

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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DATE ENTERED	

**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 Louisiana State Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON Manheim Galleries

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
403 Royal Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
New Orleans

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Louisiana

CODE  
022

COUNTY  
Orleans

CODE  
071

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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  
A. G. Manheim

STREET & NUMBER  
403 Royal Street

CITY, TOWN  
New Orleans

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Louisiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Conveyance Office, Civil Courts Building, Orleans Parish

STREET & NUMBER  
Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
New Orleans

STATE  
Louisiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE  
1934

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN  
Washington

STATE  
D. C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Louisiana State Bank stands at the north corner of Royal and Conti Streets in New Orleans' Vieux Carre. Completed from Labrobe's design in 1822, it is substantially constructed with massive brick walls, finished on the outside with ochre-colored stucco. The woodwork is all of cypress. The arches, vaults, and dome of the first floor are solid brickwork, making the structure as nearly fire-proof as possible. Alterations have been few and, except for that in the rear courtyard, do not detract from the historic character of the bank.

The main edifice is composed of a high ground floor, an entresol defined by a plain belt course and cornice, and a much lower second story. A wrought-iron balcony runs across the three-bay facade (southeast) at that level, and another is carried on the projecting middle section of the three-bay west elevation. A third wrought-iron balcony follows the curve of the large semi-circular bay centered on the rear wall. Semi-circular lights or blind arches cap the first-floor doors and windows; simple label moldings, those on the second floor. Slender Ionic columns decorate the front entrance; simple latticework, the ground-story windows.

Structural evidence indicates that the paneled parapet originally concealed a nearly flat roof and that the present hipped structure, broken on the northwest, northeast, and southeast by dormers, was added at a much later date. Both roof and dormers, the latter ornamented by pilasters and semi-circular pediments, are sheathed in slate with terra cotta ridge and roof tiles. Cast-iron balls mounted on the parapet and dormers are also additions.

The treatment of the first-floor rooms is extremely simple. Smooth white plaster is applied directly to the solid masonry of the walls, arches, and domes. The only purely decorative detail is a low-relief medallion at the center of the vaulted saucer dome of the circular banking room. Display shelves now line the large triple windows set in deep vaulted recesses at either side of the room.

Temporary partitions have been installed in the groin-vaulted offices at the front corners of the building (see accompanying floor plan). The semi-circular and half-domed director's room and the rectangular strongroom, both to the rear of the banking room, have undergone some alteration -- largely cosmetic -- to allow their use as special exhibit areas.

Stairs at the west corner of the building give access to the second floor, designed as living quarters for the bank's cashier. The center hall plan, unaltered except for the installation of two bathrooms, is typical of New Orleans residences of the period. A metal bridge leads from one of the eastern chambers to the building at 409 Royal Street, also occupied by the Manheim firm.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1820, 1822	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Benjamin H. Latrobe, architect Benjamin Fox, builder
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Louisiana State Bank is the last structure designed by Benjamin Henry Labrobe. Though influenced to a degree by the pattern of its older neighbors in the Vieux Carre, particularly in the arrangement of its second-floor cashier's residence and rear carriage yard with slave quarters, the edifice is much more classic in feeling. Handsome yet restrained, it compares favorably in character and detail with the architect's work in Washington, Baltimore, and elsewhere.

### HISTORY

The Louisiana State Bank, incorporated in 1818 was the first such institution established in Louisiana after its admission to Statehood. The company's president and directors promptly advertized a competition for design of a building; its result is unknown.

Subsequently, the commission was awarded to Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who then had the largest experience in bank design of any American architect. He had moved to New Orleans in 1819 to complete the city's water works, left unfinished on the death of his son, H.S.B. Latrobe, two years earlier. On August 10, 1820, the directors announced the adoption of Latrobe's plan. He died less than a month later.

Local builder Benjamin Fox supervised construction of the bank at the north corner of Royal and Conti Streets, then the city's financial center. The project was completed in 1822 at a total cost, including land, of \$55,000. The State Bank occupied the building until 1867, and three years later, on the expiration of its charter, went out of business.

The Latrobe building served various commercial purposes until the early 1930's, when Bernard Manheim leased it for use as an antiques gallery. A.G. Manheim, who now operates the firm, acquired title to the property in the 1970's.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hamlin, Talbot. Benjamin Henry Latrobe (New York: Oxford University Press, 1955).  
 Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1944).  
 "Louisiana State Bank Building." Southern Architectural Review, Volume 1, Number 4 (December 1936).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,5</u>	<u>7,8,3,0,8,0</u>	<u>3,3,1,7,3,0,0</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Polly Ann Matherly, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION  
HCRS/HSS

DATE  
March 1979

STREET & NUMBER  
440 G Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE  
202-343-6404

CITY OR TOWN  
Washington

STATE  
D. C.

## 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER

6

PAGE

1

Representation in Existing Surveys - continued

Vieux Carre Survey - 1966 - local

Tulane University Library  
St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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At the rear of the property is the combined carriage house and slave quarters, a two-story structure of stuccoed brick. A parapet conceals the western end of its half-gable roof. The old courtyard is closed off from Conti Street by a stuccoed brick wall, which curves downward from the bank and carriage house to a central gate. This arrangement is again typical of New Orleans. The paved yard and a carriageway along the northeast side of the bank were built over at an unknown date, possibly in the nineteenth century. The present structure, erected about 1974, incorporates office and workshop areas.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for the Louisiana State Bank Building (shown in red on the accompanying photocopy: Sanborn Map Series, New Orleans, Plate 21A, dated 1963) are those of the property owned by A. G. Manheim, comprising a city lot located at the northeast corner of Royal and Conti Streets, numbered as 403 Royal and 701-717 Conti.

A portion of the bank's original carriageway is the site of a small commercial structure, numbered as 407 Royal Street, and has been omitted from the landmark boundary.