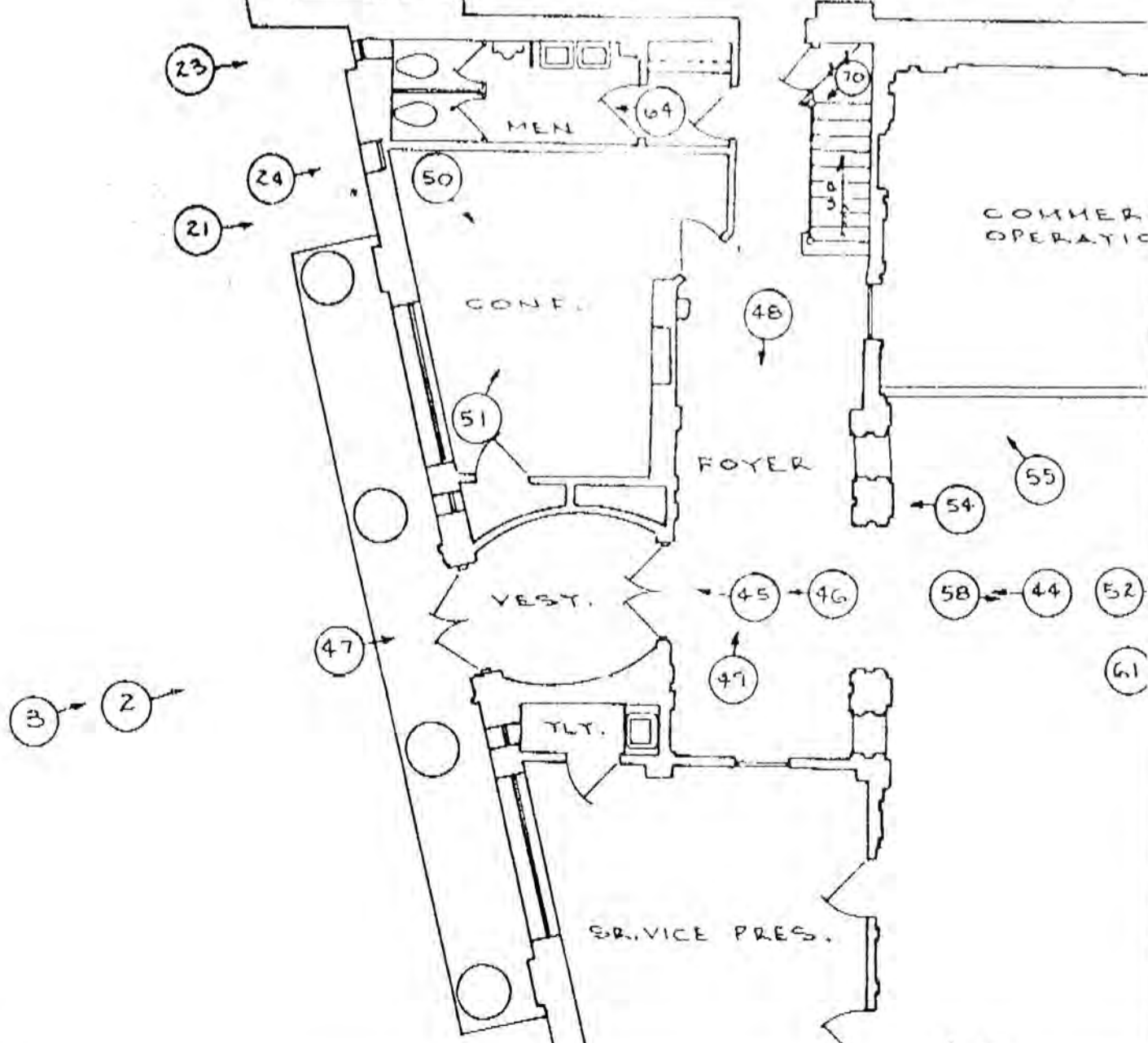
C. 1910

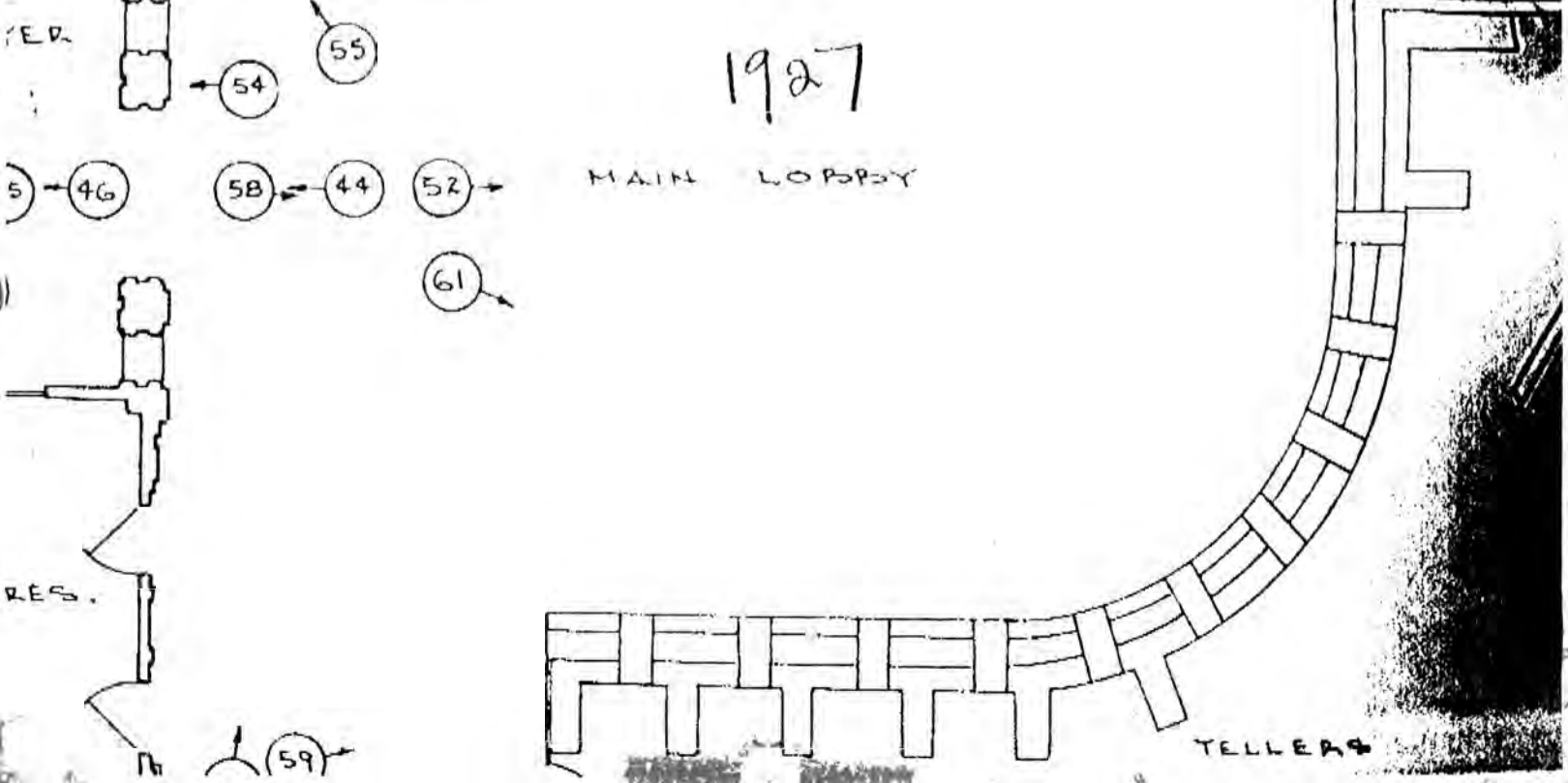
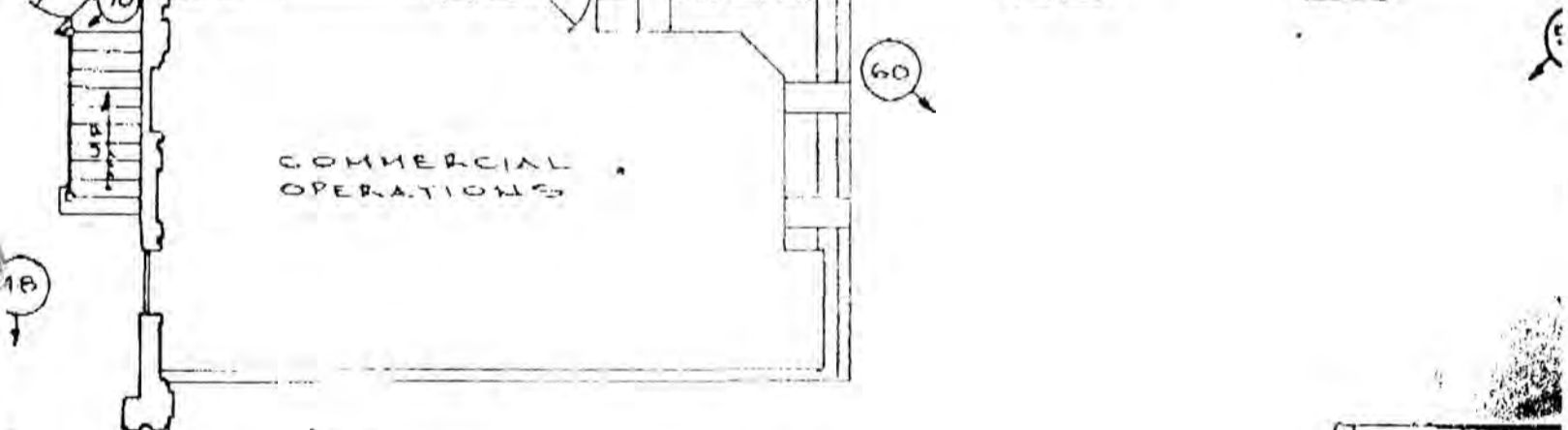
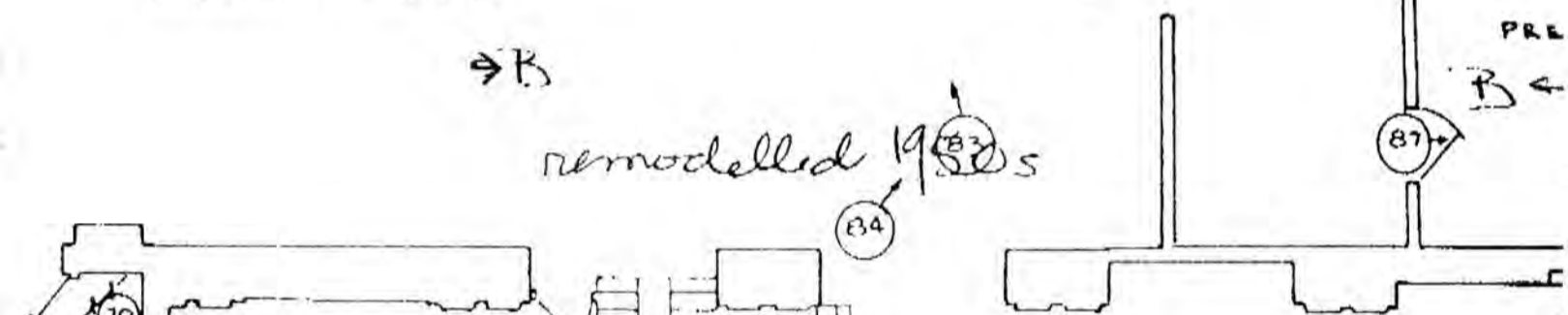
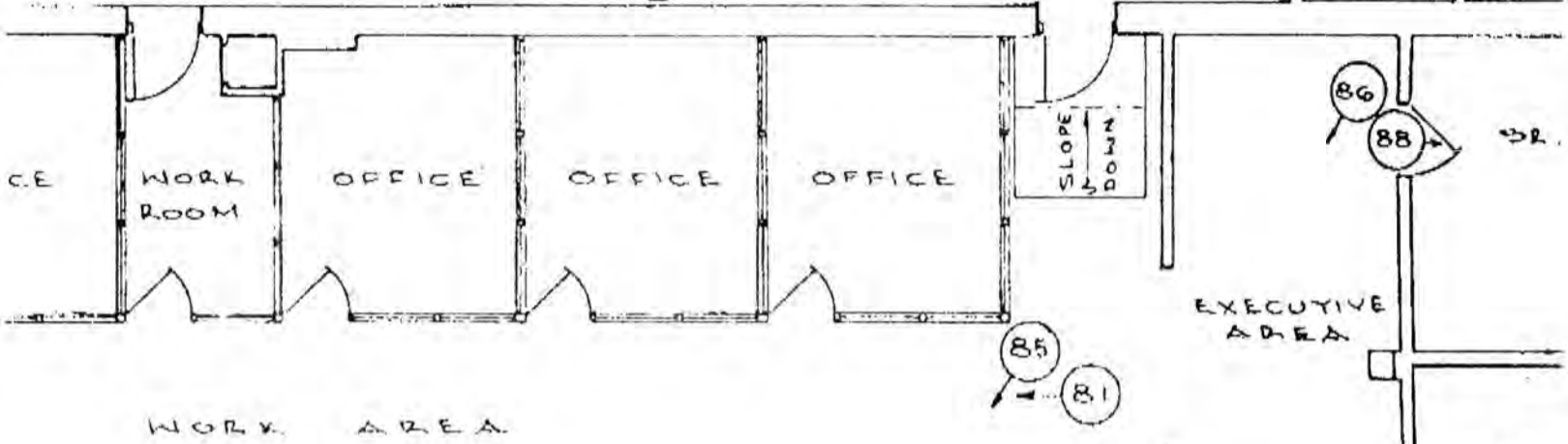
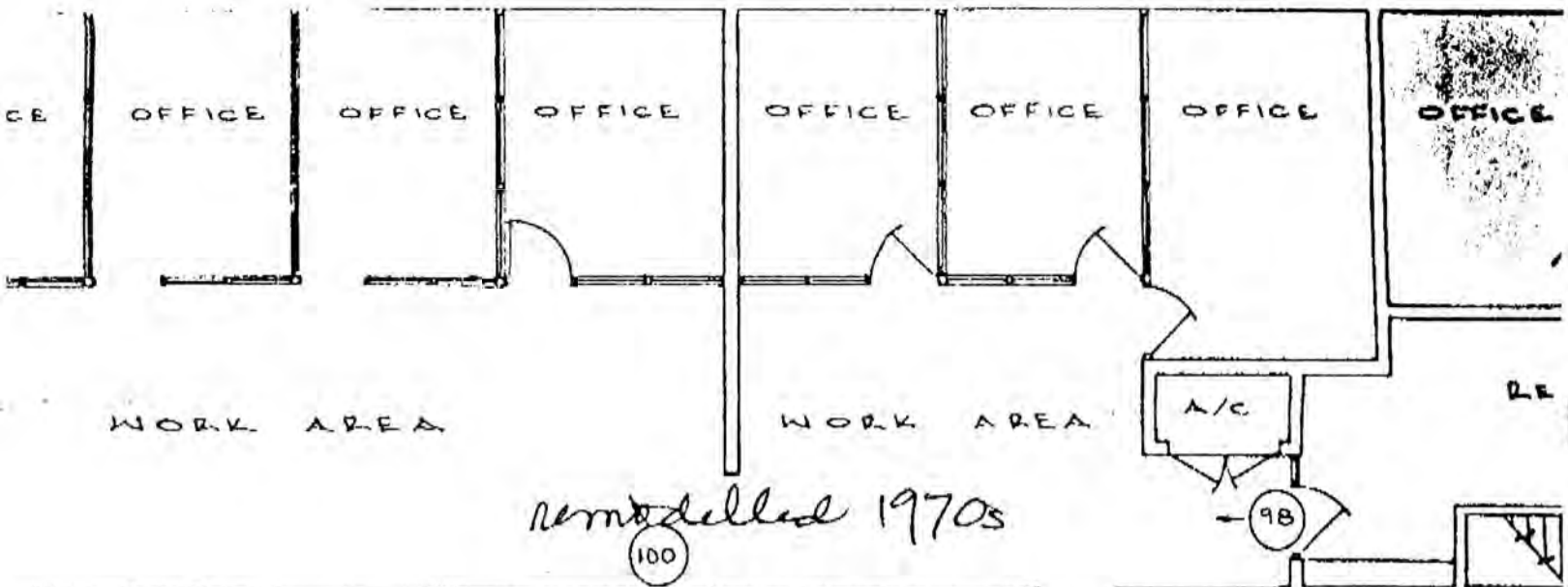


WORK AREA

A ←

C. 1900







Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #1
Buildings 1-2, 4-12
South



FOR SALE

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
General View #2
Buildings 2, 4-12
South



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
General View #3
Buildings 1-2, 4-12
North-northwest

NB: There is no building to the left
of #12. What shows in the picture
is rubble from the party wall of
a demolished building.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1882

THE CHANGE
PLASTIC FIBER
PAINTS
AND MORE

Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

General View #4

Buildings 14, 28, 53

East



The
GRAND
HOTEL

TERACE

Ralph's **B&B**
BONI
24 HOUR SERVICE 388

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #5
Buildings 13, 15-17
North—northeast



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
General View #6
Buildings 19, 51, 15-17
Northeast



Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

General View #7

Buildings 19, 23

North - northwest



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #8
Buildings 21, 22
North

23



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FOUNDED 1854

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
General View #9
Buildings 28, 51
Northeast



KNIGHTS
OF
PYTHIAS

STANDARD
OFFICE

F
I
R
S
T
P
L
A
C
E

Best Buy's Choice

JEW

NEW LIFE C

125 ST. JOHN HOBBS L.A. B
MINISTER OSCAR TOSER
DIRECTOR WILHELM L.M
Healing and Blessing serve
ALL OF US HERE

Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1936

General View #10

Buildings 31-32, 40, 38

North



KNIGHTS
OF THE
PYTHIAS

OFFICE
SUPPLY CO.

FIRST PLACE

GENERAL BANK

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
General View #11
Buildings 31-34, 40, 36-38
North



QUACHITA NATIONAL BANK

NATIONAL BANK

QUACHITA NATIONAL BANK

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
General View #12
Buildings 33-34
Northwest



West Baptist Church
REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST

NO
PARKING
LOADING
UNLOADING

KNIGHTS
PYTHIAS

OFFICE

Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

General View #13

Buildings 30-32, 26-28

South



ODACHITA NATIONAL BANK

THEODORE W. HAYES, ARCHT.

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #14
Buildings 34, 33, 29
Southwest



Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

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May 1986

General View #15

Buildings 35-38, 2

West - southwest



Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

General View #16

Buildings 39, 42-43

South-southeast



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #17
Buildings 51, 42-47
East-southeast

NB: The building to the left, which is
outside the district boundaries,
has a modern front.

ALACRE

LEE MILLINERY

Maple



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #18
Buildings 34, 40-46, 36-38
West - southwest



Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1936

General View #19

Buildings 34, 40-50, 38

West-southwest



Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

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LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

General View #20

Buildings 50, *51*, *53*, *54*

South-southeast



Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Donna Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

General View #21

Buildings 50, 51, 53, 54

South-southeast



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
Building #20
West-Northwest



First Baptist Church
REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST

First Baptist Church
REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Donna Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
General View #22
Buildings 56-57
Northwest





Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
Building #24
West-Northwest



32

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
Building #29
Northwest



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
Building #30
Northeast



2 PER HOUR
JEWELERS
D PARK FEE

Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1936
Building #39
Southeast



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
Building #53
Northeast



Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
Jonathan Fricker
LA State Historic Preservation Office
May 1986
Building #54
Northeast



PALACE ANNEX

Monroe Historic District

Ouachita Parish, LA

Jonathan Fricker

LA State Historic Preservation Office

May 1986

Building #55

Southwest

MONROE HISTORIC DISTRICT — OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA

LEGEND

BOUNDARY

SCALE 1" = 100'

BUILDING PERIODS

PRE CIVIL WAR — [Orange Box]

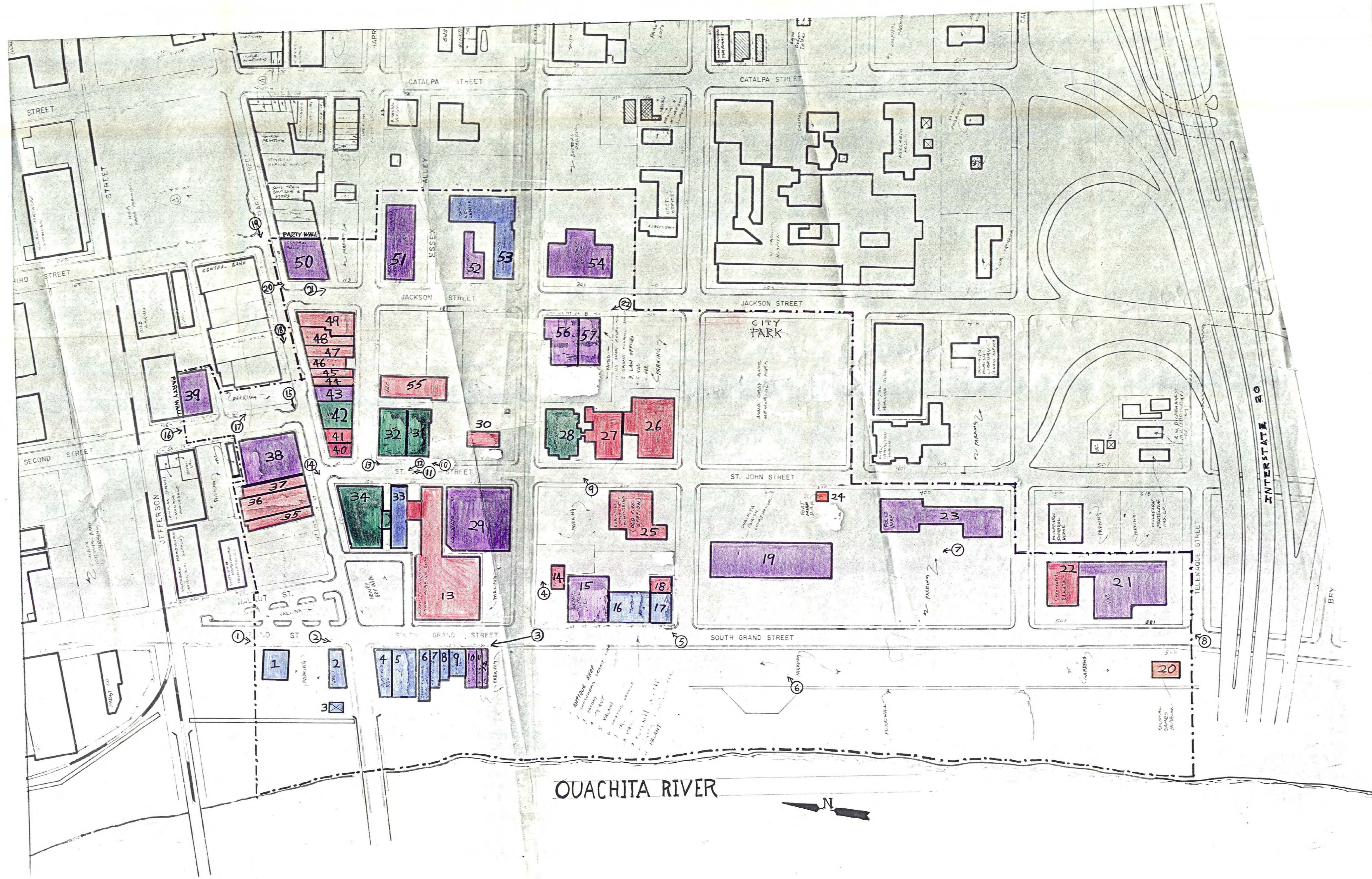
1890 — 1910 — [Blue Box]

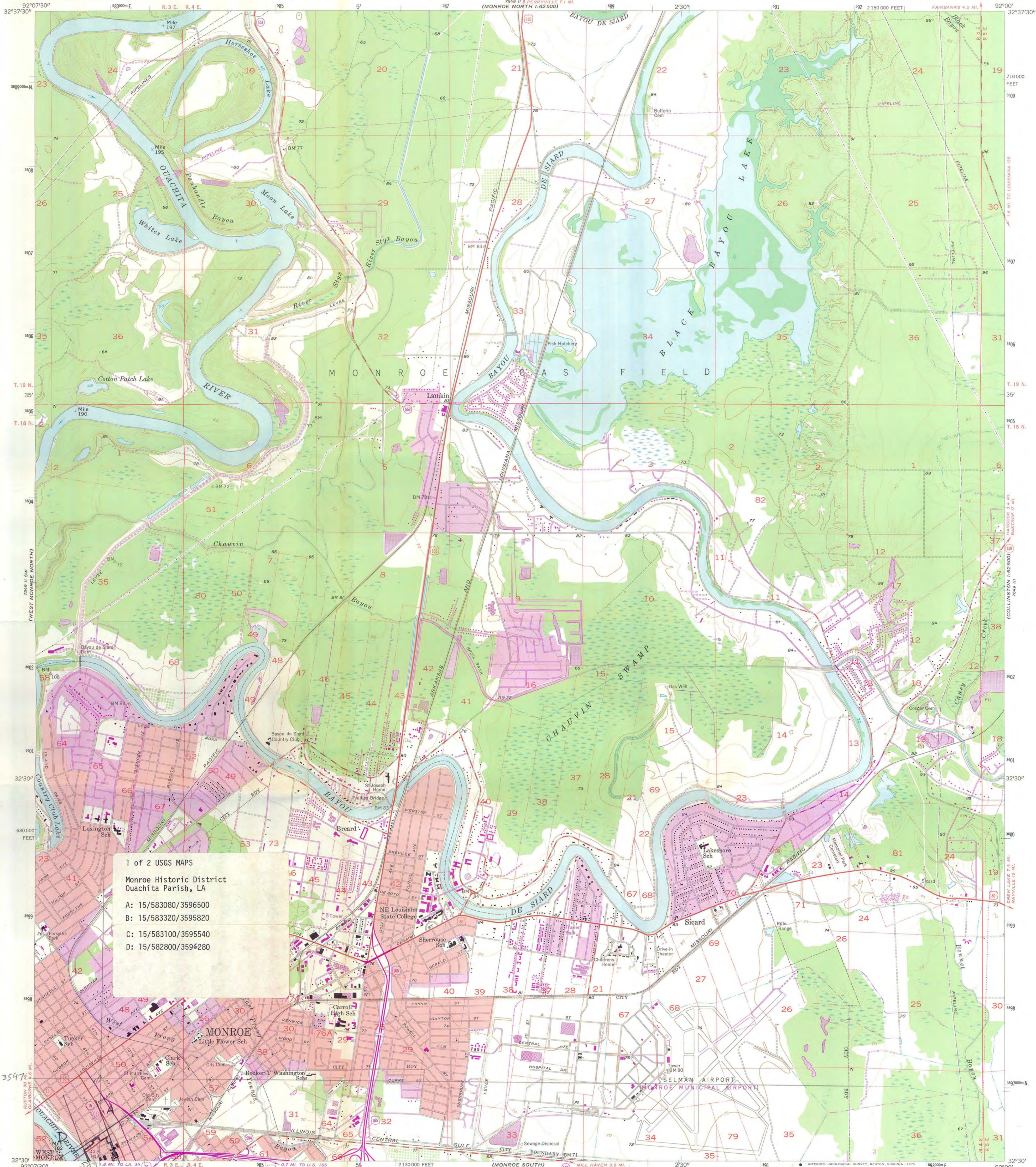
1911 — 1920 — [Green Box]

1921 — 1936 — [Purple Box]

INTRUSIONS (NON-CONTRIBUTING) — [Red Box]

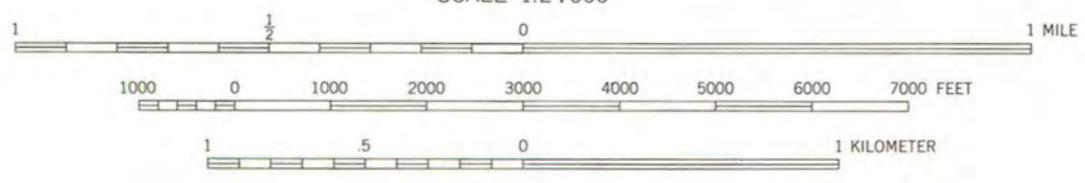
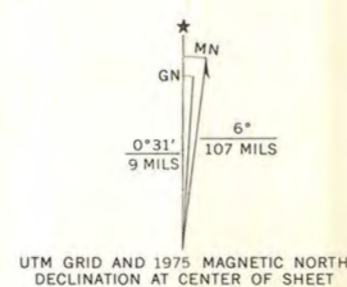
GENERAL VIEW PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWN BY NUMBERED ARROWS





1 of 2 USGS MAPS
Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
A: 15/583080/3596500
B: 15/583320/3595820
C: 15/583100/3595540
D: 15/582800/3596280

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1956. Topography by planetable surveys 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Louisiana coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal-Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
Louisiana Department of Public Works from aerial photographs
taken 1969 and 1975. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

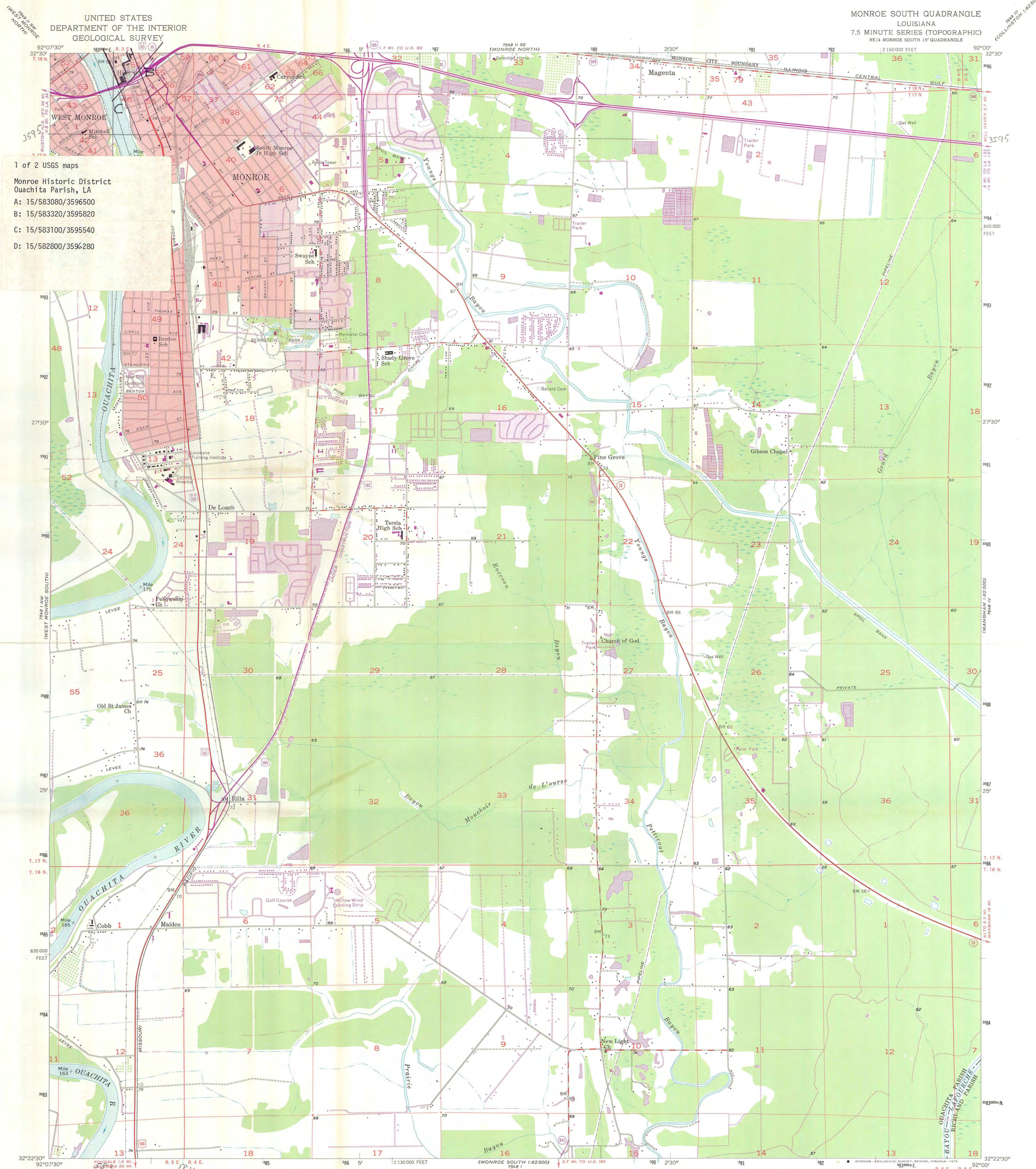


ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

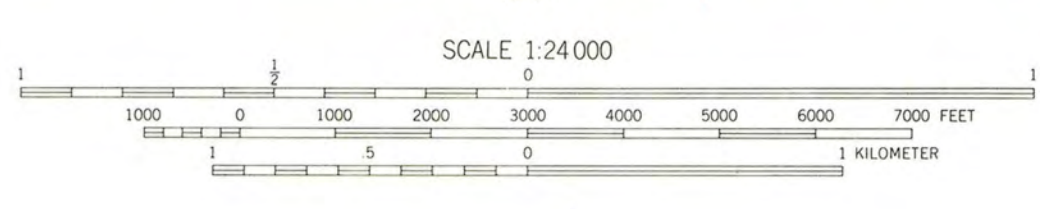
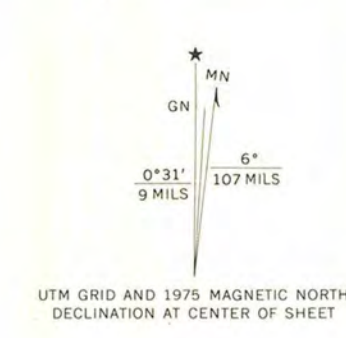
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MONROE NORTH, LA.
SE/4 MONROE NORTH 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3230-W9200/7.5
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1975
AMS 7549 II SE—SERIES V885



1 of 2 USGS maps
Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish, LA
A: 15/583080/3596500
B: 15/583320/3595820
C: 15/583100/3595540
D: 15/582800/3596280

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
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Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1956. Topography by planetable surveys 1957
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1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
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taken 1969 and 1975. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ Interstate Route ○ U.S. Route ○ State Route

MONROE SOUTH, LA.
NE/4 MONROE SOUTH 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3222.5—W 9200/7.5

1957
PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1975
AMS 7548 I NE—SERIES V885

463

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2017

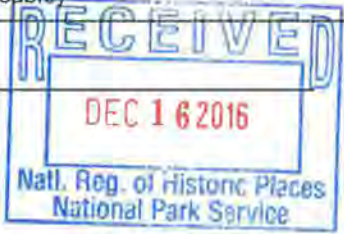
AD 86002202

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1. Downtown Monroe Historic District Additional Documentation
2. State/Federal Agency Certification
3. As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets, 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.

Phil Boogan
Signature of certifying official/Title: Phil Boogan, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date** 12-6-16
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

5. Number of Resources Within District
 - Contributing Buildings: **36**
 - Non-contributing buildings: **7** (new constructions since listing)
 - Non-contributing structures: **9** (includes 2 previously contributing buildings that have deteriorated and 7 modern structures along the river)
 - Non-contributing sites: **2** parks not previously included in original listing
 - Buildings previously listed on National Register: **37** contributing buildings in original district
 - Updating period of significance for existing district changes **6** buildings from non-contributing to contributing.
 - **Zero** contributing buildings now change to non-contributing due to inappropriate alterations.
 - Number of buildings demolished since listing of original district: **18** (7 Contributing; 11 Non-contributing).

Section 7:

Summary Paragraph:

The purpose of this addendum is to update the period of significance for the Downtown Monroe Historic District, which was listed on the National Register in 1986, and has not been evaluated since that time. The district includes commercial and institutional buildings. The current period of significance ends in 1936, following the Register's then 50 year cutoff. The present submission will bring the period of significance up to the present 50 year cutoff – 1966. As part of the update, a new inventory is provided as well as a new district map.

By updating the period of significance to 1966, the contributing/non-contributing status of 6

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By updating the period of significance to 1966, the contributing/non-contributing status of 6 buildings changes (None from contributing to non-contributing and 6 from non-contributing to contributing – these are noted in the inventory). There were 57 buildings in the original district. Today, there are 42 due to the demolition of 18 buildings and the introduction of 6 newly constructed buildings post 1986 into the district. There are also 2 non-contributing sites (parks) and 4 non-contributing structures (inventory entries #4, 8, 16 – which consists of 7 individual structures making up a riverfront park – and 21).

Demolished Buildings (1986 Inventory No.) – Unless noted otherwise, the building is no longer standing and its former location is a vacant lot:

(#1) Contributing building. c.1890 two story brick Italianate commercial building with polychromy effects, segmental parapet, and completely original cast-iron storefront. – **replaced with new, non-contributing structure (Current Inventory No. 1).**

(#3) Contributing building. c.1900 one story small brick storage building (deteriorated).

(#5) Contributing building. 1891 two story brick Italianate bank building. Elaborate parapet consists of corbel table, blind arcade, three paneled tablets, and a crowning central gable. Modern replaced storefront.

(#6) Contributing building. c.1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, cast-iron window caps with gables, and pressed metal modillion cornice. Everything at storefront level replaced except for cast-iron columns. **(Current inventory No. 4, now a non-contributing structure)**

(#14) Non-contributing building. Small modern service station. – **replaced with large canopy supported by metal columns; covered ground-level parking (Current Inventory No. 11).**

(#22) Non-contributing building. 1940's-'50's two story brick commercial building. – **Replaced with modern wing to rehabilitated #21 (Current Inventory No. 20).**

(#25) Non-contributing building. c.1910 two story brick building converted to garage facility c.1940 with "modernistic" front.

(#32) Contributing building. c.1913 three story brick Italianate commercial building with triple arched windows on second story and original cast-iron columns at storefront level. Parapet removed.

(#35, 36 & 37) Non-contributing buildings. One story older commercial buildings that have completely new fronts.

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(# 42) Contributing building. 1914 & 1916. Two story brick neo-classical commercial building featuring engaged columns.

(#45, 46, 47 & 48) Non-contributing buildings. One story older commercial buildings with completely new fronts.

(#49) Non-contributing building. c.1940 one story low-key modernistic commercial building with replaced storefront.

(#57) Contributing building. c.1930 plain two story brick commercial building.

Buildings Constructed Between 1936 and 1966:

The following is a brief overview of the buildings within the 1936 to 1966 period within the existing boundaries that are being changed from non-contributing to contributing because they are now 50 years old or have been rehabilitated to remove non-contributing alterations.

Since the listing of the Downtown Monroe Historic District in 1986, additional documentation and an additional thirty years of age have qualified six previously “non-contributing” buildings to now be considered “contributing” to the historic character of the district. The Monroe Auto Top and Trimming Company Building (#18, Photo 56), was believed to date to the 1950s. Further research shows this was approximately the time when an automobile bay was enclosed with a new storefront, on the right side of the building, which originally dates to 1927. Considering the infill is over 50 years old and much of the original form is visible, the building supports the defining character of the district.

In the adjoining block, the four-story masonry school building for the First Baptist Church, completed in 1944, now qualifies as a contributing structure. (#27, Photo 59). The Monroe Utilities Commission Building (#30, Photo 101) provides an example of the shift to a more geometric and less adorned architecture by the mid-1960s.

Two commercial buildings at the intersection of St. John and Desiard Streets speak to the district’s role as an upscale shopping district in the 1950s, just prior to the rise of shopping malls in America. Gordon’s Jewelers Building, 1954 (#41, Photos 93-94) and Zales’ Jewelry Building, 1958 (#40, Photos 93-94) served as northeast Louisiana outposts for Texas-based jewelry chains. Metal-framed display windows at eye-level and recessed entries drew customers inside while providing shade and lighting to showcase the jewelry at its most impressive appearance.

The Palace Department Store Annex (#55, Photo 82) was constructed in 1941 to accommodate the growing department store business and was connected to the main store across Harrison Street by a sky bridge, the first of its kind in Monroe. This feature is no longer

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extant, although the building remains.

Contributing vs. Non-Contributing Determination:

Determination of a building's contribution to the historic character of the district was made through examination of its street façade(s) to identify modifications which were made outside of the period of significance and the visual strength of remaining historic features. Modifications are more common on the storefront level. To give an example: For two story buildings with replaced storefronts, it is easier for alterations to be visually dominant if they are notable and the upper façade is plain (does not exhibit good integrity of materials, design and workmanship). If that same building had a strongly detailed upper façade or a similar façade with good integrity of materials, design and workmanship, then one could argue that it remained contributing to the character of the district.

INVENTORY

1. **105 North Grand** Non-contributing building. c. 2000 Two story, six-bay masonry, side-gabled residential building. Outermost bays are one story in height and serve as pedestrian and auto access to the rear of the property. Metal roof. Two metal balconies located on upper floor at front façade. Decorative hoods over windows and doors on front façade.
2. **101 North Grand.** Contributing building. J. S. Bloch Building (Ferd-Levi Building). Individually listed on the National Register. 1893 two story brick Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, brick pilasters, a corner entrance, a parapet formed of molded brick panels, and elaborate cast-iron storefront. Cast iron manufactured by Pullis Brothers Foundry, St. Louis, Missouri.
3. **100 South Grand** Contributing building. 1890 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building. Stucco worked into rock face stone pattern with piers and voussoirs. Original windows replaced with stained glass. A former modern awning was removed in 2016.
4. **116 South Grand** Non-contributing structure. This was formerly a c. 1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building matching inventory numbers 5-7. However, today, all that remains is the side wall, first floor of the façade, and rear wall. The remaining façade consists of a door with a six over six window above and the 'storefront' is just a large opening with a gate across it.
5. **118 South Grand** Contributing building. c.1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building with cast-iron window caps and pressed metal modillion cornice. Everything at storefront level replaced except for cast-iron columns.

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6. **122 South Grand** Contributing building. c.1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building with cast-iron window caps and pressed metal modillion cornice. Everything at storefront level replaced except for cast-iron columns and multi lite transom windows.
7. **124 South Grand** Contributing building. c.1893 two story stuccoed Italianate commercial building with cast-iron window caps and pressed metal modillion cornice. Everything at storefront level replaced except for cast-iron columns and multi lite transom windows.
8. **126-128 South Grand** Non-contributing structure. This was formerly a c.1925 one story relatively plain stuccoed neo-classical commercial building with cartouches and Greek key cornice. All that remains today is the façade with decorative features mentioned, some art glass in the transom remains above the right side and gates are found in each commercial space with the left one being recessed about halfway. The dividing wall between the two commercial spaces and the rear wall also remain.
9. **130 South Grand** Contributing building. c.1925 plain two story brick commercial building; three six lite metal windows on second floor, and storefront with a large plate glass window flanked by entry doors on each side and multi lite transoms above.
10. **132 South Grand** Contributing building. c.1925 relatively plain one story brick commercial building with pediment shaped parapet. Altered storefront within original storefront opening.
11. **137 South Grand** Non-contributing building. Two story parking garage built after 1966.
12. **201 South Grand** Non-contributing building. 2011 One story parking shelter. Metal framing supports a roof with high parapet with no decorative details. Open at ground level on north, east and west sides. Connects with Inventory No. 12.
13. **207 South Grand** Contributing building. 1928 Hotel Monroe Addition. Nine story Chicago style brick commercial building. Diapered brick details on top floor. Upper story set in cement bands like a frieze. Architect for the project was J.W. Smith & Associates of Monroe and general contractor was Glassell & Wilson of Shreveport.
14. **227 South Grand** Contributing building. Hotel Monroe Building. 1900. Three story Italianate stuccoed commercial building with shallow arch fenestration on all three floors, pressed metal cornice, and central gable parapet. Building also has a second floor gallery with simple balustrades supported by a mix of original and replacement metal columns.

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15. **243-247 South Grand** Contributing building. 1903 two story brick Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration on second floor and a dentilated cornice. Storefront altered, although all of the cast-iron columns remain. It appears the building once had a second floor gallery as all of the openings on the second floor features full height openings with doors.
16. **300 South Grand** Non-contributing structure. 2012 Six open-sided shelters with hipped metal roofs supported by cypress framing. Concrete base is supported by concrete columns over the inclined banks of the Ouachita River. Metal handrails line the periphery. Framed decorative metal panels and cupolas with metal flags decorate the shelters.
17. **301 South Grand** Contributing building. 1924 four story neo-classical parish courthouse with limestone facing. Features impressive colossal columnar piano nobile; c.1950 wings styled to resemble existing building. Remains contributing building, despite recent additions of external metal fire escape staircases at each end of the building and a one-story cream colored brick enclosure on the northwest corner of the building.
18. **421 South Grand** Non-contributing building. 2012 one story buff colored brick building. Public restroom facility. Metal hybrid-hipped roof has gable vents on east and west sides.
19. **500 South Grand** Non-contributing building. c.1970 Three bay, one story brick and concrete industrial building. Side-gabled with metal overhead door.
20. **501 South Grand** Contributing building. 1924-1930 Ouachita Parish High School. Three story neo-Jacobean brick building with Flemish gable parapets and cast cement trim. Individually listed on the National Register.
21. **516 South Grand** Non-contributing structure. c.1985 one story, three-bay brick and cast stone pavilion to honor school superintendent Jack Hayes.
22. **520 South Grand** Contributing building. Isaiah Garrett Law Office. 1840 one story brick plain residence historically used as a law office. Features a projecting front porch supported by four columns, two entry doors flanked by two single windows, and a rear addition clad in wood siding. Individually listed on the National Register.
23. **103-105 Wood** Contributing building. Monroe Auto Top and Trimming Company. c.1927, small one story buff brick commercial building.

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24. **400 St. John** Contributing building. 1927 Clinic Building. Three story brick and limestone courthouse annex done in a low-key Italian Renaissance palazzo style. Originally constructed as a medical clinic. Has rear extension in same style and one story modern side wing (south) designed to be in keeping with the original building. All windows have been replaced within the original opening.
25. **340 St. John** Contributing building. Believed to have been built in 1816, although difficult to verify from architectural evidence. One story clerk of court's office with gable parapet. Original brick surface stuccoed in twentieth century. Now labeled as "Fort Miro Chapter House D.A.R." Has a front gabled roof with pointed parapet and metal shutters on each side elevation over the two window openings.
26. **301 St. John** Non-Contributing site – Anna Gray Noe Park – c. 1980 Full city block bound by St. John, Wood, Jackson and Oak Streets. Concrete sidewalks, several small brick pavilions
27. **223 St. John** Non-contributing building. 1983 two story brick school.
28. **221 St. John** Contributing building. Four story brick school; designed in 1934, completed 1944. Blonde brick with recessed entry to left side. Building features a stone water table over the first floor and ten six over six windows on each floor facing St. John St. A stone band separates the third and fourth floors and tops the fourth floor as well.
29. **201 St. John** Contributing building. 1911 two story pedimented neo-Palladian brick church with dome, red tile roof, and stained glass windows throughout. There are two entrances on each side of the pedimented central bay. (First Baptist Church)
30. **122 St. John** Contributing building. 1925 six story neo-classical brick office building with free-standing columns on top floor and arched windows in central bay of second floor. Virginia Hotel Building. Storefront is replaced within the original openings and all windows are replacements. Detailing on the ground floor is stone and this stone projects up from each corner to divide the building into two ends and a wide central bay.
31. **127 St. John** Contributing building. Monroe Utilities Commission Building. c.1965 small one story office building. Corner of St. John and Grammont Streets has two double doors facing each street with small canvas canopies overhead. The rest of the St. John Street façade has four single windows on a blank brick wall.
32. **125 St. John** Contributing building. Knights of Pythias – Castle Hall. c.1913 three

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story brick Italianate commercial building with arched windows and elaborate shaped parapet. Commercial storefront removed between cast iron columns.

- 33. **110 St. John** Contributing building. Original Ouachita National Bank. 1906; Drago & Smith, Architects. Neo-classical limestone temple with Composite order fluted columns. Pediment features dentils and modillions and is crowned by an anthemion.
- 34. **114 North Second** Contributing building. c.1930 News Star Building. Three story neo-classical brick commercial building with cast concrete garlands and swags in entablature and swan neck pedimented door. Windows on side elevation are replacements. Windows on façade are original.
- 35. **100 Desiard** Non-contributing site Henry Bry Park c. 1975 park with concrete features in the Brutalist style. Contains raised planters, fountain and sunken plaza.
- 36. **130 Desiard** Contributing building. Ouachita National Bank Building. 1921. Eleven story brick and limestone bank with neo-classical ornamentation, including colossal Doric articulation of the nine and tenth stories and pilasters on the ground story. Albert S. Gottlieb of New York City was the architect and Underwood Contracting Corporation of New Orleans was contractor.
- 37. **141 Desiard** Contributing building. Bernhardt Building. 1927. Eight story brick neo-classical office building with a cornice ornamented with dentils, modillions and anthemions; upper story set in frieze; low-key Chicago style. Architect was J.W. Smith Architects of Monroe.
- 38. **200 Desiard** Contributing building. Zale’s Jewelry Building 1958 Three story commercial building of buff brick. Second floor has no fenestration and third floor has a series of windows along St. John Street with aluminum sun screens which project from the face of the building. The storefront angles back from the front façade to provide shelter to the aluminum framed display cases set in green serpentine marble. A cylindrical column is covered in green tiles and supports the structure at the intersection of Desiard and St. John Streets. Designed by Monroe architect, L. Milton King, and constructed by Lamar Moore, general contractor.
- 39. **202 Desiard** Contributing building. Gordon’s Jewelry Building. 1954. Three story commercial building. Entry recessed from front façade and flanked by display windows. Travertine panels above and below windows. Upper floors of front façade are covered in stucco and once provided background for a large neon sign (no longer present).

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Name of Property Ouachita Parish, LA
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- 40. **216 Desiard** Contributing building. Palace Department Store. 1925. Six story brick neo-classical commercial building with terra-cotta sheathing. Decorative features include pilasters, reeded panels, medallions, anthemions above cornice, and a Vitruvian scroll. The firm of Drago and King of Monroe was architect for the building. Storefront is modern replacement glass and upper floor windows are currently boarded over.
- 41. **220 Desiard** Non-contributing building. One story older commercial building with completely new stucco front, modern storefront system, and lateral siding on side elevation recently added. Residential style windows also added to the side elevations.
- 42. **300 Desiard** Contributing building. Central Savings Bank & Trust Co. 1923. Two story neo-classical bank featuring portico with papyrus capitals on columns and pilasters. Side elevation articulated with same pilasters. Two additions have been added to the left side of the building facing Desiard Street, but the entire building is considered contributing.
- 43. **105 Jackson** Contributing building. Frances Hotel. 1931. Eleven story brick and terra-cotta Modernistic skyscraper with stylized classical motifs in spandrel panels, vertical shafts between windows, and rooftop finials. Building also features an elaborately articulated two-stage water tower on the roof. All windows are replacements within the original opening size. Storefront has also been replaced within the original columns. Designed by Wyatt C. Hedrick & Co. Architects, Ft. Worth.
- 44. **117 Jackson** Contributing building. Rectory for St. Matthews Catholic Church. C.1935 two-story brick vaguely Gothic residence. Central entrance is outlined in white painted stone and features an arched door. Original metal casement windows are found on façade and side elevations.
- 45. **121 Jackson** Contributing building. St. Matthews Catholic Church. 1899 brick Gothic church with frontal tower and contrasting light terra-cotta trim. Its massiveness is reminiscent of the mid-Victorian Gothic Revival. Original stained glass windows are intact and covered with protective Plexiglas. Architect: Nicholas J. Clayton of Galveston, Texas.
- 46. **201 Jackson** Contributing building. United States Courthouse and Post Office. 1932 three story Modernistic courthouse with post office space on ground story. Features Art Deco details between the windows of each floor, marble facing, fluted window slits on each side of the windows, and elaborate stylized relief.

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47. **200 Jackson** Contributing building. c.1930 plain one story brick commercial building. Storefronts have had minor alterations, but the openings appear to be all original as well as some of the original brick bulkheads. One commercial entrance on the left side has been altered with a more recessed entry while the one on right is still flush with the façade with a central recessed door.

48. **218 Harrison** Contributing building. Palace Department Store Annex. c.1941 two story brick vaguely Modernistic commercial building. Ground floor has three individual storefronts that appear to be modern replacements within the original three bay ground floor. They feature central double door entries with glass block surrounds. Stepped brick courses border the bottom and top of the three bays on the second floor and each bay has a set of double replacement windows within the original opening size. While the storefront has been replaced, the main elements that make up the three bays of the two floors remain including the decorative brickwork on the second floor.

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Part 8:

New Period of Significance: 1895-1966

Summary Paragraph:

The Downtown Monroe Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1986 based on local significance in the area of architecture. The period of significance was 1895-1936. This additional documentation proposal will add another case under Criterion A (commerce) for downtown Monroe as the center of commerce for Ouachita Parish and northeast Louisiana. The end of downtown Monroe's commercial preeminence corresponds roughly to the present fifty-year cutoff of 1966, so that date will be used as the ending date of the period of significance under commerce. Prior to the creation of strip retail and malls, downtown Monroe was the main place to shop for goods and services in Ouachita Parish and the surrounding northeastern parishes.

Statement of Significance:

Criterion A: Commerce and Criterion C: Architecture

From the Downtown Monroe Historic District 1986 nomination:

The Monroe Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture as the finest historic central business district in northeastern Louisiana. This region includes the parishes of Union, Lincoln, Jackson, Ouachita, Caldwell, Morehouse, Richland, Franklin, East Carroll, West Carroll, and Madison.

Monroe has traditionally been regarded as the economic capital of northeastern Louisiana. Of the 230 towns in the area, about twenty have historic central business districts, and of these, Monroe's is easily the finest. Monroe's architectural superiority is based upon two primary considerations: the commercial Italianate style and architectural landmarks.

No commercial buildings remain in the region from the Greek Revival period. The earliest commercial buildings one sees are in the Italianate style. Only a handful of towns retain Italianate commercial buildings, and in those which do, one generally finds one or two isolated, low-key examples. By contrast, Monroe has twelve examples (21% of the building stock), some of which are very elaborate. In addition, the district features an impressive more or less continuous row of eight Italianate buildings which constitutes the only wholly Victorian commercial streetscape remaining in the region.

The Monroe district is a regional "mecca" of late nineteenth-early twentieth century eclectic architecture, containing eight examples which are either on the Register or

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considered to be eligible on a regional basis by the State Historic Preservation Office. These are the Ouachita Parish High School (#20-N.R.), St. Matthew's Catholic Church (#45), the 1906 Ouachita National Bank Building (#33), the Ouachita Parish Courthouse (#17), the Central Savings Building (#42), the Frances Hotel (#51), the Federal Courthouse and Post Office (#46), and the First Baptist Church (#29). In addition, the district has three Chicago style skyscrapers, the region's only examples.¹

History of Monroe and its Commercial Architecture

The city of Monroe began as a Spanish post along the Ouachita River in the 1780s, to establish a presence in the area, with increasing pressures from the growing United States and European powers. A stockade fort (Fort Miro), was constructed in 1790, near the site of the existing Ouachita Parish Courthouse. Spanish Governor Esteban Miro appointed Don Juan Filhiol as commander of the post. The area fell under American rule, following the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Since the fort was constructed on Filhiol's private land, a new stockade was built to the south of the existing structure.

On May 1, 1819, the first steam-powered vessel to navigate the Ouachita River to that point arrived at the town. Citizens were so impressed with the milestone event and the prosperity it foretold that they changed the name of Fort Miro to "Monroe", the name of the steamboat (named after then-current U.S. President James Monroe). Monroe continued to grow and prosper, along with the towns of Trenton and Cottonport (now West Monroe) largely due to the cotton, timber and shipping industries. Monroe was granted a charter as a town in 1820 and incorporated as a city in 1871.

By the late 19th and early 20th century, Monroe saw increased growth in population and in the number of commercial buildings in its downtown. These were largely characterized by one and two story buildings of brick and timber construction. Development of the district is most influenced by the automobile. From the 1910s to the 1930s, auto showrooms, repair garages, parking garages and filling stations were constructed to meet the growing demand for personal mobility. Desiard Street, Monroe's major commercial corridor in the first half of the 20th century, became part of US Hwy 80 in 1926, with the commissioning of the inaugural class of US highways. This highway served as a major east-west corridor from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with much of it being part of an early auto trail called the Dixie Overland Highway.

A predominance of 1890s and 1920s masonry commercial buildings characterizes the district. This collection of buildings shows a wide range of skills in brickwork design and craftsmanship, from simple to intricate. By the late 1950s, a national trend of shopping centers located outside of historic downtowns began to draw businesses and shoppers away from the district.

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Downtown Monroe Historic District, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, National Register #86002202.

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Despite attempts to reinvent itself in the eyes of consumers, the district saw a high vacancy rate and increased demolitions in the 1970s and 1980s (100 Block ((north side)) & 200 Block ((south side)) of Desiard). Demolition by neglect has also taken its toll, as in the 100 Blocks of North Grand and South Grand Street. In recent years, this trend has reversed, with the district experiencing increased private investment and an influx of businesses as well as residences.

Style – Period Breakdown

1800-1839	3%	1
1840-1889	3%	1
1890-1910	25%	9
1911-1920	8%	3
1921-1940	47%	17
1941-1960	11%	4
1961+	3%	1

Non-Contributing 16% 7

Intrusion Rate – The district has only a 16% intrusion rate of the buildings in the district being non-contributing, which is lower than many National Register districts in downtown locations. Causes for the intrusions range from unsympathetic alterations and additions (#60, Photo12; #61, Photo 13) to modern slip covers outside of the date of significance (#56, Photo 9 ; #57, Photo 10; #58, Photo 11) and modern buildings just under the classification period of significance, as in the 1968 Gay’s Menswear Building (#55, Photo 8).

Downtown Monroe as Center of Commerce:

Since its settling as a French outpost (Poste-du-Ouachita), the location has been a center of commerce for northeast Louisiana. Monroe’s location in the navigable range of the Ouachita River, paired with trails (which later became highways), and the eventual construction of the railroad and bridge across the river in the mid-1800s, meant residents of the region brought crops to the city to sell and then purchased supplies to take back to their farms. Monroe’s commerce was also bolstered by the need for legal, medical and banking services. The discovery of one of the world’s largest natural gas reserves below the area in 1916 brought great prosperity and commercial growth to Monroe.

Travelers have had a variety of locations to stay, as evident of the number of former hotel establishments within the downtown district. These include the Hotel Monroe (#14), Hotel Monroe Annex (#13), Virginia Hotel Building (#30) and the Hotel Frances (#43).

As the seat of Ouachita Parish and serving the Court of the Western District of Louisiana, the

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Downtown Monroe Historic District exhibits a variety of buildings with legal association. The Ouachita Parish Courthouse (#17) is prominently located on the high banks overlooking the Ouachita River, near the original site of the settlement. The oldest buildings in the district are the Clerk of Court’s Office (#25) and Isaiah Garrett Law Office (#22). The United States Courthouse and Post Office (#46) was constructed near the intersection of US Route 165 and US Route 80.

Banks helped finance the construction and growth of the region and projected their stability to the public through limestone edifices, as evident in the 1906 Ouachita National Bank Building (#33), the eleven story Ouachita National Bank Building (#36) and the Central Savings Bank and Trust Company Building (#42). A modern health clinic (#24) was constructed near the courthouse and later re-used for parish functions.

Two prominent churches survive in the Downtown Monroe Historic District, along with their supporting buildings: First Baptist Church (#28), along with two school buildings (#27 & #28); St. Matthew’s Catholic Church (#45) and its rectory (#44). St. Matthew’s Catholic Church is one of several Catholic churches designed in Louisiana by the premier Victorian architect in Galveston (TX), Nicholas J. Clayton. The design for St. Matthew’s was executed later in Clayton’s career. Other notable designs of his include the dome of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Holy Trinity Church in Shreveport, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria, and the John Sealy Building on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. One of his most noteworthy residential designs is the Walter Gresham Residence (Bishop’s Palace) in Galveston, a National Historic Landmark.

Commercial establishments range in size and age from the 1890s dry goods stores (#2, #3, #5-7) to the mid-century modern design of the Zale’s Jewelry Building (#38), with an angled storefront, recessed entry, scarcity of windows on upper floors and use of green serpentine marble, aluminum, tile and buff-colored brick. Prominent commercial establishments within the 1986 boundary of the district were largely centered on Desiard and Grand Streets, with secondary goods and services located on side streets.

As the center of regional commerce, downtown Monroe was the source the latest in fashion, furniture and other household goods, especially concentrating along Grand Street and Desiard Street. Movie theaters (Delta Theater, #52 and Joy Theater, #66) drew patrons into the district for entertainment and shopping. This expansion area includes connections with prominent international cultural products and services of the 20th century: Delta Airlines’ board room in the Central Savings Bank and Trust Company Annex (#58) and the Ouachita Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Inc.(#99). Both institutions are associated with the Joseph A. Biedenharn Family and their connection with Monroe is a source of community pride.

By the late 1950s and early 1960s, shopping malls offered consumers a trendy model of larger stores with open floor plans. So began the draining of commercial activities from Monroe, like

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nearly every other downtown across America. By the 1980s and 1990s, small commercial business had all but disappeared from downtown Monroe. Over the past decade, a wave of reinvestment and rehabilitation in the downtown has brought small business back into the area, along with artist lofts and studios and a large number of residential units.

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N/A

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9. Bibliography

Monroe News Star, various dates. Monroe, www.newspaperarchive.com, Accessed January to May, 2016.

Sanborn Insurance Company Maps, Monroe, 1890, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1909, 1913, 1920, 1926, 1932, 1932 (rev. July 1950).

National Register of Historic Places, Downtown Monroe Historic District, Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, National Register #86002202.

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10. Geographical Data

Updated latitude/longitude coordinates for the 1986 district boundaries:

	Latitude	Longitude
1.	32.501351	-92.119022
2.	32.500362	-92.118292
3.	32.498550	-92.117311
4.	32.496343	-92.116270
5.	32.496766	-92.115056
6.	32.497850	-92.115566
7.	32.497976	-92.115556
8.	32.498877	-92.115642
9.	32.499259	-92.114572
10.	32.500557	-92.115231
11.	32.500801	-92.114522
12.	32.502213	-92.115146
13.	32.502213	-92.115694
14.	32.502065	-92.115970
15.	32.502199	-92.166666
16.	32.502581	-92.116933
17.	32.502724	-92.116747
18.	32.502910	-92.116887
19.	32.502715	-92.117283
20.	32.502503	-92.117154

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Photo Log – Updated photos were taken as since the district was listed in 1986, there has been loss and several changes to various buildings in the district.

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Name of Photographer:

Date of Photographs

Location of Original Digital Files:

Number of Photographs:

Photo Log:

- 1 of 56: View of bridge crossing the Ouachita River and the edge of building #1; camera facing west
- 2 of 56: Façade of inventory entry #1; camera facing west
- 3 of 56: Façade of inventory entry #2; camera facing southwest
- 4 of 56: View from Endom Bridge looking into downtown Monroe; camera facing northeast
- 5 of 56: Façade of inventory entry #3; camera facing southwest
- 6 of 56: View of inventory entries #4-10 along S. Grand; camera facing south
- 7 of 56: Closer view of inventory entries #4-7; camera facing west
- 8 of 56: Closer view of inventory entries #8-10; camera facing southwest
- 9 of 56: View of inventory entries #1-10; camera facing northwest
- 10 of 56: View of inventory entry #11; camera facing north
- 11 of 56: View of inventory entries #12-14; camera facing east
- 12 of 56: Another view of inventory entries #12-14; camera facing north
- 13 of 56: View of non-contributing structures along the river (inventory entry #16); camera facing south
- 14 of 56: View of Ouachita Parish Courthouse, inventory entry #17; camera facing northeast
- 15 of 56: View of side elevation of Ouachita Parish Courthouse, inventory entry #17; camera facing northeast
- 16 of 56: Rear view of inventory entry #24; camera facing northeast
- 17 of 56: View of non-contributing restroom building, inventory entry #18; camera facing north
- 18 of 56: View of non-contributing storage building along river; inventory entry #18; camera facing west.
- 19 of 56: View of non-contributing memorial structure along the river, inventory entry #21; camera facing northeast
- 20 of 56: View of Isaiah Garrett Law Office, inventory entry #22; camera facing south
- 21 of 56: View of Ouachita Parish High School, inventory entry #20; camera facing north
- 22 of 56: View of addition made to 1927 clinic building, inventory entry #24; camera facing southwest
- 23 of 56: View of 1927 clinic building, inventory entry #24; camera facing west

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- 24 of 56: View of c. 1816 Clerk of Court's office, inventory entry #25; camera facing north
- 25 of 56: View of inventory entry #23; camera facing west
- 26 of 56: View of inventory entries #27-29; camera facing north
- 27 of 56: View of Anna Noe Park, inventory entry #26; camera facing north
- 28 of 56: Another view of Anna Noe Park, inventory entry #26; camera facing northeast
- 29 of 56: View of memorial within Anna Noe Park, inventory entry #26; camera facing southeast
- 30 of 56: View of inventory entry #47 – note that the school bus sits on the lot left after the building seen in the resource map was recently torn down; camera facing north
- 31 of 56: View of United States Courthouse and Post Office, inventory entry #46; camera facing north
- 32 of 56: Another view of the United States Courthouse and Post Office, inventory entry #46; camera facing east
- 33 of 56: View of inventory entry #47; camera facing southeast
- 34 of 56: View of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, inventory entry #45; camera facing northeast
- 35 of 56: Another view of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, inventory entry #45; camera facing west
- 36 of 56: View of St. Matthew's Catholic Church attached community center; camera facing northwest
- 37 of 56: View of rectory of St. Matthew's Catholic Church, inventory entry #44; camera facing northeast
- 38 of 56: View of inventory entry #31 and #30 (taller building in background); camera facing southwest
- 39 of 56: View of Frances Hotel, inventory entry #43; camera facing east
- 40 of 56: View of Palace Annex, inventory entry #48; camera facing southwest
- 41 of 56: View of Central Savings Bank and Trust, inventory entry #42; camera facing east
- 42 of 56: View of Frances Hotel and Central Savings Bank and Trust (at left), inventory entries #42 and #43; camera facing east
- 43 of 56: View of inventory entries #40 and #41; camera facing south
- 44 of 56: View of News Star Building, inventory entry #34; camera facing north
- 45 of 56: View of inventory entries #38 and #39; camera facing southeast
- 46 of 56: View of inventory entry #32; camera facing southeast
- 47 of 56: Closer view of inventory entry #32; camera facing east
- 48 of 56: View of inventory entry #31; camera facing northeast
- 49 of 56: View of First Baptist Church, inventory entry #29; camera facing east
- 50 of 56: View of inventory entries #30, #11, and #36; camera facing west
- 51 of 56: View of inventory entry #30 and #11; camera facing south
- 52 of 56: View of 1906 Ouachita National Bank, inventory entry #33; camera facing west
- 53 of 56: View of 1921 Ouachita National Bank, inventory entry #36; camera facing southwest
- 54 of 56: Another view of 1921 Ouachita National Bank, inventory entry #36; camera facing southeast
- 55 of 56: View of 1927 Bernhardt Building, inventory entry #37; camera facing west

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

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

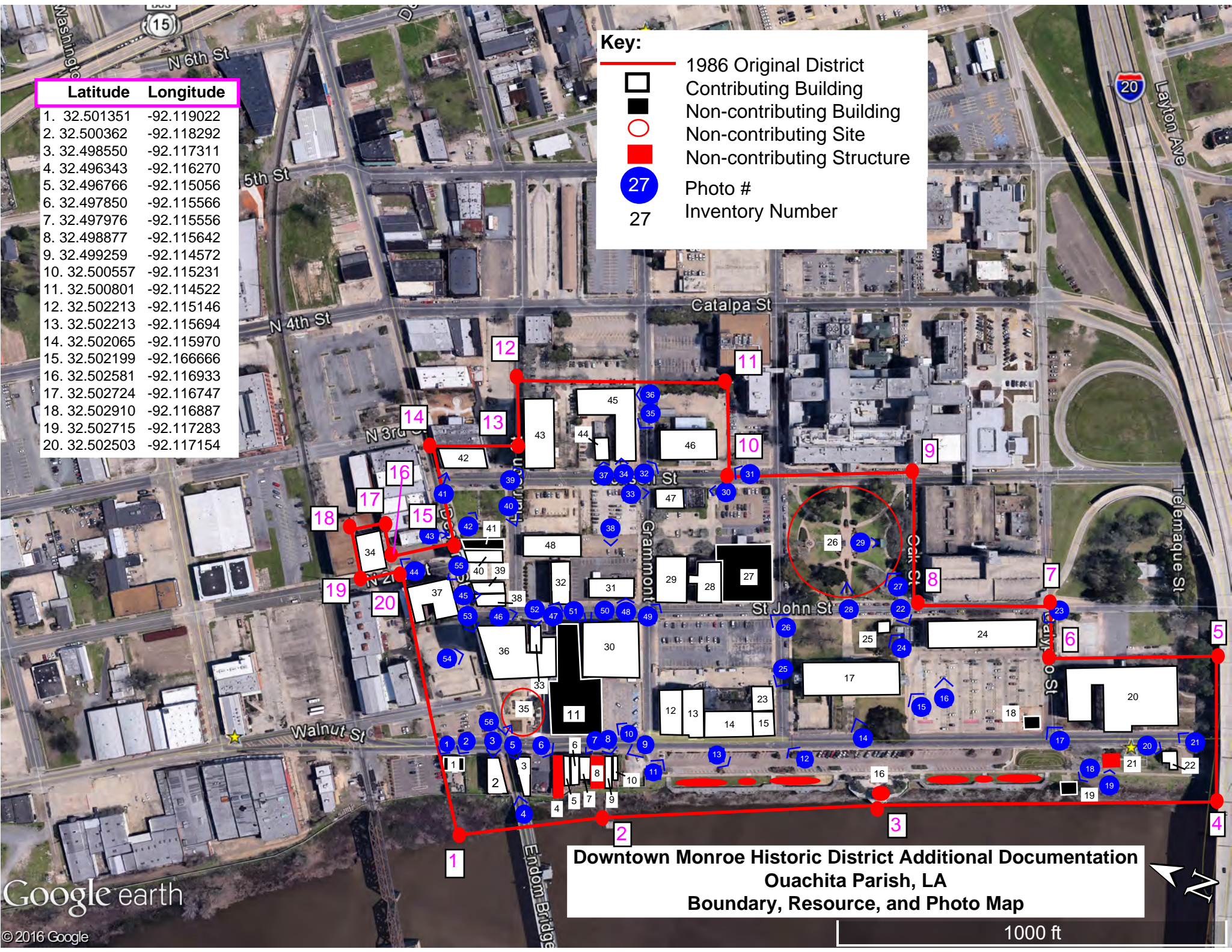
Section number _____ Page 20

56 of 56: View of Henry Bry Park, inventory entry #35; camera facing east

Key:

-  1986 Original District
-  Contributing Building
-  Non-contributing Building
-  Non-contributing Site
-  Non-contributing Structure
-  Photo #
-  Inventory Number

Latitude	Longitude
1. 32.501351	-92.119022
2. 32.500362	-92.118292
3. 32.498550	-92.117311
4. 32.496343	-92.116270
5. 32.496766	-92.115056
6. 32.497850	-92.115566
7. 32.497976	-92.115556
8. 32.498877	-92.115642
9. 32.499259	-92.114572
10. 32.500557	-92.115231
11. 32.500801	-92.114522
12. 32.502213	-92.115146
13. 32.502213	-92.115694
14. 32.502065	-92.115970
15. 32.502199	-92.166666
16. 32.502581	-92.116933
17. 32.502724	-92.116747
18. 32.502910	-92.116887
19. 32.502715	-92.117283
20. 32.502503	-92.117154



Downtown Monroe Historic District Additional Documentation
Ouachita Parish, LA
Boundary, Resource, and Photo Map

Google earth

© 2016 Google

1000 ft





VANTAGE
TOWER
PARKING





N. Grand
S. Grand



STREET





DeSiard St

Artists by the River

ARTISTS BY THE RIVER
RENT BY THE HOUR
988-2222

ARTISTS BY THE RIVER
RENT BY THE HOUR
988-2222

ARTISTS BY THE RIVER
RENT BY THE HOUR
988-2222

ARTISTS BY THE RIVER
RENT BY THE HOUR
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ARTISTS BY THE RIVER
RENT BY THE HOUR
988-2222



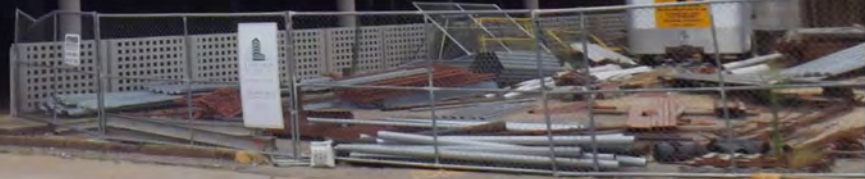








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VIRGINIA HEALTH PARTNERS







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24HR. Service

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REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE

DOOLEY
MAGDALENA
AND ASSOCIATES





OUACHITA PARISH COURTHOUSE







CALYPSO

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE
COLONIAL STATES OF AMERICA
LAW OFFICE







ONE
WAY
←



DOOLEY HADDAD BAIL BONDS

DOOLEY HADDAD BAIL BONDS
318-9981

DOOLEY HADDAD BAIL BONDS

DOOLEY HADDAD





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ONE WAY











UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE





UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE

ONE WAY
→



GRAMMONT ST
ONE WAY

JACKSON ST
TWO WAY

Grand Floral F...



STOP







SAINT MATTHEW
COMMUNITY
CENTER

ONE
WAY
←



CHURCH OFFICE

DO NOT
BLOCK
DRIVE



NOTICE
FOR THE PUBLIC
CONCERNING THE
REMOVAL OF
CITY TREES
AND LANDSCAPING
IN THE
CITY OF
MONTGOMERY



FT

VHP
EMPLOYEE
PARKING
FAVORITE
HEALTH
PLAN





Jackson

FT







130
Art Alley

STERILIZED



ST JOHN
DESIARD

JLA JEWELERS
200



N. 1st Street



MEDICAL OFFICE
PARKING ONLY



COLUMBIAN
BANNER
GROUP FOR RENT
314-362-8861
NICE OFFICE
547-9917





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FOUNDED 1858

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Sunday
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

GRAMMONT ST
ONE WAY

ONE
WAY



THE MEDICAL OFFICE

PHARMACY





SAINT JOHN PHARMACY

110

SAINT JOHN
PHARMACY





THE BANK





14 FLOORS

1411
1411



VHP
VANTAGE HEALTH PLAN, INC.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: Downtown Monroe Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: LOUISIANA, Ouachita

Date Received: 12/16/2016 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: AD86002202

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<i>Submission Type</i>	<i>Property Type</i>	<i>Problem Type</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years

Accept Return Reject 1/31/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary: Automatic listing - Federal Register notice not published in time
Comments:

Reviewed - acceptable

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept Additional Documentation
Changes POS and resource count

Reviewer: Jim Gabbert 

Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2275

Date: _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

86002202

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Downtown Monroe Historic District
Ouachita Parish
LOUISIANA

Working No. AUG 8 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/22/86
Action: ACCEPT 9-4-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the _____
National Register _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR
NOELLE LEBLANC
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT B. DEBLIEUX
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY
KATHLEEN BYRD, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF THE ARTS
ALBERT B. HEAD, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ANN REILEY JONES, DIRECTOR
FOLKLIFE PROGRAM
NICHOLAS R. SPITZER,
PROGRAM MANAGER

File

May 13, 1986

Mr. Howard Cappel
Regional Historic Preservation Officer
General Services Administration
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
7 PEP

Re: United States Post Office and Courthouse, Monroe, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Cappel:

Per your recent phone conversation with Donna Fricker of my staff, this is to officially inform you that we are in the process of nominating the Downtown Monroe Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The above referenced property is within the district boundaries and is over fifty years old. Hence it will be listed as a contributing element, which of course will bring Section 106 into play.

If you would like to offer any comments, please do so before the State Review Committee considers the nomination on June 25. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert B. DeBlieux
State Historic Preservation Officer

RBD/DF/bc

c: J. Walter Roth



State of Louisiana ◆ Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

Noelle LeBlanc
Secretary

Robert B. DeBlieux
Assistant Secretary

◆ Office of Cultural Development

August 1, 1986

Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed the completed and signed nomination form with the necessary photographs and maps for the Monroe Historic District, Ouachita Parish.

The district boundaries encompass a contributing 1932 U. S. Courthouse/Post Office. As you can see from the enclosed letter, we have notified the General Services Administration and given them the opportunity to comment. We received no response. (The GSA indicated the building was solely under their jurisdiction.)

If any additional information is needed, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Robert B. DeBlieux
State Historic Preservation Officer

RBD/DF/bc

Enclosures

◆ Division of Historic Preservation
666 N. Foster Dr.
P. O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 922-0358

AUG 8 1986

NOTIFIED

DATE JUL 18 1990
TIME 10:37



JUL 19 1990

Buddy Roemer
Governor

Paul Hardy
Lieutenant Governor
and Commissioner

Henry A. Truxillo
Secretary

Leslie P. Tassin, Sr.
Assistant Secretary

State of Louisiana
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Please forward the following number of pages (including this cover sheet) 8

TO:

NAME

Ms. Amy Federman 413

OFFICE

National Register of Historic Places

ADDRESS

National Park Service

P. O. Box 37127

Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

PHONE #

FAX #

202 - 343-4018

FROM:

NAME

Ms. Donna Fricker

OFFICE

Division of Historic Preservation

ADDRESS

P. O. Box 44247

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

PHONE #

FAX #

504 - 342-8160

(504) 342-3207

MESSAGE OR INSTRUCTIONS TO RECIPIENT

Amy, we need to know if this is one building or three (Tax Act project). SERO told us to ask WASO. When you receive this, please call Barbara Bacot of our office so she can fill you in.

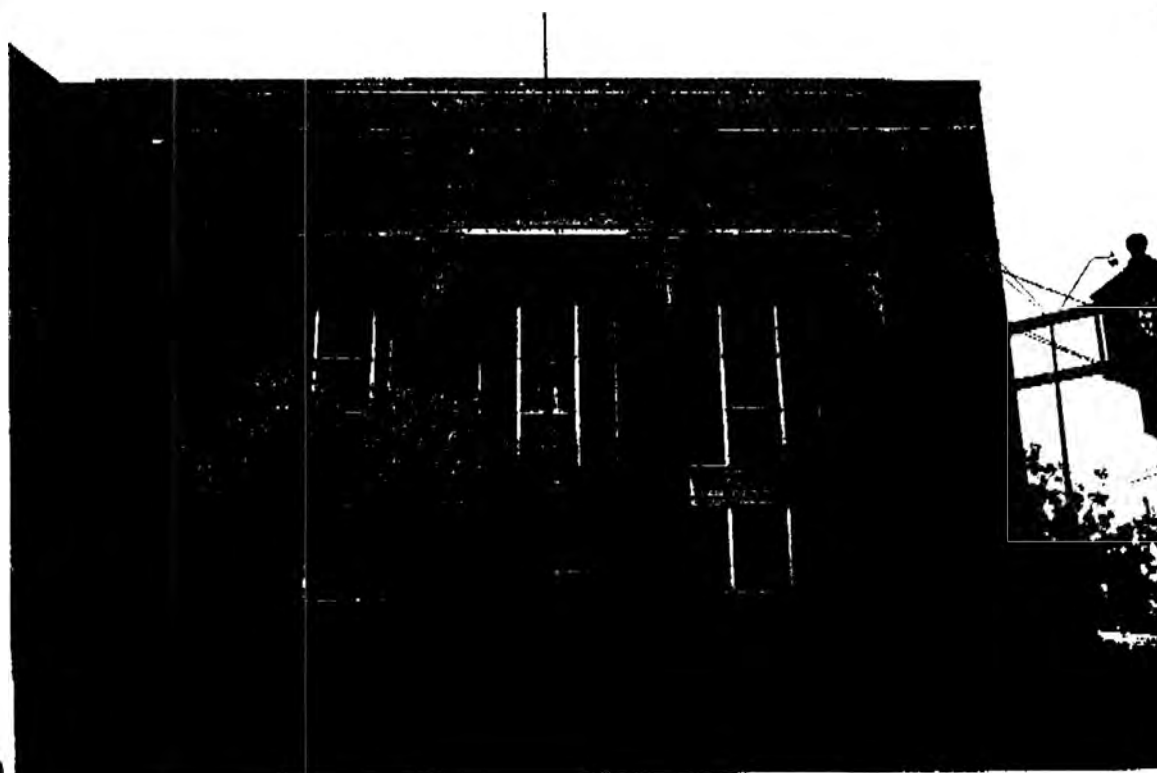
*Thanks,
Donna*

Jonathan Fricker, Director
Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 44247 (900 Riverside North)
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 342-8160

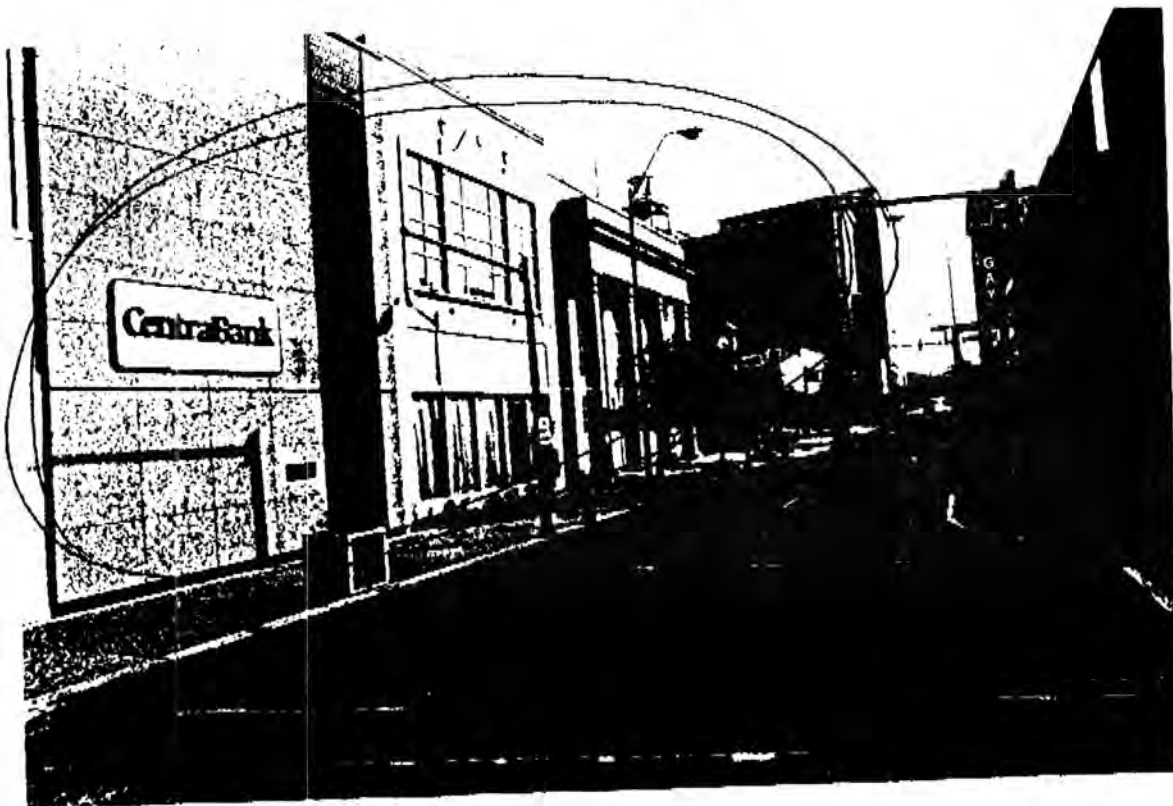
CENTRAL FILE 500
300 DESIARD STREET
MONROE, LA 70201



Photograph No. 1: Main Building looking southeast on DeSiard/Jackson Streets, Annex 1 plus partial Annex 2 indicated

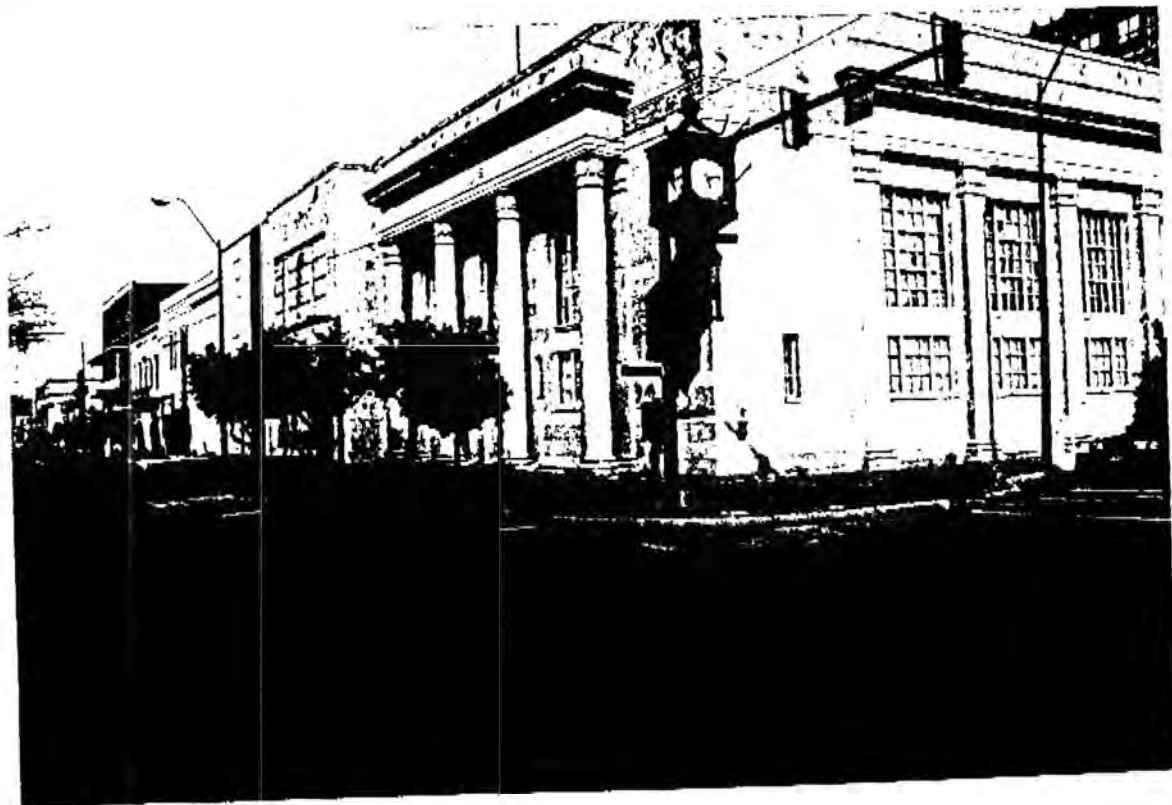


Photograph No. 2:
Main Building looking south on DeSiard Street



CENTRAL BANK 5/90
300 DESIARD STREET
MONROE, LA 71201

Photograph no. 6:
DeSiard Street, looking west, showing Annex 2, 1 and Main
Building landscape

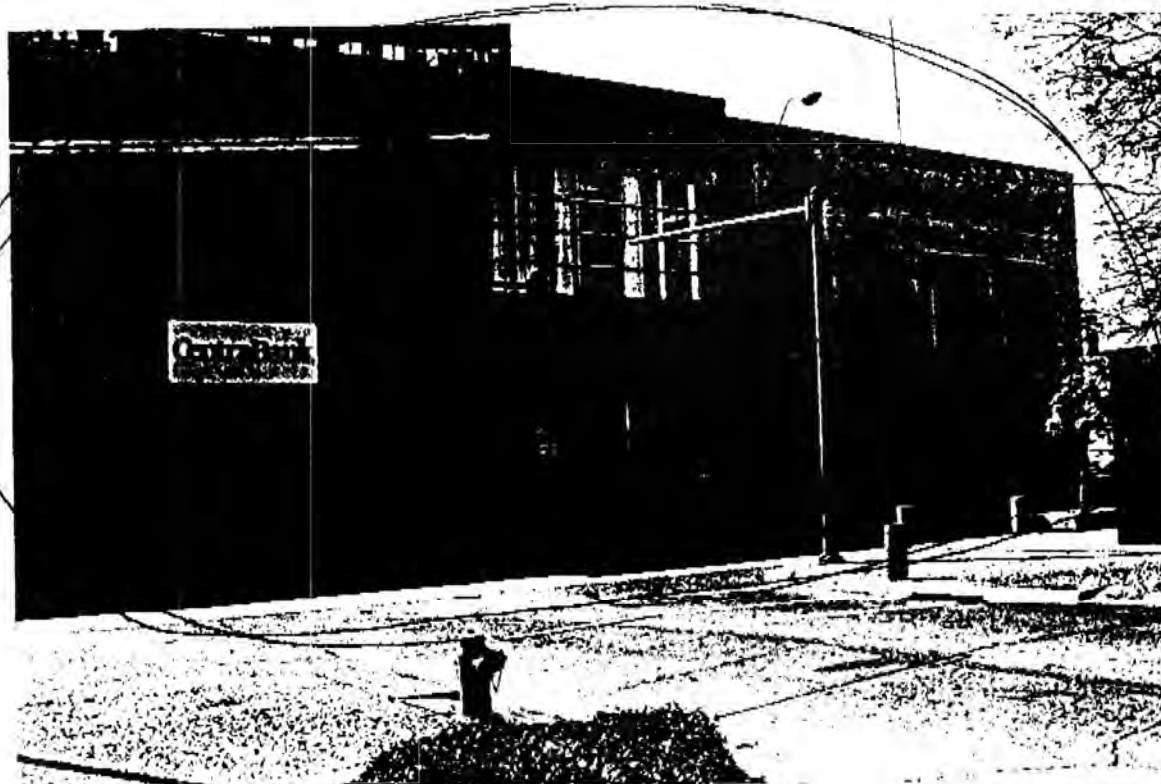


Photograph No. 7:
DeSiard Street, looking east, showing Main Building, Annex 1 & 2
landscape

CENTRAL BANK 5/9
300 DESIARD STREET
MONROE, LA 71201



Photograph No. 19:
Main Building, facing south, corner DeSiard/Jackson Streets



Photograph No. 20:
Main Building, Annex 1 & 2, facing south on Third Street



Buddy Roemer
Governor

Paul Hardy
Lieutenant Governor
and Commissioner

State of Louisiana
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Henry A. Truxillo
Secretary

Leslie P. Tassin, Sr.
Assistant Secretary

Please forward the following number of pages (including this cover sheet) 10

TO: NAME Ms. Amy Federman

 OFFICE National Register of Historic Places

 ADDRESS National Park Service

P. O. Box 37127

Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

 PHONE # _____

 FAX # 202 343-4018

FROM: NAME Ms. Barbara Bacot

 OFFICE Division of Historic Preservation

 ADDRESS P. O. Box 44247

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

 PHONE # 504 - 342-8160

 FAX # (504) 342-3207

MESSAGE OR INSTRUCTIONS TO RECIPIENT

Jonathan Fricker, Director
Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 44247 (900 Riverside North)
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 342-8160



Buddy Roemer
Governor

Henry A. Truxillo
Secretary

Paul Hardy
Lieutenant Governor
and Commissioner

State of Louisiana
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Leslie P. Tassin, Sr.
Assistant Secretary

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: AMY FEDERMAN, NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FROM: BARBARA SORELLE BACOT, DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION *B.S.B.*

DATE: JULY 27, 1990

RE: CENTRAL BANK, 300 DESIARD STREET, MONROE, LA

I greatly appreciate your help in this matter and hope that this round of FAXed photographs is clear enough. I did not foresee that separate applications were necessary for the bank and its two additions because the first annex in particular appears to be more new construction and 1927 party wall than pre-1927 construction surviving from the earlier commercial building. The first annex appears even more an integral part of the bank since the facade was completely replaced with one to complement the bank and since there was no separate street entrance. As it has turned out, there is also no separate HVAC system and no public or employee toilet facilities.

As regards the second annex, no visible surface except the exterior of the alley wall looks like anything but 1970s. It does have a separate HVAC system.

Neither I nor the bank were aware that there was a problem here. Needless to say, the bank would like to have a 20% tax credit on the whole project. I have enclosed the bank's clarification of what construction took place at each annex. It is my hope that the first annex can be considered an addition because so much was constructed in the 1950s, the party wall with the bank appears to have been rebuilt or more than doubled in 1927 and because it can have no separate existence without an entrance, HVAC, et al.

The second annex appears to have had less done to it, so it could more clearly be a remodelled early building which would require a separate application.

In answer to your questions:

1. Central Bank (1927 + 1950s and 1970s additions) is totally within the historic district and listed as No. 50.
2. A Sanborn map is not available, but at no time has the bank described either annex as totally new construction. Each expansion was made into an existing pre-1927 commercial building.
3. Despite an exhaustive search, originally in aid of the district nomination and again at your request, no photographs of the two pre-1927 buildings are available. Ms. Alvarez of the Central Bank is continuing to search.

Jonathan Fricker, Director
Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 44247 (900 Riverside North)
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 342-8160

CentralBank

July 25, 1990

Mrs. Barbara Bacot
Tax Act Program
State of Louisiana Department of Culture,
Recreation and Tourism
Division of Historic Preservation

REFERENCE: CENTRAL BANK
HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPLICATION FOR
300 DeSIARD STREET, MONROE, LA 71211

We are greatly distressed that the Washington division has questioned the Main Office historic application on the two additional buildings that we consider as one facility and that according to the historic map the entire 50 section is within the district and indicated as one area.

Regarding your questions, listed below is some background information:

1. The historic district map indicated that the area marked "50" as being in the district. Upon visual inspection, this has been confirmed by T. W. Stodghill and myself.
2. Regarding the first addition (Annex 1) - the lot and existing property was acquired by the bank on March 28, 1941. It has been a mercantile store (Wright Building) and was taken in to appear as part of the main building in or around 1945 and used for needed space and expansion. The storefront was modified to match the limestone exterior. Stairs were added - at the boardroom - to reach the acquired buildings second floor. Annex 1 does not have a front entrance and stairs still exist today.
3. Annex 2 - was also an existing two story mercantile building acquired by the bank on February 5, 1965. In 1970, the building was modified and made an integral part of the main office. All of these buildings interconnect and are considered as one. This buildings second floor is the original floor and has a 12" drop, which we have installed a ramp for accessibility rather than to build a new floor.

July 25, 1990
Mrs. Barbara Bacot
Page 2

The two properties in question were acquired at different times and modified to meet the bank's expansion needs at different times, but we consider the building as one. The two annexes are an integral part of the bank's Main Office.

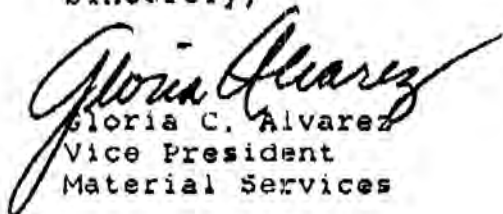
Again, we are distressed that the 20% tax credit for the entire facility is being questioned. Without going into the property and registered files, we feel that the two buildings meet the required criteria for the tax credit.

At this time, I have not been able to locate actual photographs, but if needed I will pursue further.

Please let me know as soon as possible what Washington decides so that we may evaluate our situation here and take further action if necessary.

If you need additional information, please call me at 318-362-8496 or FAX 318 362-8489.

Sincerely,


Gloria C. Alvarez
Vice President
Material Services

DTHIST

CENTRAL
ST. DENVER STREET
MICHIGAN

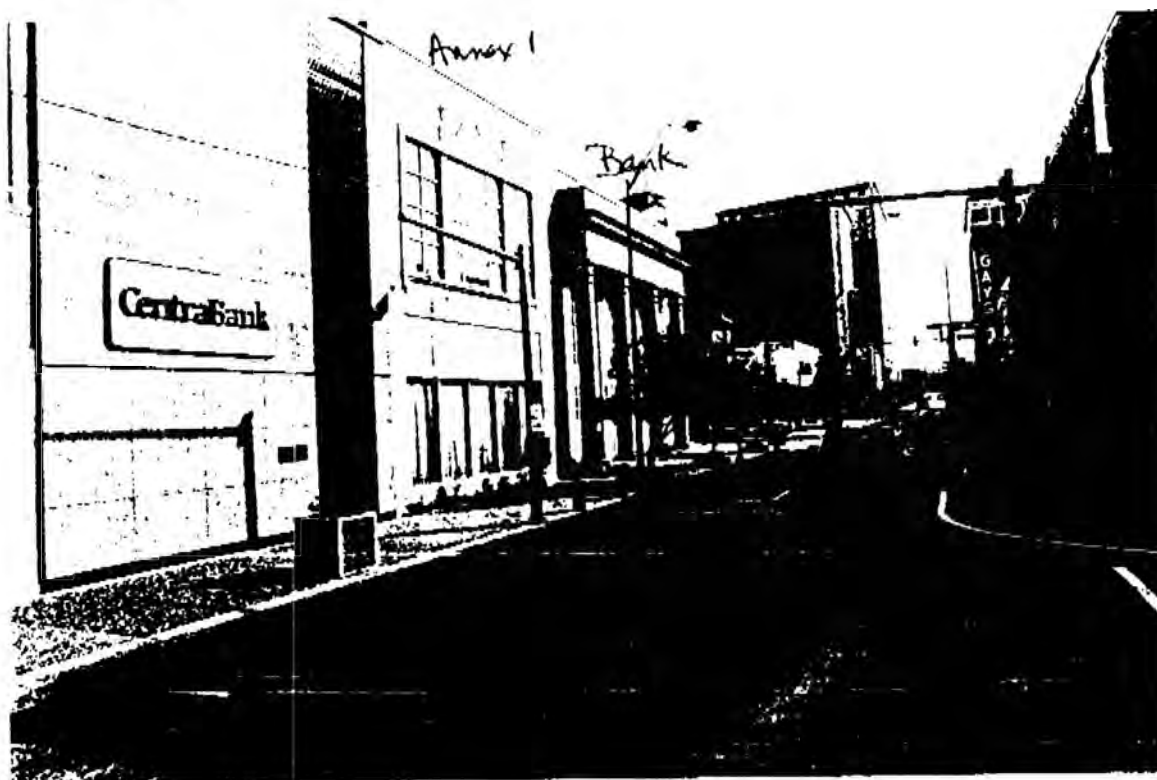


Photograph No. 1: Main Building looking southeast on DeSiard/Jackson Streets, Annex 1 plus partial Annex 2 indicated



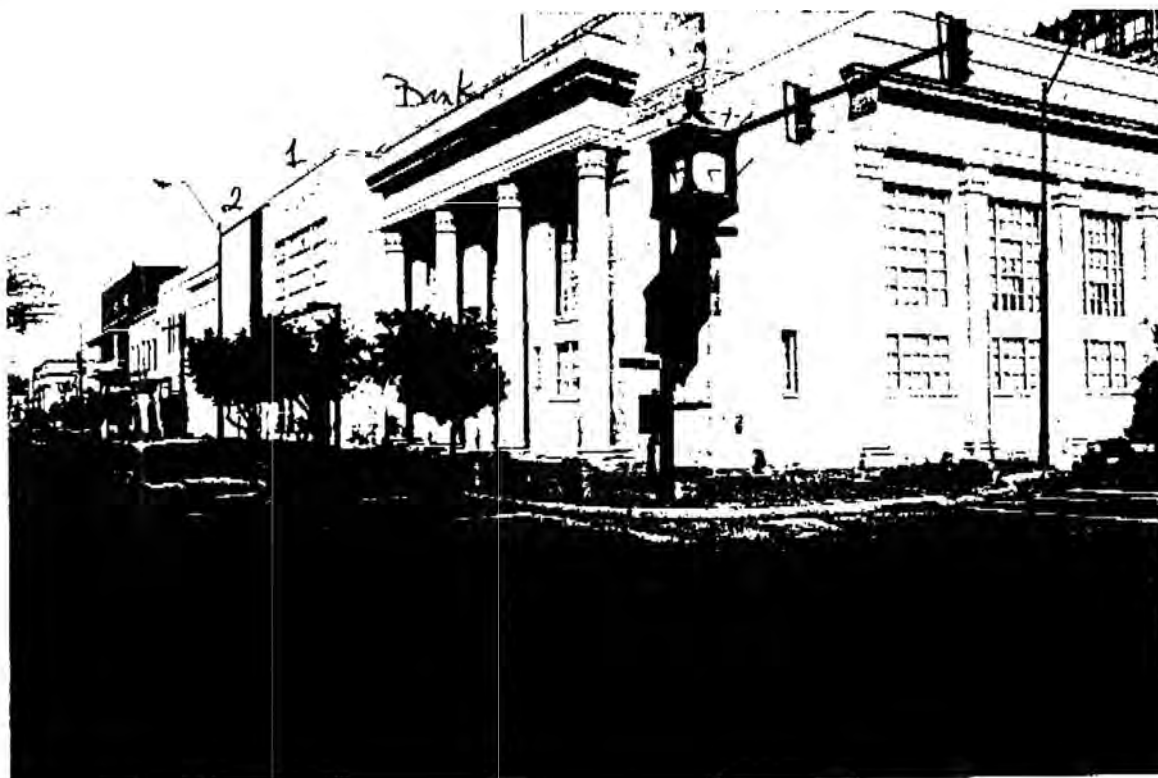
Photograph No. 2: Main Building looking south on DeSiard Street

Annex 2



CENTRAL BANK BFD
300 DESIARD STREET
MONROE, LA 71201

Photograph no. 6:
DeSiard Street, looking west, showing Annex 2, 1 and Main Building landscape



Photograph No. 7:
DeSiard Street, looking east, showing Main Building, Annex 1 & 2 landscape

Annex 2
70s
Annex 1 50s
Bank 1927

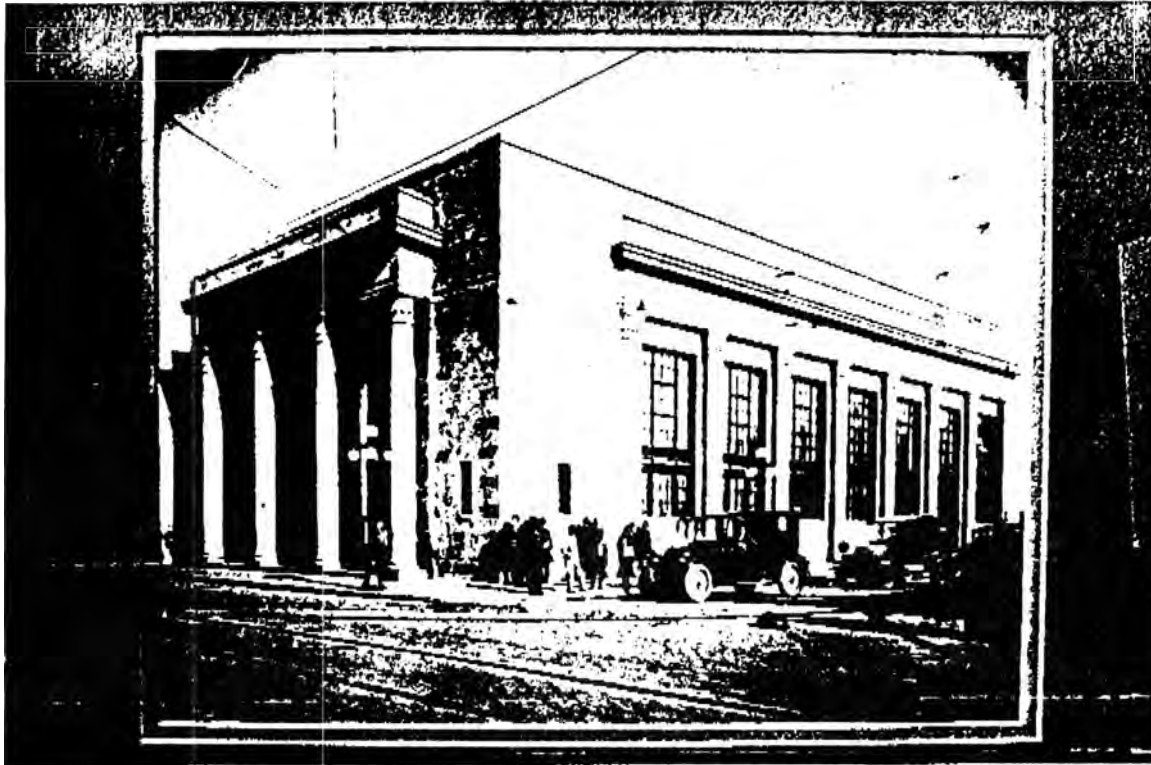


CENTRAL BANK 511
300 DESIARD STREET
MONROE, LA 71201

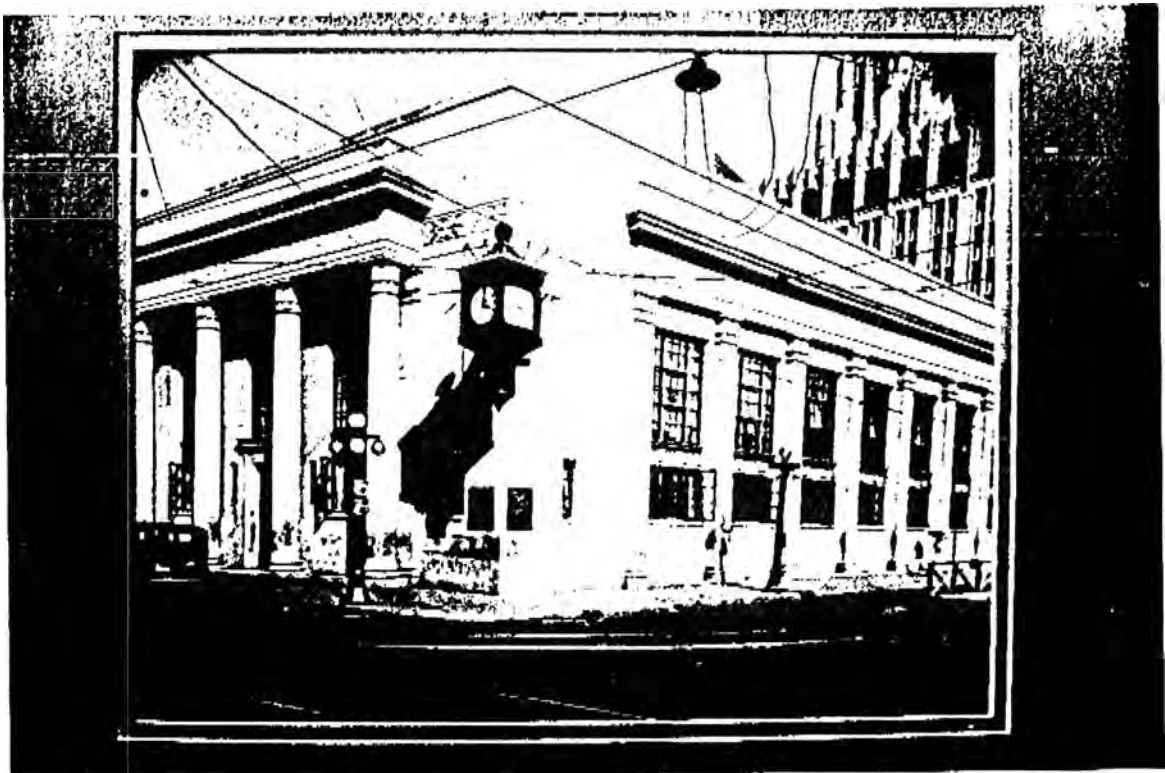
Photograph No. 4:
Main Building, looking southeast, on DeSiard and Jackson
street corner, all Annex 1 and 2



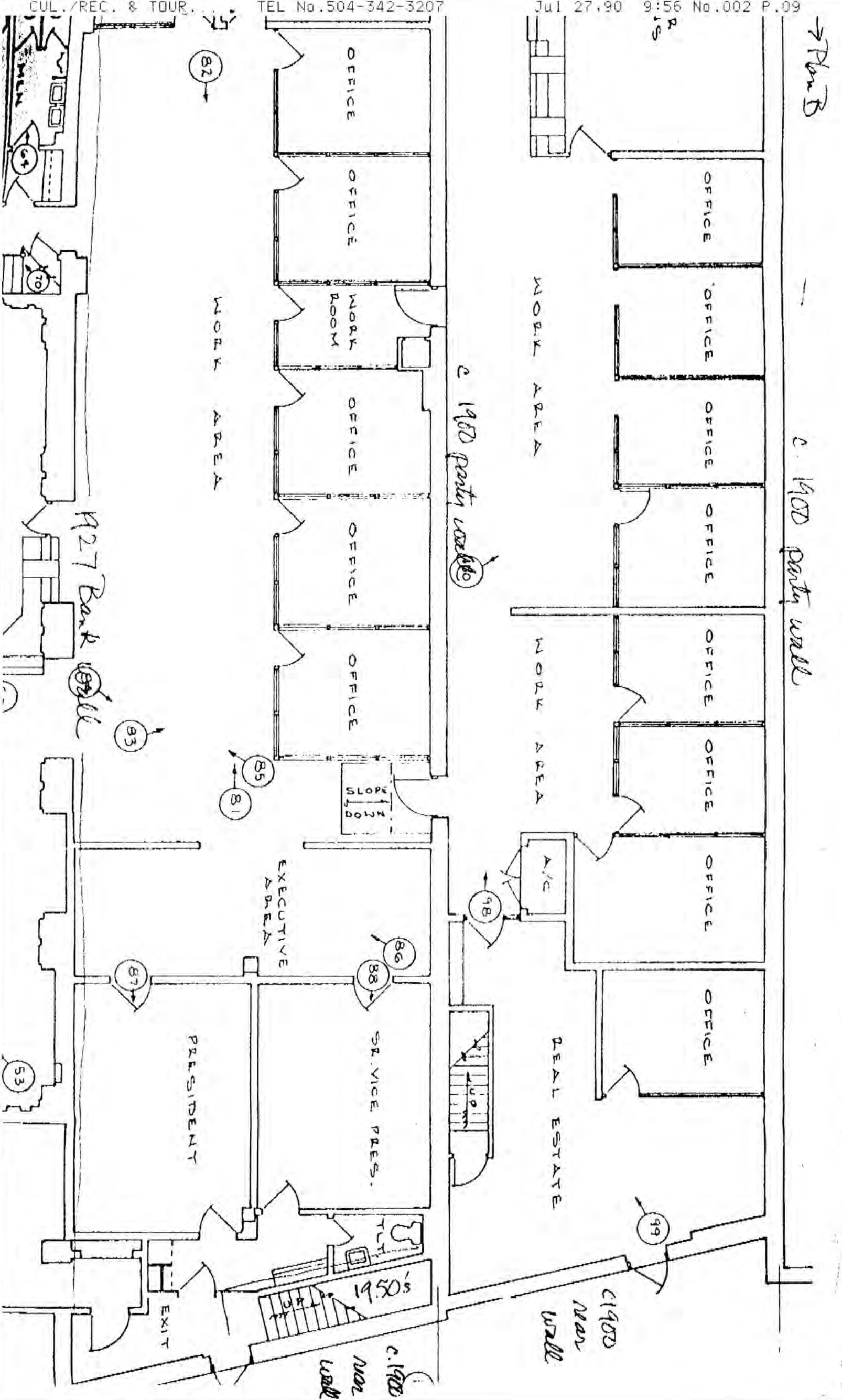
Photograph No. 5:
Main Building, rear, looking northeast, alley and parking



1927 photos



→ Plan B



Front

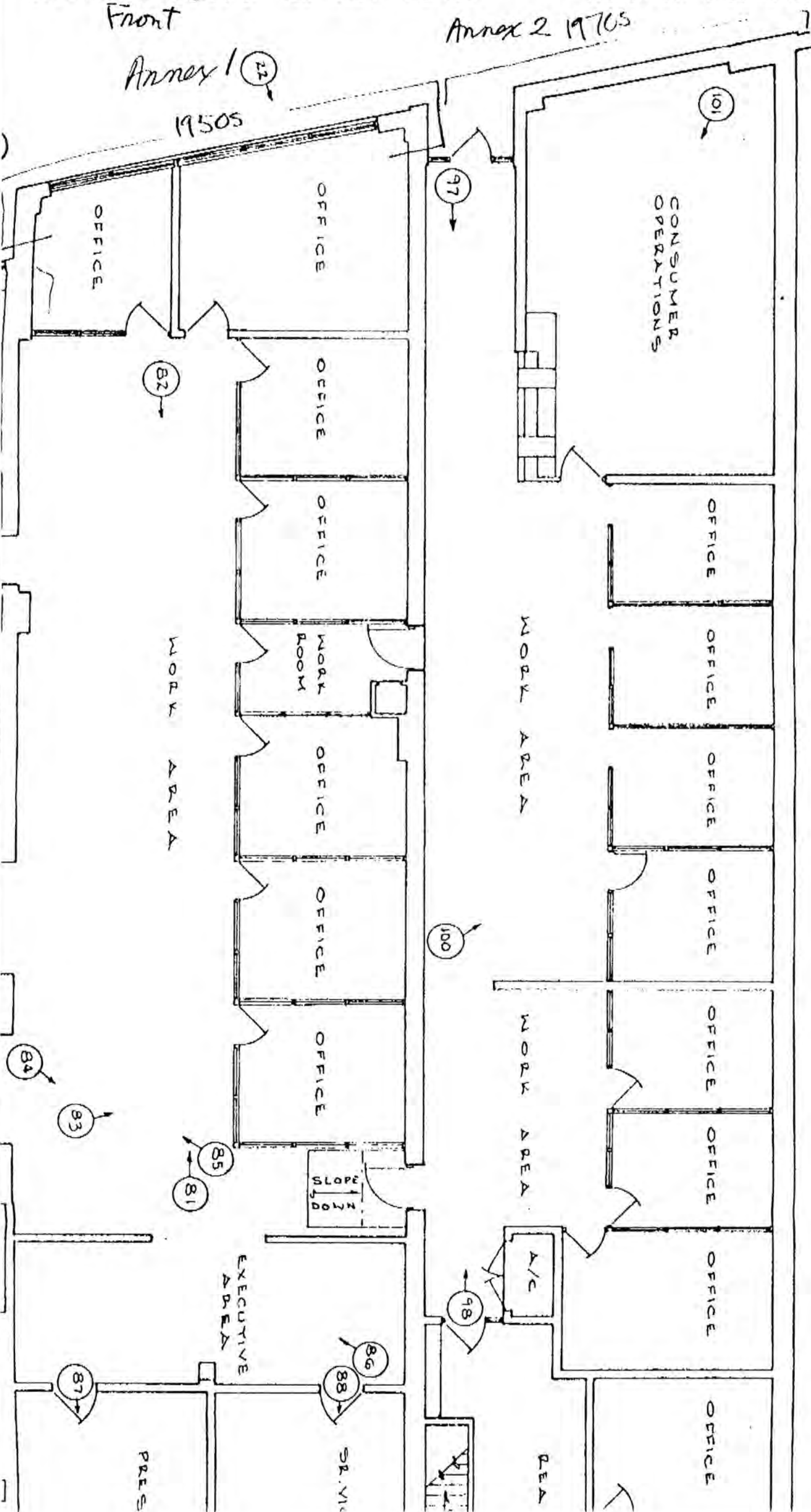
Annex 2 1970s

Annex 1

1950s

Central Bank

Plan A ←





BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PHIL BOGGAN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

December 10, 2016

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Downtown Monroe Historic District Additional Documentation, Ouachita Parish,
LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Downtown Monroe Historic District Additional Documentation to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the district in TIFF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Jessica 

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tiff format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- _____ Other:

Comments:

- _____ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67 *PDIL for AD for district*
- _____ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do _____ do not _____
- _____ constitute a majority of property owners. (Publicly owned property)
- _____ Other: