

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 16 1979
DATE ENTERED NOV 25 1980

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 Grand Coteau Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Same

LOCATION LA 93
STREET & NUMBER La. Route 167 one-half mile east of Sunset

CITY, TOWN Grand Coteau VICINITY OF 8th - Gillis Long
STATE Louisiana CODE 022 COUNTY St. Landry CODE 097

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED
 BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED
 STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS
 SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE
 OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED
 BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
 COMMERCIAL PARK
 EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
 GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
 INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
 MILITARY OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple ownership; see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. St. Landry Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Opelousas STATE Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE 1979
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge STATE Louisiana

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eight miles south of Opelousas, Louisiana, is the highest point in St. Landry Parish, Coteau Ridge, which rises some twenty-five feet above the surrounding farmland. Set upon this ridge is the town of Grand Coteau.

To the west, one-half mile away, lies the relatively new town of Sunset; but these neighbors are divided by Louisiana Highway 167.

The boundaries of the Historic District of Grand Coteau were drawn to encompass those buildings at least fifty years old. These boundaries include approximately 60% of the residential area and reach as far north as the scarp above the dry bed of the ancient Teche-Mississippi River System. On the bluff overlooking the old river bottom is the "villa," an old Jesuit retreat house.

In certain areas, features of the district are widely spaced, particularly in the pastureland north of St. Charles College (#56). Here the pastures are traversed by two alleys of old live oaks which total 1.6 miles in length. These shaded avenues were important routes of transportation and communication between the Academy of the Sacred Heart (#94), the town, and the other religious centers. The cohesive quality of these alleys as unifying factors is additionally enhanced by the site lines between buildings. It is usually possible to take in several historic features in one view.

Besides the large rural holdings of the religious institutions, there are four other essentially rural properties. These are raised plantation houses of at least five bays which occur at the extremities of the district (see map).

The in-town portion of the district is dominated by St. Charles College, a broad and castellated form which stands with elephantine majesty in a park-like setting. It is in sharp contrast to the humble Acadian cottages and frame shops which cluster at its gates. The several periods and styles of buildings in the town are represented in large numbers by these three: Acadian cottages, Acadian cottages with Greek Revival detail, and 20th century bungalows. Several old shops and a number of barns and other outbuildings have survived in the in-town portion of the district.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1830 - 1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grand Coteau Historic District possesses three local landmark buildings which are of architectural significance on at least the state level. These include the Academy of the Sacred Heart, St. Charles College, and St. Charles Church.

In addition, Grand Coteau possesses a significant Creole architectural heritage. This can be seen in the town's residences. The most common type of early residence in Grand Coteau is the Creole raised cottage. Typically, this is a story and a half frame house, with the front gallery set beneath a pitched roof. The plan is two or three rooms wide and has no interior hall. There are fully eighteen substantial examples of this type of house in the Grand Coteau district. This represents a greater concentration of them than can be found in any other town in the surrounding four parish area.

St. Charles Church

St. Charles Church is a large and imposing example of mid-19th century, Renaissance Revival, church architecture. There are few comparable churches in the state which surpass St. Charles in terms of size and opulence of interior detailing. The most significant aspect of the church is the rear tower, with its Second Empire Mansard roof. It is one of only about six examples of Second Empire architecture in the state. More importantly, it is an exceedingly rare example of the use of the Second Empire style in church architecture. In this respect, St. Charles Church represents something almost unknown in the United States.

St. Charles College

St. Charles College, with its broad spreading form, its elaborately castellated roofline, and its label-molded windows, makes a strong reference to English late medieval architecture. This was a nation-wide fashion for educational institutions at the turn of the century. However, in Louisiana there are only about twenty examples of this. Of these, St. Charles College is one of the largest. In addition, it has a park-like setting which gives it something of the character of an English great country house. This is a finer, more appropriate setting than is enjoyed by most other buildings of this type and style.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Beautiful Grand Coteau," in A Tour of Yamland, supplement to Opelousas Daily World, 3 Oct. 1958, pp. 23-24.

Coussan, Carl and Jay Smith, Research Report on Grand Coteau, located in National Register file for Grand Coteau Historic District, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

Grand Coteau Vertical File, Louisiana Room, LSU Library, Baton Rouge.

National Register nomination form for Academy of the Sacred Heart, St. Landry Parish

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 970 acres *incorrect, per 11/25/80 parcel call 184*
 QUADRANGLE NAME _____ *See also 1970 map, 1970 sheet* QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE				
A	1 5	5 9 1 3 0 0	3 3 6 7 6 5 0	B	1 5	5 9 3 6 5 0	3 3 6 6 4 5 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 5	5 9 1 5 5 0	3 3 6 4 5 5 0	D	1 5	5 9 0 9 0 0	3 3 6 4 8 5 0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Grand Coteau Preservation Association

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE July 1979

STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____

CITY OR TOWN P. O. Box 370
Grand Coteau STATE Louisiana 70541

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 *L. Bernard Larrie*
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 10/15/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Beth Grovema* DATE 11/25/80
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Inventory

1. Burleigh House - Four bay, large Acadian house, 3 rooms wide, 2 cabinets dating from decade of the 1840's, 1 double chimney (large), hewn timbers, turn-of-the-century plate glass windows, rear ell, Eastlake columns new siding, interior panelling, portion of original floor observable, wide cypress planks (random widths). (See photograph #1)
2. Duffy House - 1850's Five-bay raised home, exterior chimneys, tin roof, heavy square posts with molded capitals added near turn-of-century, these cover Eastlake columns, transoms doors inside, Greek Revival fireplace mantels. (See photograph #2)
3. Dr. Menton Richard Office - Two room clapboard frame structure, two-bays wide late 19th century. (See photograph #3)
4. Modified and enlarged raised house with replaced gallery, pre-1840's, pitched roof, one dormer (originally two), central chimney, French-style box-mantels (Richard House). (See photograph #4)
5. Mid-19th century commercial building, beaded beam construction, dilapidated state (See photograph #5; vista photograph #5a)
6. Quarters house in dilapidated condition.
7. Raised three-bay 19th century cottage with gallery; Eastlake columns and trim on main house and on a side extension; exterior chimneys; front doors located close together. (See photograph #7; vista photograph #7a)
8. Store from 19th century; false front; extended windows; beaded beam construction; delapidated condition. (See photograph #8; vista photograph #7a)
9. Handsome Greek Revival five-bay raised cottage; gallery with heavy post columns and concrete porch (replacement); ear molded front doorway; exterior chimneys cutoff on both sides. (See photograph #9; vista photograph #9a)

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10. Nondescript late 19th century multi-gabled cottage.
11. Five-bay raised cottage with two full exterior chimneys in front and two cutoff in rear; pair of handsome federal arched dormer windows; transom side-lit front door. (See photograph #11; vista photograph #42b)
12. Simple frame early 20th century barn.
13. Simple frame early 20th century barn.
14. Mid-19th century cottage; side doors instead of windows; concrete porch; dormers have Queen Anne shingles. (See photograph #14)
15. Simple frame early 20th century barn. (See photograph #15)
16. Four-bay cottage. (See photograph #16)
17. Four-bay raised house, with exterior chimneys. (See photograph #17)
18. Innocuous frame house with aluminum siding
19. Innocuous frame house
20. Circa 1840's four-bay raised house; Greek Revival front gallery; alterations in circa 1915 include plate glass; dado front columns shed dormer, side wings. (See photograph #20)
21. Circa 1830's three-bay house; six column gallery; heavy square capitals; front door transom pediment; central hall; beaded wainscotting; original staircase; crude Adams mantel. (See photograph #21)
22. Board and batten frame barn building dating from 1870 to 1910. (See photograph #22)

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23. Innocuous frame house
24. Innocuous frame house
25. Innocuous frame house
26. 3-bay cottage with central door and side windows (See photograph #26)
27. Intrusion (trailer)
28. Quarters house (See vista photograph #28a)
29. Intrusion (trailer)
30. Mortise and tenon carriage house or barn (See photograph #30 and vista photograph 30a)
31. Simple frame barn (See vista photograph #30a)
32. Quarters House (See photograph #32 and vista photograph 30a)
33. Quarters House (See photograph #33 and vista photograph 30a)
34. Quarters House (See photograph #34 and vista photograph 30a)
35. Modern Intrusion (garage)
36. Mid-nineteenth century raised four-bay house with two front doors; strongly proportioned Greek Revival five-bay front gallery (See photograph #36)
37. Innocuous frame house
38. Innocuous frame house
39. Nondescript frame house

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40. Nondescript frame house
41. Modern intrusion (Post Office)
42. Three-bay false front commercial structure (See photograph #42 and vista photographs #42a and 42b)
43. Innocuous frame store building
44. Nondescript frame house
45. Nondescript frame house
46. Nondescript frame house
47. Modern intrusion (tin building)
48. Mid-nineteenth century raised two-bay cottage with exterior staircase; exterior chimney; double doors; beam ceilings; addition in rear late nineteenth century (See photograph #48 and vista photographs #42a, 42b, 48a)
49. Innocuous frame structure
50. Innocuous frame structure
51. "Old Bakery"; false front commercial building; chamfered columns; replaced windows; interior wall wainscotting; back portion possibly mid-nineteenth century; additions from turn of the century. (See photograph #51)
52. Large early-twentieth century dairy barn typical of Midwest but unusual for this area. Features include:
 - (1) protruding silos
 - (2) large gambrel roofs (See photograph #52)
53. Board and batten college outbuilding
54. Board and batten college outbuilding (See vista photograph #56a)

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55. Board and batten college outbuilding, old school building (See photograph #55 and vista photograph #56a)
56. Saint Charles College--built 1909 after original structure burned. A Gothic Revival five-part building of red brick painted white. There is corbeling in the brick. The style is of the sixteenth century, late English Gothic inspiration. There are small turrets off the main front. The roof line features exaggerated crenelation and gabled roof ends. All windows have brick label molds. There is a modern addition of the rear. The interior has been redone several times beginning in the 1930's. (See vista photographs 56a, 44a, 48a)
57. Board and batten college outbuilding used as a carriage house at one time. (See photograph #57 and vista photograph 56a)
- 57a. Oak Alley, 450 feet long.
58. Four bay board and batten quarters house with an Eastlake porch. (See photograph #58)
59. Modern intrusion (trailer)
60. Innocuous frame structure
61. Innocuous frame structure
62. Nondescript frame house
63. Mid-nineteenth century three-bay gallery fronted bousillage cottage with replaced porch columns and roof (See photograph #63 and vista photograph #63a)
64. Early-twentieth century frame bungalow
65. Five-bay Greek Revival raised cottage with exterior staircase; side entrance with transom door; central chimney; side wing with entrance; new addition at rear; rear porch; Victorian balustrade (See photographs #65 and 65')
66. Two-story frame clapboard barn with jerkinheaded gables. A rooftop dormer and ornamented vergeboards (See photographs #66 and 66' and vista photograph 69a)

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67. Nondescript four-bay frame house with asphalt siding
68. Stable or wagon house circa late nineteenth century (See vista photographs #69a, 69b, 70a)
69. Plantation store circa late nineteenth century or early twentieth century with a three-bay gallery; framed construction with a tin roof. There is a board and batten addition to one side dating from the 1920's. (See photograph #69 and vista photographs #69a, 69b, 70a)
70. Mid-nineteenth century clapboard house; five bays wide with gallery and side gables; transom doors; post columns possibly reworked at the turn of the century; exterior chimneys; ornamental tin attic vents (See photograph #70 and vista photographs #70a, 70b)
71. Innocuous frame structure
72. Mid-nineteenth century 4-bay Acadian cottage with beam ceilings; appears to be in original condition; cistern on property (See photograph #72 and vista photograph #72a)
73. Small one story Greek Revival nineteenth century cottage ; original chimney; pitched roof; gabled end returns on roof; square post columns with moulded capitals (See photograph #73)
74. Innocuous frame structure
75. Small three-bay frame cottage with Eastlake Porch (See photograph #75)
76. Modern intrusion (St. Ignatius School)
77. St. Charles Boromeo Rectory, compatible style, two story gable-fronted frame building
- 77a. Oak Alley, 175 feet long
78. Saint Charles Boromeo Church

Exterior-- three-bay front with central tower and spire. The spire resembles the colonial period but is Renaissance Revival. Pilasters surround main church structure.

To the rear a Second Empire style belfry with mansard roof offers unique detail. Its style dates from the 1860's-1870's; Renaissance Revival. There are very few examples of this, especially in connection

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with religious buildings in the United States.

The church was connected to the rectory in the 1940's-1950's.

Interior-- Based on Basilica plan with a broad nave, side aisles and an apse. Central columns have composite order capitals with connecting arches between; unique painted murals; stained glass and a painted ceiling embellish the space. (See photograph #78 and vista photographs #56a, 78b, 78c)

79. Located on the original site of St. Charles Church this handsome 1938 mission revival building is approached by means of a three hundred foot alley of live oaks.
- 79a. Built around a central courtyard with a three-part arched entrance the building features buff stucco walls and a red tile roof. (See photographs #79, 79a, and vista photograph 78b)
80. Two-story multi-gabled Queen Anne stick style Victorian residence. The shinglework is decorative and scalloped. An Eastlake apron and gable and a sunburst gable set at an angle to the main residence enhance the roofline.(See photograph #80)
81. Turn of the century frame house with a pediment. The house has a "T" shaped plan and interior fireplace. (See photograph #81)
82. Five-bay mid-nineteenth century cottage with a transom and side-lit door; gallery columns are replacements. (See photograph #82)
83. Innocuous frame structure
84. One and one-half frame clapboard cottage with verge boards and trim executed in belated Victorian stick style (See photograph #84)
85. 4,800 foot oak alley (See photograph #85)
86. Cemetery with graves dating from the late eighteenth century (See photograph #86 and vista photographs #56a, 88a)
87. 3,200 foot oak alley (See photograph #87 and vista photograph #88a)

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88. Central hallway with double parlor; frame house from the early twentieth century; noteworthy for its "pressed tin" brickwork (See photograph #88)
89. Large seven-bay raised plantation house with bousillage construction. Plan is three rooms wide with out halls also featuring two rear cabinets and paneling work at ends of front gallery. (See photograph #89)
90. Delapidated Acadian-style cottage with front gallery stairway. (See photograph #90)
91. Simple frame barn
92. Mortise and tenon two-bay Acadian-style cottage
93. Innocuous two and one-half stories wide red brick structure (addition to the Academy of the Sacred Heart)
94. Academy of the Sacred Heart (National Register). Built in four sections, the three-story brick building features attenuated Federal and Greek Revival details. The building is twenty bays wide, with a pair of two-story pedimented end wings. It is noteworthy for its three-story cast iron colonnade and for its handsome formal garden. Included in the Academy complex is a two-story frame building showing evidence of considerable age, although it has been extensively reworked. It probably served as a stable at one time. An old brick stable, built in common bond brick, stands at the rear of the main buildings. The structure is evidently old, but much reworked. (See photographs #94, 94', 94'')
95. Two-bay cottage; interior chimney; gallery front
96. Seven-bay Greek Revival molded capitals; three rooms wide; two dormers altered; aluminum siding; two chimneys/exterior
97. Acadian style cottage (See photograph #96 and vista photograph #98a)
98. Four sided hip roofed double pitched structure. (See photograph #98 and vista photograph #98a)

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8. Significance (cont'd)

Academy of the Sacred Heart

Built in several sections, the Academy has some fine Federal and Greek Revival details and features, i.e. the doorways, the dormers, and the pedimented end wings. The Academy is mainly noteworthy for its size. It is one of the largest Pre-Civil War institutional buildings in the state. In addition its three-story, twenty-two bay cast iron colonnade is very probably the largest Victorian cast iron gallery in the state.

The Grand Coteau Historic District, traversed by almost three miles of oak alleys, is also of significance in the area of landscape architecture. This is an interesting use of planting to create transportation corridors. It also represents one of the three or four longest and most extensive groupings of oak alleys in the state.

Grand Coteau is also of religious and educational significance due to its status as one of the earliest and most important centers of Catholic education in the state. Within the town limits are situated the Academy of the Sacred Heart (founded 1821) and St. Charles Jesuit College (founded 1837). With the establishment and continuing development of these two major religious educational institutions came the development of the town of Grand Coteau with its stores, shops, and cottages. The name "Grand Coteau" means "large hillock." This refers to the fact that the town is located on a slight rise in a generally flat area. At first the settlement that grew up among the two schools was called "St. Charles" but the name "Grand Coteau" won out over the long run.

The church parish of St. Charles was established in 1819. Two years later, in October, 1821, the Academy was founded and began to function as an educational institution. Of all the convents of the Sacred Heart throughout the world (212 houses on five continents), the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau presently has the longest record of continuous service. The present Academy building dates from 1830. (The Academy was entered on the National Register as an individual site in 1975.)

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8. Significance (cont'd)

St. Charles Jesuit College was founded in 1837 as one of the earliest Jesuit colleges in the South. Several factors contributed to the selection of Grand Coteau as the site for the college - its accessibility to the interior region of the state, the proximity of the Academy of the Sacred Heart, and the availability of property and materials. Within its first two years of operation, enrollment at the college reached a hundred. In the course of its development, St. Charles College has served both as a secular college and as a novitiate for the training of young priests. Fires in 1900 and 1907 destroyed the original building, and the present building dates from 1909. In 1922 St. Charles ceased to function as a secular college and began to serve solely as Jesuit Novitiate for the Province of New Orleans.

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10. Geographical Data

The scale map submitted herewith is the final and correct statement of the boundaries of the Grand Coteau Historic District, superceding all others. With the exception of the Burleigh House (see map), all 50 year old structures in Grand Coteau are within the district. The crosshatched area near the center of the district was excluded from the nominated area because it has entirely lost its complement of historic structures. All have either burned, been demolished, or collapsed due to neglect. Today the area is composed of post-1940 cottages, garages, several post-1950 1-story commercial buildings, and a modern brick town hall. In essence, there is nothing left to recognize and preserve. The area south of the district was excluded because it is a relatively new area of town where the scene is dominated by modern brick ranch houses.

Revised acreage: approx. 630 acres

Revised UMT References

A 15-5-92-040 33-68-250

B 15-5-93-650 33-66-250

C 15-5-91-925 33-64-850

D 15-5-90-950 33-65-500

