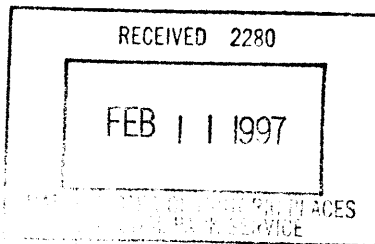


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Delhi Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 606-708 Hwy. 80 (1st St.), 115-201 Broadway N/A not for publication

city or town Delhi N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Richland code 083 zip code 71232

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 2/10/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy SHPO, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain.) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

3/14/97
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
21	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
21	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty store,
 department store, financial institution
 Transportation: rail-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty store,
 department store, business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

no style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
 walls brick
 roof other: tar & gravel
 other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The boundaries of the Downtown Delhi Historic District encompass twenty-three buildings, almost all of which are of party wall construction. Contributing elements range in date from c.1895 to 1946, with most being one story. Most are of brick construction, although some of the later buildings are constructed of concrete block with brick veneer facades. Although there are a few decorative details, the buildings should be termed "no style" for the purposes of this submission. There are only two non-contributing elements, and while there have been various modifications to historic buildings, the district easily retains sufficient integrity to represent its historic role as a commercial center.

As shown on the attached sketch map, the district includes almost two blocks of party wall commercial buildings facing the railroad line along First Street. A depot survives to represent the pivotal role of the railroad in sustaining the town's economy (see Part 8). On the south side, running mainly perpendicular to the railroad, are a few more commercial buildings (mainly party wall). Taken together, these buildings represent about two-thirds of what was historically the Delhi central business district. Excluded from the boundaries is much of the south side of the downtown due to loss of integrity (see map).

INVENTORY

1. Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Depot. Contributing element. c. 1920 one story vinyl siding over clapboard depot with low-key Colonial Revival detailing. Modillions outline the roofline and gables of this long, rectangular building. Each end is prominently articulated with gable end returns and a lunette shaped ventilator. Located slightly off center on each of the long elevations is a gable also accented with end returns and modillions.
2. Contributing element. 1920s/30s one story plain brick commercial building. Most of the transom windows remain uncovered, but one suspects that the present canopy supported by thin posts is non-historic.
3. Contributing element. 1920s/30s one story plain brick commercial building. Transoms painted over. Shopfront follows traditional configuration; front doors modern.
4. Contributing element. 1920s/30s one story plain brick double commercial building. Transoms covered; shopfront reworked.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

5. Contributing element. Early twentieth century (teens or twenties) one story brick commercial building; only decorative detail is multiple layers of brick banding. Large transom windows covered; shopfront follows historic configuration.
6. Contributing element. Built sometime after 1915 (per an old photo) -- most likely in late teens or 1920s. One story brick commercial building located on corner. Only decorative detail is multiple layers of brick banding setting off area where signage would have been located. "Bradley Bros" is painted there now and is most likely historic signage. Building retains what appears to be historic paraphernalia associated with cotton buying (scales, etc.). Large transom windows covered; shopfront appears to be historic.
7. Contributing element. Turn-of-the-century two story corner commercial building whose appearance has evolved over the years. A postcard mailed in 1915 shows it with a corner columnar entrance and a squat corner tower located above the second floor. When the tower was removed is unknown, although it occurred fairly early per another old photo. Yet another photo, this one from a 1951 publication, shows the building with no tower, the present detailing and fenestration pattern on the second story, a corner columnar entrance and round arch windows on the first story. Today's first floor has no corner entrance, a modern shopfront and square head openings. Also, the windows on the second floor have been covered. Despite these admittedly significant changes, it is still obviously a historic commercial building.
8. Contributing element. c.1910 small one story brick commercial building. Although fairly plain, the building is notable because it retains its original shopfront accented with decorative cast-iron pilasters.
9. Non-contributing element. Altered historic small one story brick commercial building. While the top roughly one-third of this plain building is intact, the remaining two-thirds is a modern brick shopfront. In short, the modern construction is visually dominant.
10. Contributing element. c.1895 two story brick commercial building with four segmental arch windows across second story. Alterations include the shortening of one of the segmental head windows, the insertion of new windows into all four openings, and reworking of the shopfront, although at least one cast-iron column survives. Also, an

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 3

old photo (from a postcard mailed in 1915) shows the building with a decorative cast-iron cornice. When this feature was removed is unknown; it appears to have been within the historic period (see assessment of integrity below).

11. Contributing element. 1920s plain stuccoed one story commercial building with a shaped parapet.
12. Contributing element. c.1895 two story brick commercial building with segmental head openings; shopfront replaced and metal awnings obscure windows. The above mentioned postcard mailed in 1915 shows that this building also had a decorative cast-iron cornice. Again, when this feature was removed is unknown; it appears to have been within the historic period (see assessment of integrity below).
13. Contributing element. c.1895 wide two story brick commercial building with a three-part composition defined by piers. Central portion rises above main parapet and has a shallow arch shape. Previously mentioned postcard shows it with segmental head windows; the present metal coverings are apparently covering the segmental head. Shopfront is modern. This building too had a decorative cast-iron cornice (this one quite elaborate). Again, when this feature was removed is unknown.
14. Contributing element. 1920s small one story brick commercial building -- retains its transom windows and shopfront (although doors have been replaced one suspects).
15. Contributing element. c.1940 one story brick commercial building with prominent corner location. Building curves around the corner in the streamlined Moderne taste.
16. Non-contributing element. Very small one story modern building.
17. Contributing element. c.1910 brick commercial building which was historically one story; partial second story has been added. An old photo showing the building as housing Hanna Motor Company reveals that all openings on the ground floor facade were round arch. Middle opening has been filled in to make it square.
18. Contributing element. Classical detailing on this large two story corner brick commercial building suggests that it was built in the teens or '20s. The facade along Depot Street and the first two bays along Broadway Street are accented with two story

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 4

piers featuring capitals with classical motifs. A shield design is located about midpoint on each pier. The remainder of the Broadway Street elevation is not articulated in this manner, making one wonder if it was added later (although clearly within the historic period). Transoms and windows have been covered. The historic appearance of the Depot Street facade's easternmost two bays at the shopfront level is uncertain. Today they each consist of a large opening now filled in.

19. Contributing element. Plain one story 1930s brick commercial building; transoms covered.
20. Contributing element. Plain one story 1930s brick commercial building; modern metal awning.
21. Contributing element. Plain one story 1930s commercial building constructed of concrete blocks with a brick faced facade.
22. Contributing element. Plain one story 1930s commercial building constructed of concrete blocks with a brick faced facade. Transoms covered, modern awning and modern signage.
23. Contributing element. Cave Theater. Per wife of original owner/builder, the theater was built in either 1945 or '46. Brick veneer building with Modernistic details, including a neon sign, curving ticket booth, and front doors with interesting geometrical designs.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the alterations to contributing elements outlined above, the Downtown Delhi Historic District still conveys its identity as a historic commercial center and hence its National Register eligibility. While the loss of the decorative cornices on #s 10, 12 & 13 is a significant one in terms of their architectural character, it appears that this change occurred in the historic period. No one in the community can remember the buildings with the cornices. For example, two individuals who were adults in the early 1940s indicate that the cornices were no longer there at that time. Also, it should be noted that this is a common alteration in historic commercial buildings -- and one that usually goes unnoticed without historic photos.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

commerce

Period of Significance

c. 1895 - 1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property @ 7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	6 4 1 6 0 0	3 5 9 1 9 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date October 1996

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

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple ownership

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

The Downtown Delhi Historic District is of local commercial significance because it represents the community's role as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural area. Downtown Delhi continued to be a major provider of goods and services into the modern era when downtowns were supplanted by strip development. The period of significance spans from c.1895, the earliest known building date, to 1946, the present fifty year cutoff.

Like many towns throughout Louisiana, Delhi owes its existence to the railroad. Although work on an east-west route across northern Louisiana began in the 1850s, only small sections were completed by the beginning of the Civil War. It was not until the 1880s that the goal was realized, with the railroad by then known as the Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Pacific. Apparently the tiny hamlet of Delhi came into being in the late 1850s, but it did not have enough population to even be incorporated as a village until 1900. At that time its population was 507. By 1919, the village had grown enough to be incorporated as a town, with the 1920 census revealing a population of 980. By 1940 there were 1,192 citizens.

This small railroad town quite naturally emerged as a center for goods and services for its own citizens as well as the surrounding area of rich delta farmland where cotton was king. There were only two other towns of any size in Richland Parish -- Rayville, the parish seat, located fifteen miles to the west, with a population of about 1500 in 1920, and Mangham, about twenty-five miles to the southwest, which was even smaller than Delhi. Delhi and Rayville, both located on the railroad, quite naturally emerged as important shipping centers for local farmers. A 1914 source describes Delhi as "the trading center for a rich agricultural district" with "woodenware" factories, cottonseed oil mills and brickyards as its principal industries. A 1929 source boasts that the parish in 1925 produced 35,000 bales of cotton.

One can imagine Delhi as a small but bustling trade center with cotton bales at the depot ready for transport and cotton-related businesses such as cottonseed oil mills, as mentioned above, and buildings which housed cotton buyers. (As noted in the inventory, one of the latter survives with what appears to be historic equipment.) Of course, there were business establishments where farmers and others came to purchase goods, and very importantly, there was a bank. Fortunately, most of the town's historic CBD survives, including the all important depot and buildings which housed general mercantile stores, a bank, a hardware store, and an automobile dealership.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic photos of downtown Delhi, copies in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

Fortier, Alcee. *Louisiana: Comprising Sketches of Parishes, Towns, Events, Institutions & Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form.* Century Historical Association, 1914.

Richland Parish Development Board. *Richland Parish, Resources and Facilities.* Published in cooperation with State of Louisiana, Department of Public Works, Planning Division, 1951.

A Photographic Tour of Richland Parish, Louisiana: The Garden Spot of North Louisiana, Where Crop Failures Are Unknown. Published by Rayville Chamber of Commerce and Richland Parish Police Jury, 1929.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Downtown Delhi Historic District, Richland Parish, LA
Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description: Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

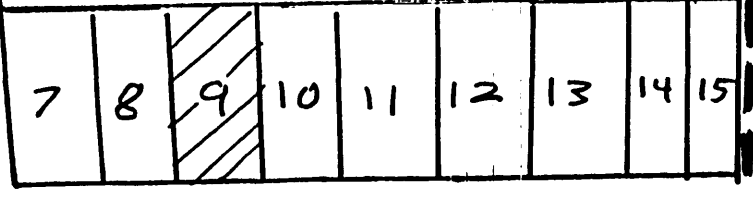
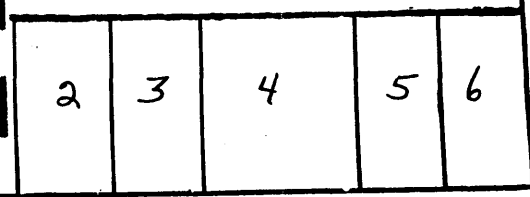
Boundary Justification:

The boundaries were chosen to exclude sections of the Delhi CBD which have concentrations of less than fifty year old buildings and/or concentrations of significantly altered older commercial buildings. As noted in Part 7, the buildings within the district boundaries represent about two-thirds of what was historically the Delhi CBD. Excluded from the boundaries is much of the south side of downtown (the area just south of the depot, between Chatham and Broadway - see map) due to a high percentage of less than fifty year old buildings and/or significantly altered older buildings.

CHATHAM ST.

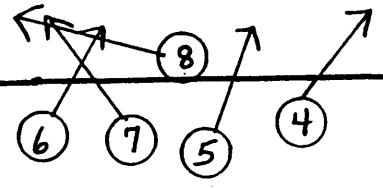
CHARTER ST.

MAIN ST.



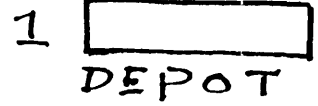
FIRST ST.

9



3

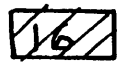
3



10

DEPOT ST.

11



12

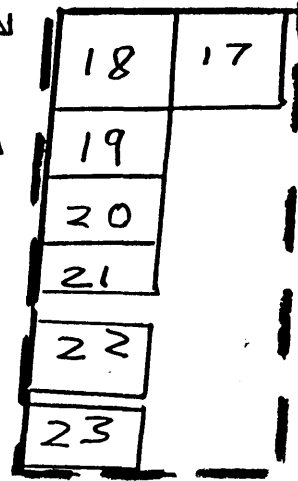
1

13

DOWNTOWN DELHI HISTORIC DISTRICT

Richland Parish,
Louisiana

BROADWAY



15

16



non-contributing

SCALE 1" = 100'

BOUNDARY