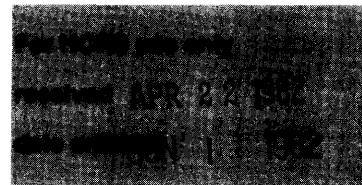


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Dardeau Building

XXXXX and/or common Evangeline Furniture Company Store

2. Location

street & number 224 W. Main n/a not for publication

city, town Ville Platte n/a vicinity of congressional district 8th--Gillis Long

state LA code 22 county Evangeline Parish code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Raymond J. Guillory

street & number 224 W. Main 318-363-3026

city, town Ville Platte n/a vicinity of state LA 70586

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Evangeline Parish Courthouse

street & number Court St. (no specific address) Mailing Address: Courthouse Bldg. (no box number)

city, town Ville Platte state LA 70586

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 La. State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dardeau Building (1912) is a three-story frame commercial structure with a second and third level auditorium "opera house" space which has a richly painted ceiling. It is located on Main Street in the Ville Platte central business district, an area mainly characterized by one-story, twenty to forty year old commercial buildings. There have been only two major changes in the structure, neither of which should be considered greatly detrimental to the building's integrity.

The ground story open commercial space is traversed by two rows of structural iron columns. The walls are sheathed in narrow gauge wainscoting, and the ceiling is sheathed in ornamental pressed tin. In the southwest corner is a wide staircase (with a Queen Anne newel post) which leads to the auditorium above.

The auditorium (presently used for storage) is a two-story space which runs from front to rear of the building and terminates in an unusually deep stage. There was never a fly gallery or a raisable curtain. Like the ground story, the auditorium has narrow gauge wainscotted walls and a pressed tin ceiling. However, unlike the ground story, the auditorium has a completely open span and a slight vaulted shape to the ceiling.

The most noteworthy aspect of the building is the decorative paintwork on the auditorium ceiling. This work is original to the building and is in good condition. The ceiling (see photo and diagram) consists of three elongated panels which are bordered with dark green areas embellished with roses, vines, and palm leaves. The larger center panel is also framed in rose and vine garlands. The center of each panel is painted with contrasting soft green and has rose petals and leaves scattered in a naturalistic pattern. The larger central panel contains ceiling medallions, each of which is ensconced in rose and vine garlands. The side panels each have a large, central, painted cartouche consisting of vines, flowers, and fruits. The interior of each cartouche is painted with images of musical instruments. Although the ceiling painting is elaborate, the style is relatively primitive. There is little attempt at modeling or at foreshortening. Leaf, vine, and flower forms are more or less flatly rendered in a similar manner to manufactured florid carpets of the period.

The entire exterior of the building is sheathed in tin, most of which is pressed to resemble brickwork. The false front facade terminates in an elaborate Italianate cornice with a small central pediment.

The only major changes the building has undergone are the replacement of the glass in the first and second stories of the facade and the installation of a new sign. These, however, have not affected the two major significant aspects of the resource:

- (1) It has not affected the painted ceiling.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet Dardeau Building

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (Continued)

- (2) It has only affected the shopfront of the building. Other aspects of the building which are more important in demonstrating its function as an opera house remain intact. These include the impressive (for Ville Platte) three-story height of the building and the auditorium space.

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

Specific dates 1912 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Arthur Dardeau
 Artists: Henley and Beck, New Orleans

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

The Dardeau Building is significant in the area of theatre as an unusual surviving example of a small town opera house. It is also significant in the area of art because of its magnificent painted ceiling. The building is nominated for a designation for significance at the state level because both the opera house and the painted ceiling are considered to be unusual within the context of the state.

During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, American cities had opera houses or theatres which were large, well ornamented, free-standing structures in which the auditorium space occupied the entire building. Much more common, however, were small town opera houses like the Dardeau Building in which the auditorium space was located on the second floor above an unrelated commercial space. In general, these small opera houses resembled ordinary small town commercial buildings except that they were somewhat larger and at least one story taller. However, this small town type of theatre has disappeared in many towns across Louisiana. Consequently, the Dardeau Building is one of few surviving examples in the state. In a sense, the type of theatre represented by the Dardeau Building is more valuable as a historic relic than palatial urban theatres. This is because, unlike the New Orleans Saenger Theatre, for example, the Dardeau Building is the type of theatre, and represents the type of theatrical experience, which would have been familiar to most Americans in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

The Dardeau Building's most significant feature is the decoratively painted ceiling in the auditorium. It appears to be a reference to Baroque painted ceilings in European theatres. It evidences a strong local aspiration towards fine art which speaks well of the cultural climate in Ville Platte in the early-twentieth century.

The painted ceiling must also be viewed within the context of historic decoratively painted ceilings in Louisiana. Most non-ecclesiastical painted ceilings in Louisiana are domestic. Most are twenty feet by thirty feet or smaller. By contrast, the Dardeau ceiling is over forty feet by seventy feet, making it undoubtedly one of the largest ornamentally painted ceilings in the state. In a sense, it is also one of the finest. Many of the larger painted ceilings in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries relied heavily upon stenciling, whereas the entire ceiling of the Dardeau Building was hand-painted.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Date and name of building inscribed on front facade.

Records of Ville Platte Historical Society. In possession of Ethel Deville, Ville Platte.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .06 acre

Quadrangle name Ville Platte, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

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 Ethel Deville

organization Ville Platte Historical Society

date January 1982

street & number P.O. Box 305

telephone 318-363-1262

city or town Ville Platte

state LA 70586

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. Deblieux
Robert B. Deblieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 4, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Beth Grosvenor

date 6/1/82

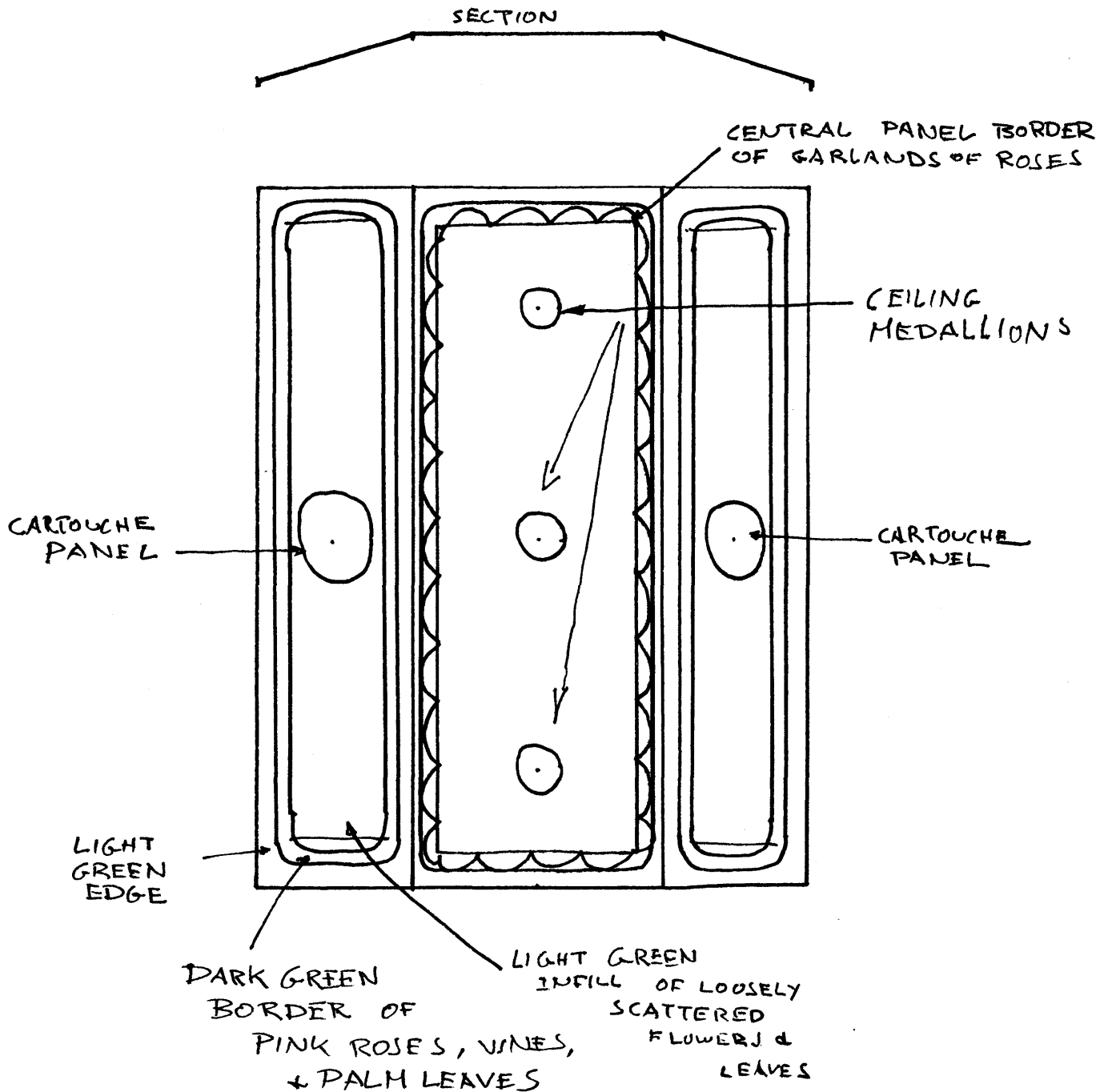
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

DARDEAU BUILDING
VILLE PLATTE,
LA.



DARDEAU BUILDING
VILLE PLATTE, LOUISIANA

NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES
PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES,
FOLLOWING THE SIDE
PARTY WALLS & FRONT AND
REAR FACADES.

