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 N/A

and/or common DeRidder Commercial Historic District

2. Location

LA

state

street & number	bcunded roughly Stewart Street	by the railroad line,	Second, Stree t,	N/A not for publication
city, town	DeRidder	N/A vicinity of		

county

Beauregard Parish

22

code

3. Classification

Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private X both Public Acquisition N/A in process N/A being considered	Status X occupied X unoccupied x work in progress Accessible Yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	entertainment government industrial	private residence religious scientific transportation
	• •	no	military	other:

4. Owner of Property

name	MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP					
street & numb	ber					
city, town		vicinity of		state		
5. Lo	cation of Leg	al Descript	ion			
courthouse, r	egistry of deeds, etc.	Beauregard Par	ish Courthous	se		
street & numb	ber First Street (n	o specific address) P.O. Bo	x 100		
city, town	DeRidder			state LA	70634	
6. Re	presentation	in Existing	Surveys	5		
title	LA Historic Sites S	urvey has this p	roperty been dete	ermined eligible	e? yes _	<u>x no</u>
date	1982		federal	<u> </u>	county	_ local
depository for	r survey records LA Sta	te Historic Preser	vation Offic	е		
city, town	Baton Rouge			state	LA	

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code 011

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one	
excellent deteriorated yoon S VII ruins fair unexposed	unaltered X_ altered	_X_ original site moved date .	N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The DeRidder Commercial Historic District in Beauregard Parish is comprised of three blocks of commercial and commerce related buildings. Bounded roughly by Stewart, Port, Washington and Second Streets, the district includes forty-two structures. They date mainly from the first three decades of the twentieth century. Thirty-six percent of the buildings are classified as non-contributing elements; however, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, the district is significant enough within the context of Beauregard Parish to merit listing on the Register.

The adjoining buildings are massed closely together with only two vacant lots between them. This cohesiveness is enhanced by the fact that most of the intrusions are altered historic structures and hence are compatible with the historic buildings in scale and massing.

Contributing buildings are to be defined as commercial or commerce related buildings dating from 1900 to 1933 which have not been substantially altered. DeRidder's lumber and government oriented economy rose, prospered and began its decline during this period, and it is evidenced in the extant buildings.

The earliest buildings (c. 1905) are mainly one story brick structures with flat roofs and parapets. Their decorative brickwork consists mainly of recessed panels, architraves, dentils and corbels (Photos 6, 16 & 17). Of the six c. 1905 buildings, only two original shopfronts remain to show "transoms" above the display windows and either paneling beneath the windows or cast-iron columns (Photos 6 & 16).

Except for several landmarks, the c. 1915 buildings are less elaborate than the earlier ones. One to two stories tall, their decorative brickwork is often restrained to only recessed panels and architraves (Photo 18). Despite the simplicity of these typical structures, the majority of the district's notable buildings were constructed during this period. The Lumberman's Bank and Trust (1913) and the First National Bank (1920) are exceptional examples of Neo-Classical and Beaux Arts influenced commercial architecture for a town of DeRidder's size and isolated, rural location. The Lumberman's Bank has a parapet, a pronounced cornice with a fully developed entablature, a cartouche, and pilasters ending at the shopfront (Photos 8 & 9). The First National Bank has a parapet with a pronounced cornice and a recessed entrance. Ionic columns flank the entrance and foliated brackets support an overdoor with a cartouche and Greek fretband (Photos 12 &13). Both buildings have stone panels proclaiming their institution's name and their date of construction. Two other landmarks of this era are Hicks and Muller's. At three stories, Muller's is the tallest building in the district. It has a parapet, a cornice with an entablature, pairs of windows separated by pilasters, and decorative brickwork (Photo 4). The two story Hicks Building, which was constructed at the same time and is connected to Muller's, has the same window treatment but lacks the pilasters and has an anthemion surmounted parapet and a denticular cornice (Photo 4).

Six c. 1925 buildings were built as infill as the town's economy began its decline. With parapets, recessed brick panels and "transoms" above their shopfront, they are virtually indistinguishable from the typical building of the c. 1915 era. The only exception is a garage type structure on Stewart Street, whose facade is of two tones of contrasting brick and features simple but pronounced pilasters (Photo 19).

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7. Description (continued)

A seventh c.1925 building is the train depot (1926), which replaced a c. 1900 station. It is a long rectangular brick structure with a tile gabled roof, large cross gabled protruding wings front and rear, and modillion brackets under the overhanging eaves (Photo 3). The depot was included in the district because of the crucial role played by the railroad in making DeRidder's early twentieth century economic prosperity possible.

There are fifteen (36%) non-contributing elements in the district. They are either pre-1933 buildings that have been substantially altered or buildings that were constructed after 1933. 8 of the fifteen fall into the first category. In only three of these have the changes consisted of such irreversible actions as applying stucco or brick to the facade. The post-1933 buildings are all compatible in scale and material with the historic buildings and only one appears to have been built since c. 1950.

The breakdown of the buildings by date is as follows:

1900 - 1912	6 buildings	14%
1913 - 1921	14 buildings	33%
1922 - 1933	7 buildings	17%
Non-contributing		

elements (intrusions) 15 buildings 36%

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite a 36 % intrusion rate and a high incidence of altered shopfronts, the DeRidder Commercial Historic District is still by far the best collection of historic buildings of any sort in Beauregard Parish. Hence it is eligible for the Register under local significance, as more fully explained in Item 8.

In any event, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office, a 36% intrusion rate is not necessarily in and of itself enough to make a district ineligible for the Register. It is important to note that percentage figures alone do not give a complete picture of the nature of the intrusions and their impact upon a district's historic character. In the case of DeRidder's old commercial sector, the intrusions are, but with few exceptions, small, one story, and fairly nondescript. As noted elsewhere, ten of them are altered historic structures which are compatible in scale and massing with the contributing buildings. The five post-1933 buildings also blend in fairly well and none are glaringly modern. As can be seen in the streetscape views, the historic structures in most instances have a stronger visual presence and nence dominate the scene (Photos 17 & 20). Moreover, the district retains an overall historic feeling and flavor which is easily discernible even to the casual observer.

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7. Description (continued)

It should also be noted that the district's architectural value to Beauregard Parish has not been significantly diminished by the numerous shopfront modifications which have occurred. Again, it is still by far the best collection of historic buildings in the parish. In addition, it is important to stress that the district's historic commercial buildings are still easily recognizable as such. Hence modification of the shopfront level has not lessened their power to convey the early twentieth century commercial history of DeRidder.

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DeRidder Commercial Historic District Inventoy

Mullers, 121 S. Washington. Contributing element. c.1915. 1. Three-story brick commercial building. Parapet; cornice with frieze; pilasters between paired windows on upper stories; entrance to upper stories has elaborate classical detailing.

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- 2. Hicks Clothing Store, 119 S. Washington. Contributing element, c.1915. Two-story brick commercial building. Parapet; panelled and dentillated cornice and frieze; paired windows.
- 3. Real Art Theatre, 117 S. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1915 and c.1960. Two-story commercial building. Altered facade.
- Bargain World, 115 S. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1945. 4. One-story commercial building.
- 5. 111 (?) S. Washington. Contributing element. c.1915, One-story brick commercial building. Parapet; decorative brickwork.
- Kenwin, 109 S. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1930 and 6. c.1970. One-story brick commercial building. Upper level of facade covered with aluminum sheeting.
- 7. House of Fashion/Crafts and Gems, 105-07 S. Washington. Two shops; one building. Contributing element. c.1930. One-story brick commercial building.
- 8. Old City Savings Bank, 101-03 (?) S. Washington. Contributing element. c.1915. Two-story brick commercial building. Three shopfronts on first floor face W. First Street. Paired windows; brick architrave.
- DeRidder School of Beauty Culture, 109 W. First Street. 9. Contributing element. c.1915. One-story brick commercial building. Recessed masonry panels.
- Irvine's Drug Store, 111 W. First Street. Contributing element. c.1915. 10. One-story brick commercial building. Recessed masonry panels,
- 11. Champions Jewelry and Watch Repair, 115 W. First Street. Non-contributing element. c.1915 and c.1970. One-story commercial building. Upper level of facade covered with aluminum sheeting.
- Delia's Coin Shop, 117 W. First Street. Contributing element. c.1915. 12. One-story brick commercial building. Parapet with decorative brickwork; recessed entrance.

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DeRidder Inventory (cont'd)

 Dilk's Furniture, 119 W. First Street. Contributing element. c.1915. Two-story brick commercial building. Stepped gabled parapet; brick architraves; continuous brick lintels.

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- 14. Ideal Drugstore/Imperial Shoe Store, 101-03 N. Washington. Noncontributing element. c.1905 and c.1970. Two-story brick commercial building. Upper level of Washington Street facade covered with aluminum sheeting; shopfront level substantially altered.
- 15. Harper's, 105 N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1925. One-story brick commercial building. Stepped parapet; recessed entrance.
- 16. Bradley's, 109 N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1925. One-story brick commercial building. Stepped parapet; band of windows above shopfront; recessed entrance.
- 17. Daniel's Jewelers, 111 N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1925. I story stuccoed commercial building. Stepped parapet; band of windows above shopfront; altered shopfront.
- 18. Hooks, N. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1940. One-story brick commercial building. Brick architrave.
- 19. Old Lumberman's Bank (Hook's), 113 N. Washington. Contributing element. 1913. One-story brick neo-classical commercial building. Parapet; pronounced dentillated cornice; "Lumberman's Bank and Trust Co." carved in frieze; cartouche; pilasters; altered entrance.
- 20. Big D Corral, 115 N. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1940. Two-story brick theatre. "Art Deco" stuccoed facade.
- Hook's, 117 N. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1940. One-story commercial building. Stuccoed facade; band of windows above shopfront.
- 22. Pedal and Splash, 125 N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1905. One-story brick commercial building. Parapet, decorative brickwork.
- 23. Joseph Roy, Optometrist, 123 (?) N. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1905 and c.1975. One-story commercial building. Washington Street facade altered substantially c.1975.

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De Ridder Inventory (cont'd)

- 24. First National Bank, 131 N. Washington. Contributing element. 1920. One-story brick neo-classical commercial building. Stepped parapet with cornice and decorative masonry panels; fluted Ionic columns; entrance with classical detailing. Small one-story modern rear wing.
- 25. Lyle's Tin Shop, 112 N. Stewart. Non-contributing element. c. 1945. One-story brick commercial building.
- Warehouse, 110 block N. Stewart. Contributing element. c. 1925. One-story brick warehouse. Pilasters; facade constructed of contrasting brick.
- 27. Warehouse, 110 block of N. Stewart. Contributing element. c. 1915. One-story brick warehouse built in two sections. Right side has stepped parapet with brick architraves and paned windows under relieving arches. Left side has brick architraves.
- 28. DeRidder Vacuum Cleaners and Sewing, 120 W. First Street. Contributing element. c. 1915. One-story stuccoed commercial building. Pilasters with rounded tops intersect roofline; band of windows above shopfront.
- 29. L.E. Hartt Electrical Appliances/Smitty's Barber Shop, 118 W. First Street. Contributing element. c.1905. Two shops, one building. One-story brick commercial building. Pilasters protrude above the roofline; decorative brickwork includes corbelling; band of windows above shopfront.
- 30. Pawn Shop, 110 block W. First Street. Non-contributing element. c.1905 and c. 1970. One-story commercial building. Upper level covered with aluminum sheeting; storefront altered.
- 31. Manitza's Jewelers, 110 block W. First Street. Non-contributing element. c. 1905 and 1970. One-story commercial building. Upper level covered with aluminum sheeting; shopfront altered.
- 32. Store, 110 block W. First Street. Non-contributing element. c.1940. Narrow, two-story brick commercial building. First floor facade of glass bricks.
- Castle Mall, 204 N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1905. Two-story brick commercial building. Decorative brickwork includes dentils, corbels, architraves and recessed panels; modern alterations are reversible.
- 34. Rogers Auto Parts, N. Washington. Non-contributing element. c.1965. One-story brick cinderblock and stuccoed commercial building.

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Continuation sheetDeRidder Commercial Hist. Distlem number

DeRidder Inventory (cont'd)

- 35. Rogers Auto Parts, 215 (?) N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1905. One-story brick commercial building. Extensive decorative brickwork includes checkerboard panels, embrasures and corbelling; band of windows above shopfront replaced with glass bricks.
- 36. 217 (?) N. Washington. Contributing element. c. 1905. One-story brick commercial building. Decorative brickwork includes dentils and recessed brick panels. Original shopfront includes cast-iron columns.
- Reichley's Bakery, 219 (?) N. Washington. Contributing element. c.1905. One-story brick commercial building. Decorative brickwork includes corbelling and recessed panels.
- 38. Beauregard News/Reliance Press, 122 Shirley Street. Two businesses; one building. Contributing element. c.1915. One-story brick commercial building. Parapet with pilasters intersecting roofline and brick architrave; glass removed from band of windows above shopfronts.
- Cleaners, 120 block Shirley Street. Contributing element. c. 1925. One-story brick commercial building. Decorative brickwork includes corbelling and recessed panels.
- 40. 100 block Shirley Street. Contributing element. c. 1915. One-story brick commercial building. Recessed brick panels; band of windows above shopfront; one display window replaced with glass bricks.
- 41. Louisiana Awards, 100 block Shirley Street. Non-contributing element. c. 1915 and 1940. One-story brick commercial building. New brick facade on upper level; bands of windows above shopfront replaced with glass bricks.
- 42. Railroad Depot, Washington Avenue. Contributing element. 1926. One-story brick building with gabled tile roof. Vaguely Missionbungalow details.



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8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning	politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1900-1933	Builder/Architect	N/A	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criteria A & C

The DeRidder Commercial Historic District is locally significant in the areas of architecture and commerce. It is important architecturally because it contains the largest and best articulated collection of historic commercial buildings in Beauregard Parish. It is important in the area of commerce because it has been the trading center for the parish since the first decade of the twentieth century.

The district represents the characteristic type of commercial architecture that was constructed in the small towns of Louisiana during the first third of the twentieth century. The small, brick, false fronted buildings of one or two stories generally had broad shopfronts containing plate glass windows and transoms. There were sometimes sash type windows in the second story and additional decorative brickwork. The buildings were almost always set right up against the sidewalk and were often separated by only party walls.

Architecturally these structures are usually seen as rural, builder-vernacular descendants of pretentious Victorian commercial buildings. They are essentially a skeleton onto which a facade featuring "watered down" versions of various styles could be applied. The earliest tend to exhibit the most elaborate brickwork; the very pretentious show elements generally used in monumental Neo-Classic and Beaux Arts buildings; later examples, due either to tastes of the twenties and thirties or to a lack of funds, feature more "streamlined" characteristics.

In most Louisiana rural communities brick commercial buildings of this type began to replace older frame commercial buildings in about 1895. They were fashionable because they were more like urban commercial buildings, and, more importantly, they were fireproof. Often entire central business districts were rebuilt during this period. In fact, commercial areas of the type found in DeRidder occur so often that today they are rightly regarded as a distinct phase of Louisiana commercial architecture.

Commercial areas of this type are generally evaluated according to the following factors:

- (1) the elaborateness of the brickwork and other decorative elements on the facades of the buildings:
- (2) the size of the district;
- (3) the extent to which the district has been intruded upon in terms of missing or replaced buildings and/or altered facades;
- (4) the number and quality of local landmarks; and
- (5) the overall scale of the district.

Using the above criteria, the DeRidder Commercial Historic District is the most significant collection of historic commercial buildings in Beauregard Parish.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1912 & 1921. 1923 Panoramic Photo of DeRidder Central Business District. On file with SHPO. Beauregard Parish Historical Society. <u>Beauregard Parish Sesquicentennial Celebration</u>: 1818-1968. Copy of this booklet in National Register file.

Inventory of Parish Archives of Louisiana, No. 6, Beauregard Parish. LA Historical

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ______@8 acres

Quadrangle name DeRidder, LA

UTM References

A 1,5 Zone	625 4712 <u>61510</u> Easting	314 112 51510 Northing	B Zone	471261215 Easting	314 12 41010 Northing	
c 1.5	472575	314 (1241010	D [5	47261910	31411251715	
E 1 5	471261510	314 112 517 15	F 15	472650	314/12/71010	
G 1 5	47,27,25	314 12 71010	н [5]	472700	3,41,23,5,0	

Quadrangle scale <u>1:6250</u>0

Verbal boundary description and justification

See map and Item 10 continuation sheet.

state N/A	code	county		code	
state	code	county		code	
11. Form Pre	epared By		Assiste	d bv: Lu Hancock	
				Beauregard Pa	arish
name/title National Re	gister Staff			Historical Se	ociety
	Historic Preserv	ation		1312A Blanker	nship Dr
organization State of L	ouisiana		date Januar	y 1983DeRidder, LA	70634
			_	318-462-0652	
street & number P.O. Bo	x 44247		telephone 5	04-342-6682	
city or town Baton R			state L	A 70804	
national	this property within the	e state is: <u>X_</u> local		er Certifica	
As the designated State Histo 665), I hereby nominate this p according to the criteria and p	this property within the state pric Preservation Officer property for inclusion in procedures set forth by	e state is: X_ local r for the National the National Reg	Historic Preserv	vation Act of 1966 (Public that it has been evaluate	Law 89-
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national As the designated State Histo 665), I hereby nominate this p according to the criteria and p State Historic Preservation Of title State Historic Pre For NPS use only	this property within the state pric Preservation Officer property for inclusion in procedures set forth by fficer signature servation Officer	e state is: <u>_X_ local</u> for the National the National Reg the National Par Robert	Historic Preserv gister and certify rk Service. 3 Add b B. DeBlieu	vation Act of 1966 (Public that it has been evaluate Blue X	Law 89– d
national As the designated State Histo 665), I hereby nominate this p according to the criteria and p State Historic Preservation Of title State Historic Pre For NPS use only	this property within the state pric Preservation Officer property for inclusion in procedures set forth by fficer signature servation Officer	e state is: <u>_X_ local</u> for the National the National Reg the National Par Robert	Historic Preserv gister and certify rk Service. 3 Add b B. DeBlieu	vation Act of 1966 (Public that it has been evaluate Blue X	Law 89– d
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Continuation sheet DeRidder Historic District Item number 8

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8. Significance (continued)

The only other towns in the parish that have such structures are Longville and Merryville, both of which became virtual ghost towns after the lumber boom ended about 1925. Their old commercial sectors are extremely small and, due to open spaces between buildings, lack the cohesiveness found in DeRidder. There are a total of about ten historic commercial buildings in the two towns. A few of them exhibit some fairly notable brickwork and architectural detailing; however, there are no landmark buildings of the caliber of those in DeRidder.

The DeRidder Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of commerce because it has been the trading center of the parish since about 1905. Although the area was lightly settled by farmers in the nineteenth century, Beauregard Parish was not greatly developed until 1897 when the Kansas City, Pittsburgh and Gulf Railroad was laid through the parish and opened the area to the lumber industry. The train's route through the village helped guarantee its survival and with the opening of numerous sawmills, the town grew rapidly. The lumber boom lasted until about 1925 when the supply of uncut timber was exhausted and a number of the parish's communities were turned into "ghost towns." DeRidder, however, was able to survive in part because its commercial base had been established independently, while other sawmill towns had been "closed" company towns that were shut down or even demolished when the company moved away. In addition, the decline of the town's commercial base was further stemmed by the fact that is was the center of governmental activity in the parish. Beauregard Parish was carved from Imperial Calcasieu in 1913 and DeRidder had won the spirited competition to be its parish seat. The courthouse and jail were constructed on a block behind the commercial district and merchants were able to benefit from their location.*

The buildings in the district were those in which the people of the town and parish conducted their business. Located in them were banks, dry goods stores, jewelers, laundries, printers, grocers, druggists, and bakers. The telephone exchange, express office, movie theatre, post office and Ford dealership were also here.

*These two buildings were not included in the district because they are not directly related to the commercial history of the town. The jail is already listed on the Register and the courthouse is individually eligible and will be nominated to the Register as such.

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10. Boundary Justification

The district boundary lines were tightly drawn to encompass but not exceed the significant cultural resource--the old commercial sector of DeRidder. These buildings form a distinct entity which conveys a definite sense of time, place, and historical development.

The break between the nominated district and adjacent areas is stark enough to be obvious to even the casual observer. The old central business district is surrounded by predominantly modern commercial development and fairly nondescript c.1900 to c.1930 residential development. As noted in Item 8, the parish jail and courthouse are located on a block behind the old commercial district. They were not included because they are not directly related to the commercial history of the town. The jail is already listed on the Register and the courthouse is individually eligible and will be nominated to the Register as such. No commercial building adjacent to the district which could be considered a contributing element has been left out. There are isolated old commercial buildings well beyond the district boundaries, but none could be reached without taking in innumerable intrusions.

The boundary lines are irregular in the northwest and southwest corners of the district because every effort was made to exclude peripheral non-contributing elements. Please see map for details.