

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# 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 Opelousas City Hall

and or common Old Opelousas Market and City Hall

## 2. Location

street & number corner of Market and Bellevue Streets, Courthouse Square N/A not for publication

city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county St. Landry Parish code 097

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name St. Landry Parish Police Jury

street & number P. O. Box 551

city, town Opelousas N/A vicinity of state LA 70570

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

street & number corner of Court and Landry Streets (no specific address) P. O. Box 750

city, town Opelousas state LA 70570

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Opelousas City Hall was originally an 1888 Victorian marketplace, but was completely remodeled in 1932 in the neo-classical style to serve as a city hall. It is a single story five bay stucco building located in the northwestern corner of the St. Landry Parish Courthouse Square. Except for deterioration and the windows being temporarily boarded, it appears that the building has been altered very little since 1932.

For the record, the City Hall is being nominated based upon its 1932 appearance. Originally it was a brick arcaded town market with a hip roof and an oversized mansard cupola. When the building was taken over in 1932 to serve as city hall, the following changes were made: (1) The hip roof was removed and replaced by a flat roof surrounded by a paneled parapet with a raised central portion. (2) Large lunette windows were cut in the principal elevation. (3) The arched openings on the side elevations were glazed in. (4) The facade was treated with an aedicule entranceway with a parapet and free-standing Ionic columns of artificial granite. (5) The exterior was stuccoed over. (6) The interior was divided for offices. This created a squarish, five bay, classical building with molded pilasters, a raised central parapet, broad arched windows, and a monumental columnar entrance.

The boarding over of some of the windows and the loss of much of the stucco are the only post 1932 changes. The boarded windows are a temporary measure and the loss of the stucco, of course, has not affected the city hall's neo-classical articulation. The building has been vacant for several years, although the current plans are to restore it for use as the district attorney's office.

# 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1932 **Builder/Architect** architect unknown for 1932 remodeling  
 Builder: City of Opelousas

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

The Opelousas City Hall is locally significant in the area of architecture as a neo-classical landmark in the central business district. The parish seat of Opelousas has a sizable downtown containing some 70 or 80 buildings that are 50 years old or older. The vast majority of these are plain early twentieth century false front commercial structures with shaped or flat parapets. There are also a few Italianate buildings with segmentally arched windows and brick cornices. The Opelousas City Hall is one of only two downtown buildings with neo-classical features such as pilasters, lunettes, and free-standing columns. Its impressive articulation sets it apart from other local buildings and qualifies it as an architectural landmark.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Conveyance Records, St. Landry Parish.

Opelousas City Records

Excerpts from numerous contemporaneous newspaper articles which chronicle the history of the Old Opelousas City Hall and Market.

Photo showing pre-1932 appearance.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property @ 1/8th of an acre

Quadrangle name Opelousas, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	8	7	8	7	5	3	3	7	8	1	2	5
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map. Boundary lines cut closely around the nominated building in order to exclude other non-related buildings on the courthouse square.

### 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

organization Division of Historic Preservation  
State of Louisiana

date June 1987

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 30, 1987

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

9-8-87

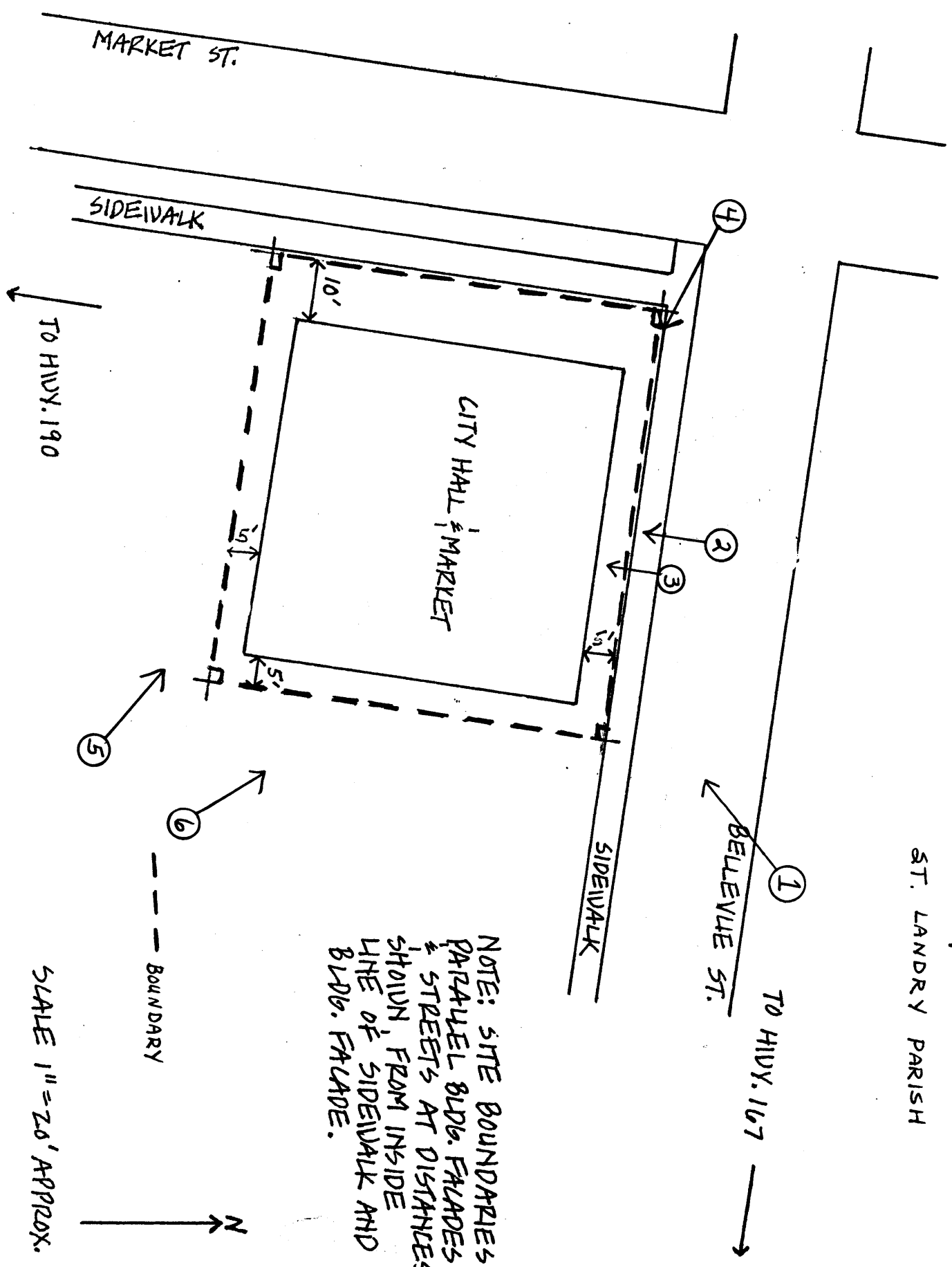
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

OLD OPELOUSAS CITY HALL AND MARKET  
 OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA  
 ST. LANDRY PARISH



NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES  
 PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES  
 & STREETS AT DISTANCES  
 SHOWN, FROM INSIDE  
 LINE OF SIDEWALK AND  
 BLDG. FACADE.

SCALE 1" = 20' APPROX.

BOUNDARY

N