

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 25 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Hemenway Furniture Co. Building

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Corner of ^{3rd} Third and Jackson Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 parish Rapides code 079
~~county~~

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rapides Parish Courthouse

street & number 701 Murray Street P. O. Box 952

city, town Alexandria state LA 71301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA 70804

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hemenway Building (c.1918) is a five-story brown brick commercial building located in the central business district of Alexandria. Despite a few alterations, the building retains its National Register eligibility.

The plan is largely open on most floors and in many cases the old pine posts and exposed beam ceilings are still visible. The only interruption in plan is the original truck bay which is located in the northern corner of the first story. The first and second stories are contained within an articulated base with large plate glass windows and a fixed awning supported by cables. The third, fourth and fifth stories are divided vertically into bays by brick pilasters which run through the entablature and parapet. On each of the two public sides of the building (i.e., the northeast and the southeast), the end bays have two windows each, while the central bays have three windows each. Most of the windows are square head, but on the central bays of the third and fourth stories they are segmentally arched. All windows above the second story level are of the multi-paned casement type.

The building is trimmed in terra cotta at the top of the base and at the entablature level. In addition, each of the pilasters has terra cotta strapwork near the top. All of the windows and the attachment points for the awning cables are accented with terra cotta blocks.

Since construction the following changes have been made in the structure:

1. Lowered ceilings have been installed in some areas,
2. Some of the pine posts have been encased in other materials designed to give a more modern appearance.
3. Windows on the second story have been boarded over, although the windows themselves remain intact underneath,
4. It appears that the fixed awning has been replaced,

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite these changes, the significant features mentioned in Item 8 still remain. In addition, the first three changes are easily reversible. Hence, in our opinion, the Hemenway Building is still eligible for the National Register.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 c,1918 **Builder/Architect** Builder: Hemenway Furniture Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Hemenway Building is locally significant in the area of architecture within the context of downtown Alexandria. The Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey has identified 131 fifty plus year old commercial buildings in the Alexandria central business district. Of these, over half are one story high and over a third are two stories high. The Hemenway Building is one of only four examples which are over four stories high. Moreover, of the four, the Hemenway Building is one of only two which retain their historic shopfronts. This aspect is particularly important because surviving historic commercial shopfronts are rare in Alexandria. In addition, the Hemenway Building is also unusual in that its exterior is divided into bays by long brick pilasters. This adds to its monumentality. Finally, the base, the pilaster tops, the entablature, and some of the windows are trimmed with terra cotta ornamentation. This is seen on relatively few older commercial building exteriors in Alexandria, most of which are wholly of brick.

The Louisiana Review Committee for the National Register asked the staff of the Division of Historic Preservation to append the following statement to the nomination:

Stylistically the Hemenway Building represents a late, somewhat diluted version of the Chicago Style skyscraper. Of course, it lacks the pronounced cornice which is characteristic of the style, but it should definitely be viewed within the overall Chicago Style tradition. In this the building stands as one of only two examples in the area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Louisiana Comprehensive Historic Sites Survey, Rapides Parish.
c.1920 postcard showing Hemenway Building.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property — approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

Quadrangle name Alexandria, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

ASSISTED BY OWNER

organization Division of Historic Preservation
State of Louisiana

date June 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone (504) 342-6682

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



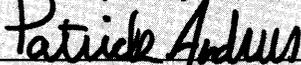
title State Historic Preservation Officer

Robert B. DeBlieux

date August 15, 1983

For NPS use only

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



date 10/4/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Hemenway Building

Item number 4

Page 2

4. Owner of Property

John H. Downs
P. O. Box 4275
Alexandria, LA 71301
Office: (318) 487-8610
Home: (318) 487-1897

Robert T. Ratcliff
P. O. Box 7536
Alexandria, LA 71306
(318) 448-0826

HEMENWAY FURNITURE CO. BUILDING ALEXANDRIA, RAPIDES PARISH

(NOT TO SCALE)

