

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 13 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bank of Gueydan  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 214 Main Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Gueydan N/A  vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Vermilion code 113 zip code 70542

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Leslie P. Tassin April 10, 1990  
Signature of certifying official Leslie P. Tassin, LA State Historic Preservation Date  
Officer, Dept 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.  
Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. Signature of the Keeper  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. 5/10/90  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
COMMERCIAL/Trade: Financial Institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof tar  
other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Bank of Gueydan (1902) is a two-story Romanesque Revival style commercial building located on a corner lot within Gueydan's business district. The masonry structure retains two remarkably well preserved arcaded exterior faces. However, the building's original interior features have been lost. It is for its two public faces that the bank is being nominated to the National Register.

The bank's corner location necessitates that two of its exterior walls be styled, and the resulting design is meant to be viewed from a three-quarter angle. The public walls display a number of details which identify the building as a late example of Romanesque Revival styling. The most notable of these features are the heavy semicircular brick arcades which house the building's openings. These arcades pierce both stories of the structure on its two street faces. The lower arcade springs from tall piers decorated by horizontal raised brick bands. Each of this arcade's curving spans is articulated by a single raised semicircular band of bricks. The piers of the upper arcade are plain, but the arched windows are more highly decorated than those below. Each is articulated by a raised semicircular band of brick dentils, which in turn is outlined by a single raised brick band like that on the lower level. Other Romanesque features found on the building include a double belt course (one of which is denticulated) between the first and second floor, a third belt course between the upper arcade and the corbelled table of the parapet, and the suggestion of a tower at the corner arched entrance. The latter is created by an inward break in the facade walls on each side of the entrance and is reinforced by the fact that the walls in this area rise slightly higher than the rest of the building. The piers at the entrance also help to distinguish the area, for they are both thinner and shorter than the other piers on the first floor. Other architectural details of importance on the bank's exterior include its watertable, an original side entrance door, and a crenelated parapet which hints at the Gothic Revival style.

Unlike the building's highly decorated street fronts, the bank's rear elevation and side wall are extremely plain. The interior also lacks distinction, for the former first floor banking room has been virtually gutted. The three rooms of the second floor are equally plain, with the beaded board wall covering popular during the period of the bank's construction serving as this area's only notable feature.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bank of Gueydan, Vermilion Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

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## Assessment of Integrity

In addition to the loss of integrity described above, the Bank of Gueydan has seen the following changes:

1. the rearrangement of walls and the installation of a modern kitchen on the second floor,
2. the painting of the original exterior bricks,
3. the installation of glass blocks in several of the downstairs windows and installation of aluminum sash windows in others on the lower level,
4. the removal of an enclosed staircase at the rear of the structure which once gave access from the street to offices on the second floor. As a result of this change, the former exterior door opening into the stairway has also been glazed with glass blocks.
5. the replacement of the original tall doors of the main entrance with a set of shorter doors and a second transom to fill the remaining space above them. However, the original high transom and tall sidelights of this entrance remain in place.

Although the loss of the Bank of Gueydan's interior architectural details is regrettable, the building is being nominated to the National Register for its exterior Romanesque Revival styling. The distinctively articulated arcades, thick piers, three belt courses, corbelled table, and crenelated parapet all remain remarkably intact and make the building a landmark within the community. In addition, the fact that the building displays two decorated faces rather than the usual one also contributes to its landmark status. The changes to the facade are all minor, have very little visual impact, and can easily be reversed. Thus, the integrity of the bank's public faces remains intact, and the building is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

Period of Significance  
1902

Significant Dates  
1902

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bank of Gueydan is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of Gueydan because it is a landmark among the community's late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings.

In 1987 the Division of Historic Preservation sponsored a survey of the historic structures in Vermilion Parish. This project included the community of Gueydan, where 43 buildings were identified as being at least 50 years of age or older. A few of these buildings are one or two story frame residences showing minor influences from the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival or Bungalow styles. However, most of the homes are nondescript structures which show no stylistic influence at all. For the most part, the community's small number of one and two story public and commercial structures are also extremely plain. Against this background the Romanesque Revival style Bank of Gueydan (the only building of this style in the community) stands as the town's most notable visual landmark. The bank's significant Romanesque Revival features include heavy semicircular brick arcades springing from thick piers, three belt courses, a corbelled table, denticular decorative bands, and a distinctive entrance bay with its own set of piers and arched openings. The structure's crenelated parapet also adds to its landmark appearance. In addition, the bank's two public faces make it the only building in Gueydan which is meant to be viewed from a diagonal angle.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Historic Structures Survey for Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

Tour of Gueydan community by National Register staff member.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	5
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5	4	7	0	0	0
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3	3	2	1	4	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the lot upon which the bank stands, said lot being Lot #8 of Block #47 of the Town of Gueydan and measuring 37½' along Main and 142' deep.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

Boundary lines follow property lines of the lot upon which the building stands.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register Staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1990  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804