

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 26 1985

date entered JAN 9 1986

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common Morgan City Historic District

2. Location

street & number bounded roughly by Front, Greenwood, Arkansas  
and Railroad Avenue N/A not for publication

city; town Morgan City N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish ~~St. Mary~~ St. Mary code 101

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A 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. N/A

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

# 7. Description

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

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

The Morgan City Historic District encompasses eighty-two commercial, residential, and institutional buildings set on all or part of eight blocks. The district faces Berwick Bay behind a twenty foot seawall. Contributing elements date mainly from the period c.1880 to 1935. Despite a 33% intrusion rate and some alteration of contributing elements, the district retains its historic character.

Morgan City developed in the mid-nineteenth century as a rail-steamship transportation hub. The town was officially incorporated in 1860, but little remains from this early period. Sanborn insurance maps reveal that, as with many other Louisiana communities, Morgan City was substantially rebuilt during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The only exception to this is the Wilmore House, a c.1840 Greek Revival cottage. It survives to represent Morgan City's early history, but it also shares its basic character with three other cottages dating from the late nineteenth century.

The town has a plain grid street pattern with no formal planning features. Most of the larger commercial buildings face the seawall along Front Street, but there are several along Railroad Avenue as well. The commercial area has a cohesive character and a mixed one and two story scale. There are few gaps and those that do exist are rather small. A visual focus of the town is the city hall with its twin Italianate tower cupolas which are visible for several blocks. Residences are located primarily on First and Second Streets. As in most other towns, Morgan City's residences are set back from the street while its commercial buildings are set directly behind the sidewalk.

Wherever possible, the district's buildings were dated using Sanborn insurance maps. The following breakdown reflects the available maps for Morgan City:

pre-Civil War	1 building	1%
c.1880-1895	6 buildings	7%
1896-1906	10 buildings	12%
1907-1912	7 buildings	9%
1913-1919	5 buildings	6%
1920-c.1935	26 buildings	32%
intrusions	27 buildings	33%

Except for the landmarks, most of the buildings are more or less conventional examples of their periods and styles. They are the type which could have been found in any moderately large town in Louisiana during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Certain aspects of this building stock deserve special mention:

1. In addition to the Italianate towers on the city hall, the district features nine Italianate commercial buildings. Italianate was a popular style for commercial structures during the second half of the nineteenth century. Morgan City's examples with their arched

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Description (cont'd)

fenestration, cornices, corbel tables, shaped parapets and brick panels represent the last generation. As one can see in the district, the commercial Italianate style persisted until the second decade of the twentieth century. After its demise, commercial buildings were somewhat plainer with much less emphasis upon elements crowded together to produce a rich effect.

2. The district's four Greek Revival cottages lend an air of antiquity despite the fact that three of them are late "carryover" examples of the style. This "carryover" phenomenon is typical of rural Louisiana during the period. Late Greek Revival houses such as these are so close in overall appearance to earlier examples that it requires a trained eye to tell the difference.
3. There are six Queen Anne Revival houses in the district, five of which would be classified as enlarged cottages, one of them greatly enlarged (see landmarks section). These are ample asymmetrical houses with multiple galleries and projecting bays under gables. Most feature large dormers which add to the complexity of the massing. The only thing unexpected is that the houses with Colonial Revival details are contemporaneous with the ones that have Eastlake details. This phenomenon illustrates how the normal progress of fashionable styles broke down on the builder "vernacular" level. In this Morgan City is typical of many other Louisiana communities.

LANDMARKS:

For purposes of this application landmarks are defined as buildings which might be proposed for individual listing on the Register if one were doing a multiple resource nomination.

1. The City Hall, 1905 (Inventory #44), National Register. The elaborate twin Italianate cupolas on this large brick building tower four stories above the street level making it the tallest building in the district. It is also significant as the historic social and political focus of the city for most of this century. The second story features a ballroom which was used for public gatherings.
2. Bank, c.1900, (Inventory #46). This two story block long Italianate building is mainly impressive for its seventeen bay facade and its fully round arched windows. It also retains a portion of its original cast-iron gallery. The bank is truly an urban type resembling some Italianate rows in the New Orleans central business district.

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Description (cont'd)

3. 300 Everett Street, c.1900 (Inventory #42).  
This frame, two story corner building features full Italianate galleries on two sides. Large frame commercial buildings such as this one dominated many central business districts in South Louisiana during the late nineteenth century. But with the growing popularity of brick construction after 1900, relatively few are left.
4. 706 First Street, c.1900, (Inventory #67).  
This house features three Eastlake galleries, imbricated shingles, a pedimented balcony, and four huge segmental pedimented dormers. All in all, it stands as Morgan City's most striking and elaborate example of the Queen Anne Revival.
5. 715 First Street, c.1910, (Inventory #69).  
This Colonial Revival house features a colossal semicircular portico with a matching concave semicircular balustraded balcony. It represents a level of design sophistication seldom seen in the St. Mary Parish domestic Colonial Revival style.
6. Trinity Episcopal Church, c.1915, (Inventory #82).  
Originally built in the late nineteenth century, the church received its tower and shingle style appearance in about 1915. Particularly noteworthy is the great flared base of the nave. The church represents the dying embers of the style, but is nonetheless a legitimate and very rare example within the context of the state.
7. Elks Lodge Bldg., c.1915, (Inventory #38).  
This two story brick institutional building shows the occasional tendency of the southern Colonial Revival style to resemble the antebellum Greek Revival. It is mainly significant in Morgan City for its monumental portico.
8. U. S. Post Office, 1931 (Inventory #52).  
The brick and limestone post office is derived from French and English eighteenth century sources, although the French taste is predominant. It is significant because unlike other buildings in Morgan City, it represents the work of a high style practitioner (i.e., the Federal Supervising Architect). In addition, it is easily the most elaborately articulated neo-classical structure in the city.

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Description (cont'd)

CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS:

The Morgan City district is significant as a superior example of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century townscape (i.e. up to 1935). There are certain elements, previously mentioned, 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 in their own right because they help establish Morgan City's identity and credentials as a period townscape. Hence any 50+ year old structure which has not been altered beyond recognition is considered a contributing element for purposes of this application.

ASSESSMENT OF INTEGRITY:

The district's institutional buildings are almost unaltered, and with few exceptions, this is also the case with the residences. However, most of the commercial buildings' shopfronts have been completely replaced. It should be noted in this regard that most shopfronts in the region have suffered the same fate. Hence the regional status of Morgan City's commercial buildings as examples of the type has not been significantly lowered.

INTRUSIONS:

The district's intrusions largely fall within two categories:

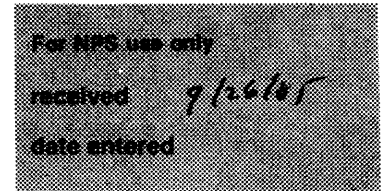
- (1) small (sometimes very small) one story commercial buildings scattered here and there (mostly brick, although some metal sided )
- (2) commercial buildings along Front Street, most of which are badly altered older buildings

Although the district's 33% intrusion rate is relatively high, it is certainly not without precedent in Louisiana Register districts. 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. Although the Morgan City district has a goodly number of intrusions, they are largely dominated by the visually stronger and impressive historic buildings. The general view photographs accompanying this submission are more telling than percentage figures in demonstrating that the Morgan City district retains its historic character.

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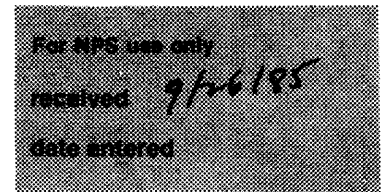
Morgan City Historic District Inventory

1. c.1920 one story commercial building with glazed brick front; shopfront replaced.
2. Intrusion. Small commercial use trailer.
3. c.1930 one story brick commercial building with stepped parapet; shopfront replaced.
4. c.1925 one story brick commercial building with elaborate shaped parapet; shopfront replaced.
5. 1912 two story brick commercial building; late Italianate styling, including brick cornice; shopfront replaced.
6. c.1920 three story brick commercial building; shopfront replaced.
7. Intrusion. Older brick commercial building with new stucco front (two stories).
8. Intrusion. Older brick commercial building with new stucco front (two stories).
9. Intrusion. Small one story brick commercial building.
10. c.1935 art moderne stucco theatre with carrara glass shopfront.
11. Intrusion. Two story older brick commercial building with new stucco front.
12. Intrusion. Older frame one story commercial building with corrugated metal front.
13. Intrusion. Older frame one story commercial building with corrugated metal front.
14. Built sometime between 1895 and 1899 Sanborn maps. One story Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, elaborate corbel table, and crenelated parapet. Original shopfront.
15. c.1930 one story stucco commercial building; shopfront replaced.
16. Intrusion. One story International style commercial building.
17. Built sometime between 1906 and 1912 Sanborn maps. Two story brick and stucco late Italianate commercial building with original balcony, shallow arch fenestration, cornice and parapet. Shopfront replaced.
18. 1923 one story brick commercial building with elaborate shaped parapet gable; shopfront replaced.
19. Built sometime between 1885 and 1895 Sanborn maps. Two story brick and stucco Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration, much quoining and a heavy corbel table. Shopfront replaced.

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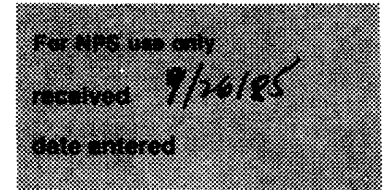
Inventory (contd)

20. Built sometime between 1895 and 1899 Sanborn maps. Two story brick Italianate commercial building with round arch windows and paneled shaped parapet; shopfront replaced.
21. c.1920 two story stucco frame commercial building; shopfront replaced.
22. Intrusion. Badly altered one story older commercial building.
23. Built sometime between 1885 and 1895 Sanborn maps. Two story late Italianate stucco commercial building with corbel table and paneled shaped parapet; shopfront level replaced and second story windows filled in.
24. Built sometime between 1885 and 1895 Sanborn maps. Two story late Italianate commercial building with shallow arch fenestration; shopfront replaced.
25. c.1920 two story brick commercial building with brick panels; shopfront replaced.
26. Intrusion. Small one story brick commercial building.
27. Intrusion. Small one story brick commercial building.
28. 1911 one story commercial building with shaped parapet; replaced shopfront.
29. c.1920 one story stucco commercial building; replaced shopfront.
30. Intrusion. One story International style commercial building.
31. 1912 two story brick Eastlake galleried commercial building; original shopfront.
32. Built sometime between 1912 and 1919 Sanborn maps. One story brick commercial building with shaped parapet; shopfront replaced.
33. Built sometime between 1912 and 1919 Sanborn maps. One story brick commercial building; one window boarded up.
34. Intrusion. One story commercial building.
35. c.1920 one story brick commercial building; shopfront replaced.
36. c.1920 one story brick commercial building; shopfront replaced.
37. Intrusion. One story brick library.
38. Built sometime between 1912 and 1919 Sanborn maps. Two story brick Colonial Revival Elks Lodge with impressive neo-antebellum portico.

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Inventory (contd)

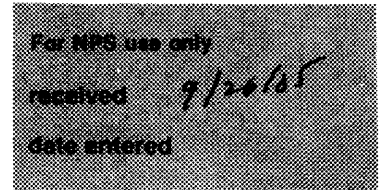
39. c.1920 two story brick vaguely Arts and Crafts Doric Lodge building.
40. Intrusion. c.1940 two story brick VFW building.
41. c.1880 one-and-one-half story late Greek Revival cottage with central hall and two dormers. Two columns and a portion of gallery floor missing.
42. Built sometime between 1899 and 1906 Sanborn maps. Two story frame fully galleried Italianate commercial building. Some of second story balustrade missing.
43. c.1880 late Greek Revival cottage with a full gallery.
44. Morgan City City Hall. National Register. 1905. Large two story brick building with twin Italianate cupolas.
45. City Water Tower, c.1912.
46. Built sometime between 1899 and 1906 Sanborn maps. Two story stucco Italianate building with seventeen bay facade and round arch fenestration. Retains a portion of its original cast-iron gallery. Some windows filled in, original corner entrance fitted with new doors, and fixed awning installed.
47. c.1920 frame bungalow.
48. Intrusion. One story commercial building (brick).
49. c.1925 one story brick commercial building.
50. Intrusion. One story metal building.
51. c.1890 late Greek Revival frame cottage with screened in porch and metal awning.
52. 1931 one-and-one-half story brick and limestone elaborate neo-classical post office.
53. Intrusion. Plain one story commercial building (brick).
54. Intrusion. Two bay, two story, stucco over concrete block commercial building.
55. Intrusion. One story brick commercial building.
56. c.1920 frame bungalow.
57. c.1920 frame bungalow.

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Inventory (continued)

58. c.1920 frame bungalow.
59. Built sometime between 1895 and 1899 Sanborn maps. One-and-one-half story frame Queen Anne-Colonial Revival house with broad gallery on two sides.
60. Built sometime between 1906 and 1912 Sanborn maps. One story Queen Anne-Eastlake frame house with a gallery on two sides.
61. Intrusion. Two story frame commercial building.
62. c.1900 two story Queen Anne-Eastlake frame residence.
63. Wilmore House; c.1840 frame Greek Revival cottage.
64. c.1920 Colonial Revival frame bungalow.
65. Intrusion. Small one story metal building.
66. Intrusion. Small one story metal building.
67. Built sometime between 1899 and 1906 Sanborn maps. Elaborate one-and-one-half story frame Queen Anne-Eastlake residence. Features three Eastlake galleries, imbricated shingles, a pedimented balcony, and four huge segmental pedimental dormers. Side carport addition and screened in balcony.
68. Intrusion. Small one story brick ranch house.
69. Built sometime between 1906 and 1912 Sanborn maps. Two story Colonial Revival house with a colossal semicircular portico with a matching concave semicircular balustraded balcony. Small one story side addition.
70. Built sometime between 1899 and 1906 Sanborn maps. One-and-one-half story frame Queen Anne-Colonial Revival house with a gallery on two sides.
71. Intrusion. Brick commercial building (one story).
72. c.1920 frame bungalow.
73. c.1920 frame bungalow.
74. Intrusion. Small frame shed.
75. c.1915 large frame Colonial Revival cottage with a full gallery.
76. Intrusion. One-and-one-half story frame house.

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Inventory (contd)

77. c.1920 frame bungalow with unusual brick gallery posts on two sides.
78. Built sometime between 1899 and 1906 Sanborn maps. One-and-one-half story Queen Anne-Colonial Revival frame house with enclosed front gallery.
79. c.1920 large frame Colonial Revival bungalow.
80. c.1920 large frame Colonial Revival bungalow.
81. c.1920 frame bungalow with very heavy brick columns.
82. Trinity Episcopal Church, c.1915. Originally built in the late nineteenth century, the church received its tower and shingle style appearance in about 1915.

## 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
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<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** c.1840-1935      **Builder/Architect** N/A

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

The Morgan City Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture as a superior example of a late nineteenth-early twentieth century townscape within the context of a four parish area in southern Louisiana (St. Mary, Lafourche, Terrebonne, and Assumption). Overall, Morgan City is the second finest example within this region, being surpassed only by the Franklin Historic District (National Register).

There are some forty-eight communities in the four parish area, about half of which have an older section reflecting the late nineteenth-early twentieth century period. (There are no contiguous groupings of structures in the area which represent any earlier period.) Most of these contain a few plain frame commercial buildings, some bungalows, and some Queen Anne Revival cottages.

According to the comprehensive survey, there are six communities which feature something more impressive--i.e., masonry commercial buildings, two story commercial buildings, grander residences, institutional landmarks, etc. These are Lockport, Thibodaux, Napoleonville, Houma (N.R.), Morgan City, and Franklin. Among this group only Franklin, Houma, and Morgan City have older structures in sufficient concentration and/or quality to stand as worthy districts. On the whole, the other three towns are too fragmented or of little architectural distinction. For example, Thibodaux, the grandest of the three, was recently surveyed by the Louisiana National Register staff, and despite several impressive landmarks, the downtown area has an overall 54% intrusion rate.

Despite Houma's National Register status, it was listed for its historical significance rather than its architecture, and there is no doubt that Morgan City is architecturally superior. For example, most of Houma's commercial buildings are of the comparatively plain c.1920 vaguely classical type. There are only three examples of the earlier and richer Italianate style. By contrast, Morgan City has nine Italianate commercial buildings, eight of which are two stories and one of which is a block long. In addition, Houma has only three first-rate architectural landmarks (two banks and a Queen Anne Revival residence), whereas Morgan City, with a smaller district, has eight major landmarks running the gamut from commercial to residential, including a shingle style structure (a rarity for Louisiana).

In conclusion, taken as a contiguous collection of late nineteenth-early twentieth century structures, the Morgan City district is one of the most cohesive, architecturally rich and impressive cultural resources in the four parish area. It derives this distinction chiefly from its cohesiveness, its impressive collection of Italianate commercial buildings, and the quality, number, and variety of its architectural landmarks.

CONTINUED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 18 acres

Quadrangle name Morgan City, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	1 5	6 7 1 3	3 8 1 0	3 2 8 1 6	4 4 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

B	1 5	6 7 1 3	5 1 2 1 0	3 2 8 1 6	0 1 0 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

C	1 5	6 7 1 3	2 4 1 0	3 2 8 1 5	9 6 1 0
	Zone	Easting		Northing	

D	1 5	6 7 1 3	0 1 8 1 0	3 2 8 1 6	3 1 0 1 0
	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 district map for description. Please refer to Item 10 continuation sheet for justification.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff  
Division of Historic Preservation

ASSISTED BY CITY OF MORGAN CITY,  
CEDRIC LAFLEUR, MAYOR, AND MORGAN  
CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION,  
ALEX LANDRY, CHAIRMAN

organization State of Louisiana

date July 1985

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 September 19, 1985

For NPS use only

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

~~Inventory is in the~~

~~National Register~~

date

1-9-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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8. Statement of Significance (cont'd)

Morgan City Economic Development

Morgan City was incorporated in 1860 as the town of Brashear. It was named for Kentucky surgeon Dr. Walter Brashear, a large landowner and prominent sugar planter. The town actually owed its existence to the arrival of the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad in 1857. This line began in Algiers and terminated at Berwick Bay (i.e., the town of Brashear). Shortly thereafter steamship service was made available between Brashear and Texas ports via the Morgan Steamship Line. Its founder was Charles Morgan, a northern entrepreneur and transportation specialist.

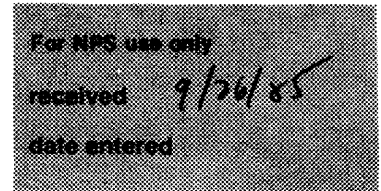
The prosperity brought by this rail-steamship union reached its peak in the 1870's. By 1866 Morgan had re-established his steamship line at Brashear, and in 1869 he purchased the bankrupt New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad, soon making it one of the South's soundest postwar lines. By the early 1870's Morgan had a fleet of some seventeen steamships operating from Brashear. These boats were bound for not only Gulf Coast ports but also New York, Cuba, and Mexico. In 1873-74 Morgan had a deeper channel dredged through the Atchafalaya Bay for his fleet. On February 8, 1876, Brashear was renamed Morgan City in honor of its benefactor. Morgan's enterprises made the town a booming port for years and set the pattern for future growth and development.

The second important factor in Morgan City's economic development was the lumber boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For example, a 1906 Sanborn insurance map for downtown Morgan City shows a huge Brownell-Drews Lumber Company, a Cotton Brothers Cypress Company and a shingle manufacturing concern. A 1920's photograph at the Morgan City Archives shows the Norman-Breaux Lumber Company, another large facility.

The seafood industry was also of considerable influence in the economic history of Morgan City. The 1895 Sanborn map, showing a population of 2900, documents various seafood firms in operation (for example, Jacque Lehmann Sons Oyster Depot, John Dalton Oyster Depot, and E. Bass Oyster Depot). A 1912 Sanborn map shows a shrimp and oyster canning plant. Domiciled on the Morgan City waterfront, these businesses shipped oysters and seafood products to New Orleans markets. In the early 1920's a local oyster shell crushing plant furnished road building materials, and the 1930's saw the birth of Morgan City's jumbo shrimp industry.

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Bibliography:

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Morgan City, 1885, 1895, 1899, 1906, 1912, 1919.

Morgan City Historical Society. A History of Morgan City, Louisiana. 1960.

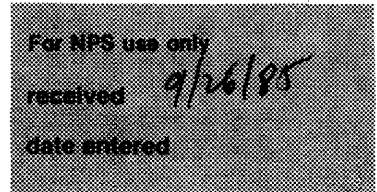
Baughman, James P. Charles Morgan and the Development of Southern Transportation. Nashville, Vanderbilt University Press, 1968.

Historical data on Morgan City compiled by Catherine B. Dilsaver, Curator, Morgan City Archives. Copy in Register file, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office. This material includes copies of old photos as well as a historical narrative researched and written by Mrs. Dilsaver.

Louisiana Historic Structures Survey, Lafourche, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Assumption Parishes. On file in State Historic Preservation Office.

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National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Morgan City Historic Dist. Item number 10

Page 1

Boundary Justification:

The district boundaries were drawn tightly to encompass only the concentration of architecturally superior historic buildings. They cut in between buildings 70 and 37 to exclude intrusions. Berwick Bay is to the west of Front Street and a four lane elevated highway runs along the north edge of the district. Beyond the highway is an area characterized almost entirely by less than fifty year old housing. The concentration of 50+ year old buildings continues several blocks immediately to the east of the district. This residential area was surveyed by the State Historic Preservation Office and excluded because it is characterized almost entirely by ordinary bungalows and a sprinkling of fairly typical Eastlake cottages. The SHPO also surveyed a smaller residential area across the railroad tracks to the south of the district, but it too was characterized by basically pedestrian examples of the Victorian and bungalow tastes and was hence excluded. For the record, there are no concentrations of architecturally significant buildings adjacent to the district, nor for that matter anywhere else in Morgan City.



4 LANE - BRIDGE (UNDE

THIRD ST.

MORGAN CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

St. Mary Parish, LA

Scale 1 inch = 140 ft.

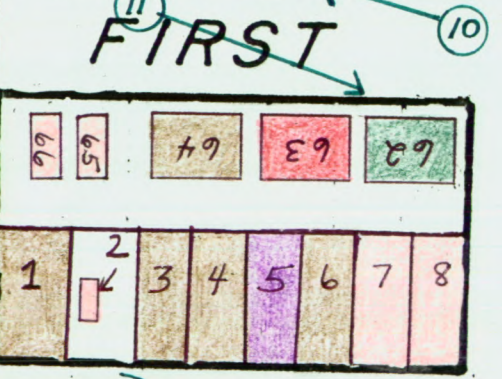
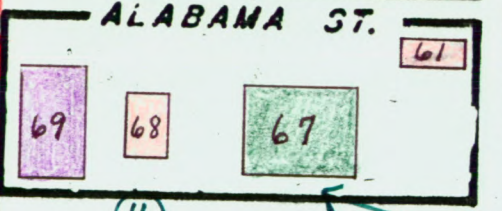
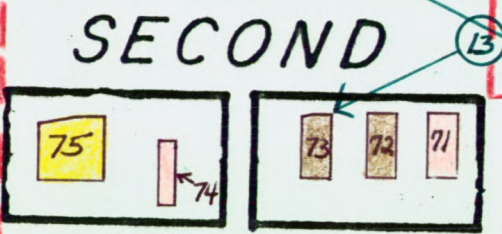
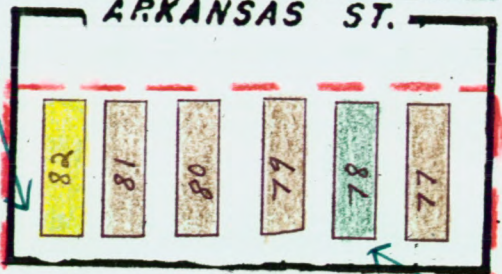
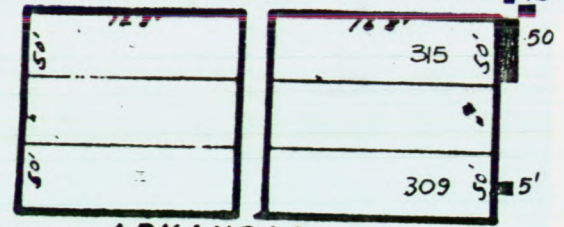
LEGEND:

- Pre Civil War
- c. 1880 - 1895
- 1896 - 1906
- 1907 - 1912
- 1913 - 1919
- 1920 - c. 1935
- INTRUSIONS

BOUNDARY

(CURB LINE)

RR LINE



FRERET ST.

EVERETT ST.

SECOND ST

ST

FIRST ST

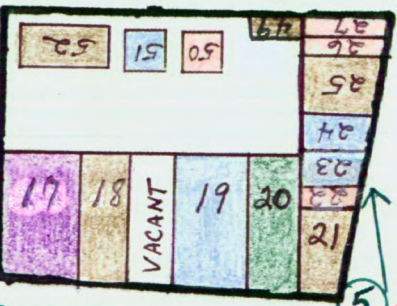
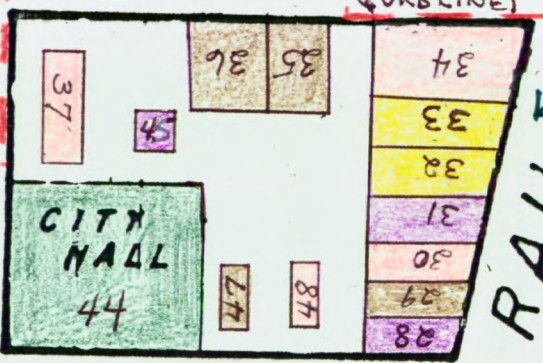
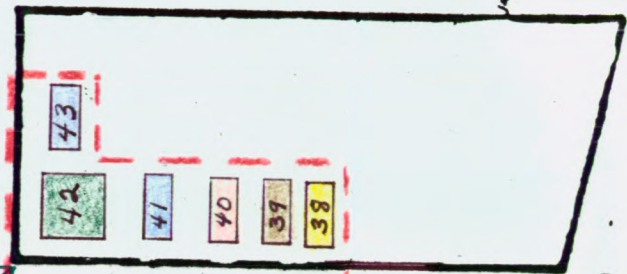
ST

FRONT ST

ST

RR LINE

RAILROAD



14

13

12

7

11

10

9

8

1

2

3

4

5



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

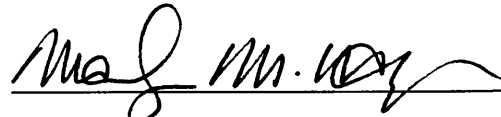
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Morgan City Historic District St. Mary County LOUISIANA 86000060

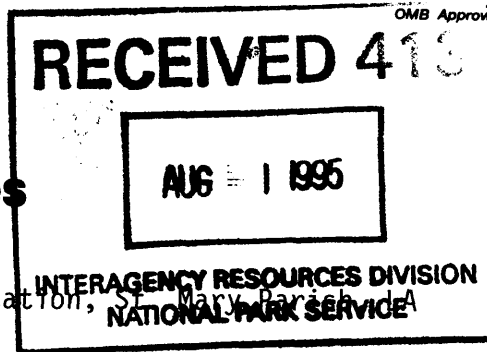
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
9/13/95

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Morgan City Historic District Additional Documentation, St. Mary Parish, LA  
Section number 1,3.5 Page 1



1. Morgan City Historic District Additional Documentation

3. As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination addendum 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 the National Register criteria.

Gerri Hobdy  
Gerri Hobdy, LA SHPO, Dept. Of  
Culture, Recreation and Tourism

July 27, 1995  
Date

5. Contributing element count would change from 55 to 56 and non-contributing from 27 to 26.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Additional Documentation, Morgan City Historic District, St. Mary Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 1

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The purpose of this submission is to upgrade the status of the building located at 704 Front Street in the Morgan City National Register Historic District (number 7 on the enclosed district map) from non-contributing to contributing element.

According to a historic photograph, 704 Front Street began life as a two-story, Italianate brick commercial structure with projecting window hoods set above three sets of large paired second floor windows. The hoods were in the form of segmental arches with brackets. The windows also featured prominent surrounds and transoms whose shapes followed the curves of the arches. A balcony spanned the facade at the second floor level. Although some details of the lower part of the storefront cannot be deciphered from this photo, the first floor's transoms and canopy are visible. A copy of this photograph is attached.

The Morgan City Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in January 1986. At that time, the historic facade described above was totally hidden by modern materials. The first floor consisted of a plate glass store front shaded by a metal canopy supported by cables which connected it to the facade above. The second story was covered by a solid, window-less plaster wall and square cornered parapet with a large sign reading "Appliances and TVs" painted on the plaster. Removal of the building's projecting segmental arches and brackets was necessary in order to construct this wall. A photograph of the building in its modern sheathing is also attached.

Within the last year, 704 Front Street has been acquired by the International Petroleum Museum and Exposition. This non-profit organization plans to use the above mentioned historic photograph to restore the building for use as its museum visitors' center. As the first step in this process, the organization has removed the modern facade and revealed the surviving elements of the historic structure. Although the original storefront is gone, the locations of the first floor transoms are now visible, as are the large second story windows, which are currently covered by shutters. The arched outline of the original projecting window hoods and ghost marks where brackets once existed have also been revealed on the second level. Importantly, the building's 1910 date of construction (placed prominently at the top of the structure's center bay) has been revealed.

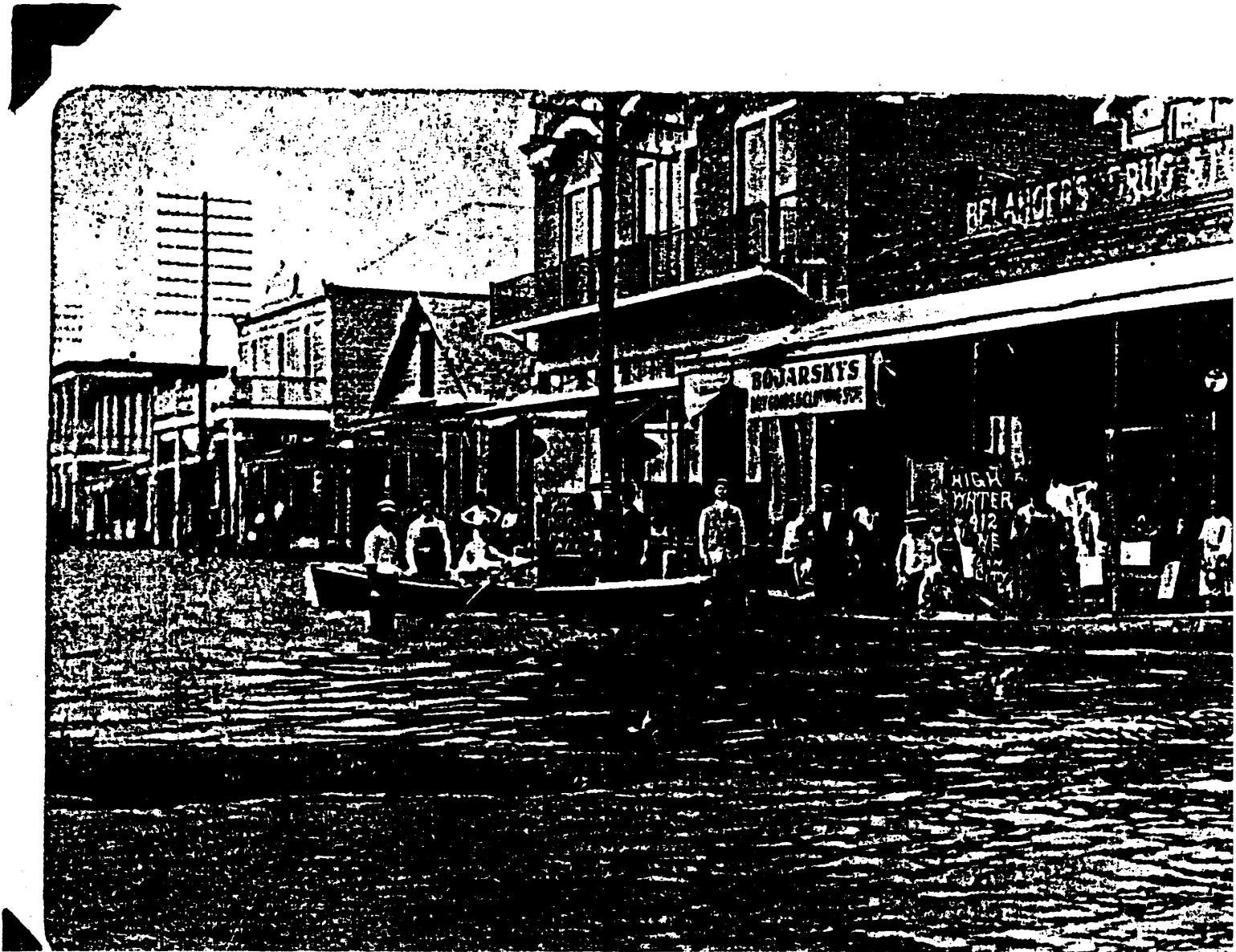
Although the restoration has not yet begun, removal of the modern facade has revealed the structure's historic core, and the historic photograph in possession of museum personnel will serve as an important resource in accomplishing the building's accurate restoration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Morgan City Historic District Additional Documentation, St. Mary Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 2

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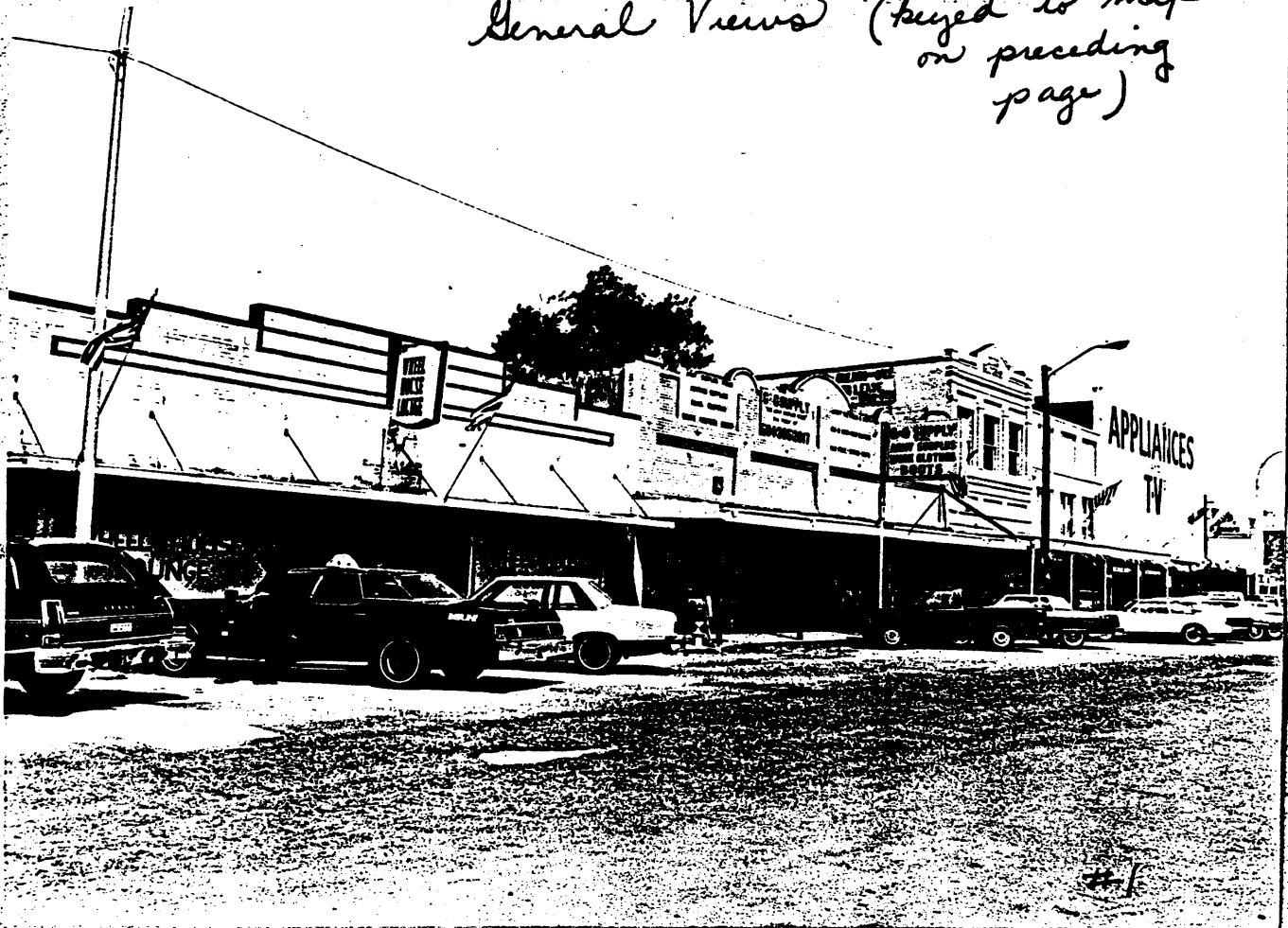


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Morgan City Historic District Additional Documentation, St. Mary Parish, LA  
Section number 7 Page 3

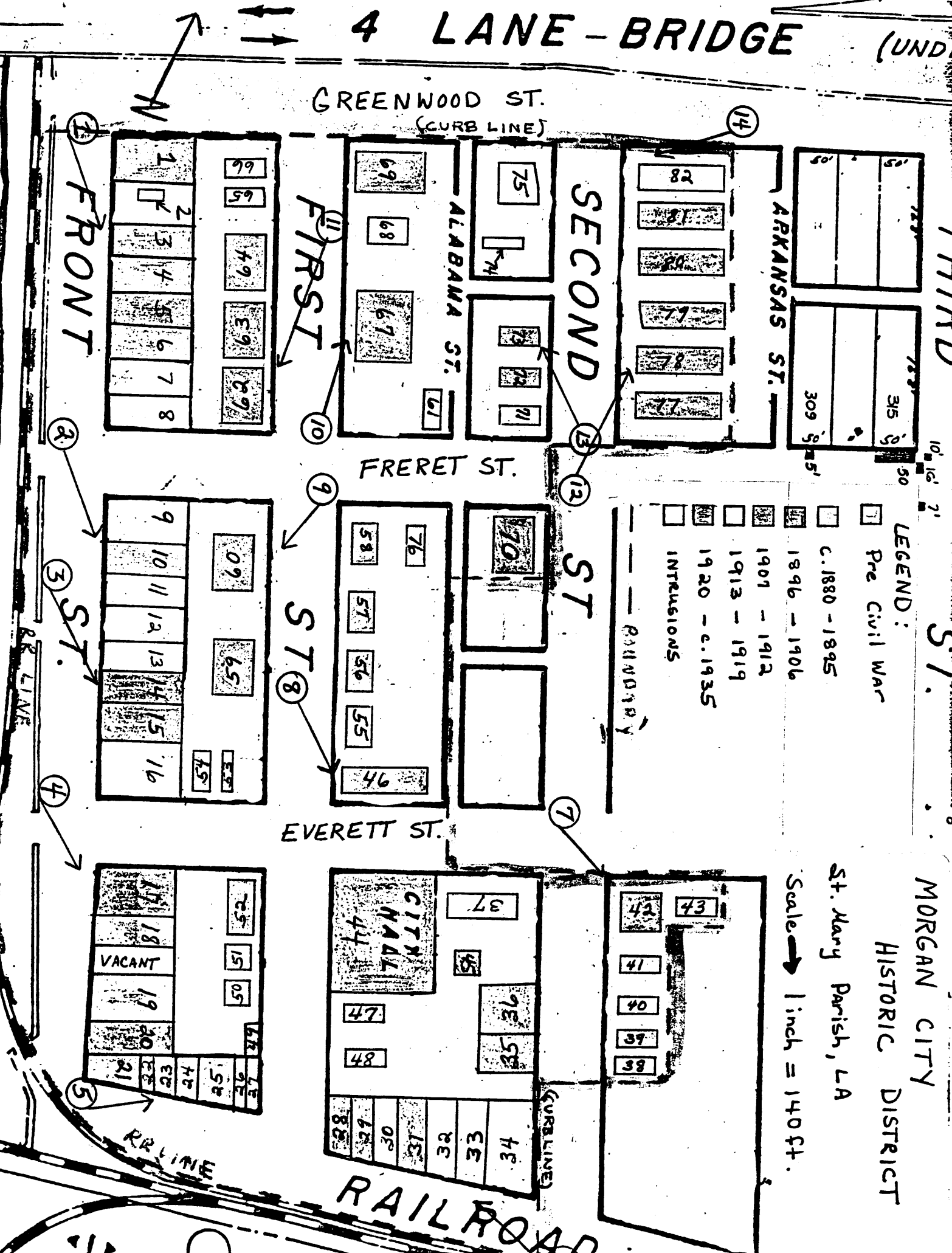
*General Views (keyed to map  
on preceding  
page)*



Appearance of building when district added to Register (one in background--Appliance and TVs). Original photo on file with NPS.

# 4 LANE - BRIDGE

(UND)



17TH ST.

ST.

MORGAN CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

St. Mary Parish, LA

Scale 1 inch = 140 ft.

### LEGEND:

- Pre Civil War
- c. 1880 - 1895
- 1896 - 1906
- 1907 - 1912
- 1913 - 1919
- 1920 - c. 1935
- INTRUSIONS

GREENWOOD ST.  
(CURB LINE)

FRONT

FIRST ST.

SECOND ST.

ARKANSAS ST.

ALABAMA ST.

FRERET ST.

ST

ST 8

EVERETT ST.

ROUNDWAY

RAILROAD

RR LINE

(CURBLINE)

CITY HALL

VACANT