

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received **NOV 21 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Madisonville Bank

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 400 Cedar Street N/A not for publication

city, town Madisonville N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county St. Tammany Parish code 103

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Louis F. Ray 504-845-4474 (work)
504-288-5651 (home)

street & number P. O. Box 385

city, town Madisonville N/A vicinity of state LA 70447

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Tammany Parish Courthouse

street & number 510 E. Boston P. O. Box 1090

city, town Covington state LA 70433

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
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Madisonville Bank, located on the corner of Cedar and East St. John Streets in the small town of Madisonville, is a two-story frame commercial building with an exceptionally detailed classical facade dating from 1919. It now houses an art studio, a small apartment and offices and has received some modern alterations, but it retains the features that make it the commercial landmark of Madisonville and one of the town's two most architecturally significant structures from the 1890-1920 era.

Originally constructed c.1900, the building received a new facade in a major renovation undertaken in 1919. When first built, it was a two-story three-bay gable-front clapboard building with a very simple shopfront and corner entrance. The 1919 renovation so altered the facade that the only decorative feature remaining from the c.1900 building was the gable end with its boxed cornice and frieze. The c.1919 wraparound shopfront extends two stories and is topped by an overhanging cornice and entablature. The shopfront also features square pilasters with Corinthian capitals delineating three bays of the facade and three bays on the north side of the bank lobby. On the panel separating the first and second stories are three molded garlands with cartouches. One of the cartouches bears the date 1919; the other two have the initials "MB." The windows on the first floor are plate glass with multi-paned transoms; those on the second floor are paired with two over two double hung sashes. The corner entrance has double glass panelled doors with egg and dart molding.

Original interior features include:

- (1) an elaborate pressed tin ceiling, cove moldings and cornice;
- (2) a bank vault;
- (3) window surrounds with cornerblocks in the lobby;
- (4) molded baseboards and doors with plain surrounds and transoms in the second floor rooms; and
- (5) beaded board siding in the rear stair hall.

Alterations since the 1919 renovation include the following:

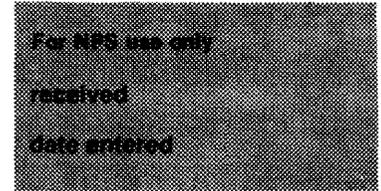
- (1) the apparent sandblasting of the doors on the facade;
- (2) the removal of the teller's counter;
- (3) plywood panelling on the walls and linoleum on the floor of the lobby;
- (4) construction of a kitchen, bedroom and bath in what were first floor offices; and
- (5) linoleum flooring on the second floor.

A question arises as to whether the brick dado on the shopfront dates from the 1919 renovation or is a more modern feature. An old photo documents the building's c.1900 appearance; however, the State Historic Preservation Office could find no documentation to prove conclusively that the dado dates from the 1919 remodeling. Visually the dado is jarring and does not seem to be appropriate to the rest of the shopfront. Physical evidence, however, indicates that the shopfront has always had a dado of some sort, and decorative elements of this kind have been seen on other buildings of this period in the state.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Madisonville Bank

Item number 7

Page 2

7. Description (continued)

Assessment of Integrity:

Neither the post-1919 alterations noted above nor the questionable dado seriously detract from the qualities that make this the commercial landmark of Madisonville and one of the two most architecturally significant buildings of the town's 1890-1920 era.

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.1900, 1919 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Madisonville Bank is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is the landmark commercial building of Madisonville. It is also important as one of the town's two most architecturally significant buildings of the 1890-1920 era.

The bank, with its two-story wraparound shopfront, is the most significant commercial building in town. There is no concentration of historic brick party wall commercial buildings in Madisonville like there is in most other small Louisiana towns that were developed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Instead, there is a scattering of a dozen or less nondescript pre-1933 commercial structures located along Louisiana Highway 21 and the west bank of the Tchefuncte. The pretentiousness and ambition of the shopfront that was added to the c.1900 bank in 1919 and the building's ornate pressed tin ceiling are clearly unequalled in the town.

The building is also significant as one of two architectural landmarks dating from Madisonville's late nineteenth-early twentieth century economic boom. Although the town was incorporated in 1817, the majority of the town's building stock appears to date from the c.1890-c.1920 period of prosperity or later. During the early and mid nineteenth century, the town's small economy was based on trade, small industry (brickmaking, lumbering and shipbuilding) and Madisonville's place as one of Lake Pontchartrain's North Shore resorts. In the late 1800's, the lumbering and shipbuilding industries grew substantially. Two sawmills, one in Madisonville and the other in nearby Houltonville, operated until 1920 and 1916, respectively. Initially there were several small shipyards, but during World War I, the Jahncke Shipyard expanded tremendously until it employed over 2000 workers at the height of its wartime activity. Besides the Madisonville Bank the only other architectural landmark recalling this period of prosperity is a large two-story Queen Anne residence.

9. Major Bibliographical References

St. Tammany Historical Society Gazette, "Madisonville Issue," by Ethel H. Boagni, 1980.
St. Tammany Historical Society Gazette, "St. Tammany, 1885-1945: A Photographic Essay,"
edited by John R. Kemp and S. Harvey Colvin, Jr., 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/10 of an acre

Quadrangle name Madisonville, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	7	2	9	2	0	3	3	6	7	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

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

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY OWNER

name/title National Register Staff

Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana

date July 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



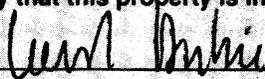
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 15, 1983

For NPS use only

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



date 12/28/83

Keeper of the National Register

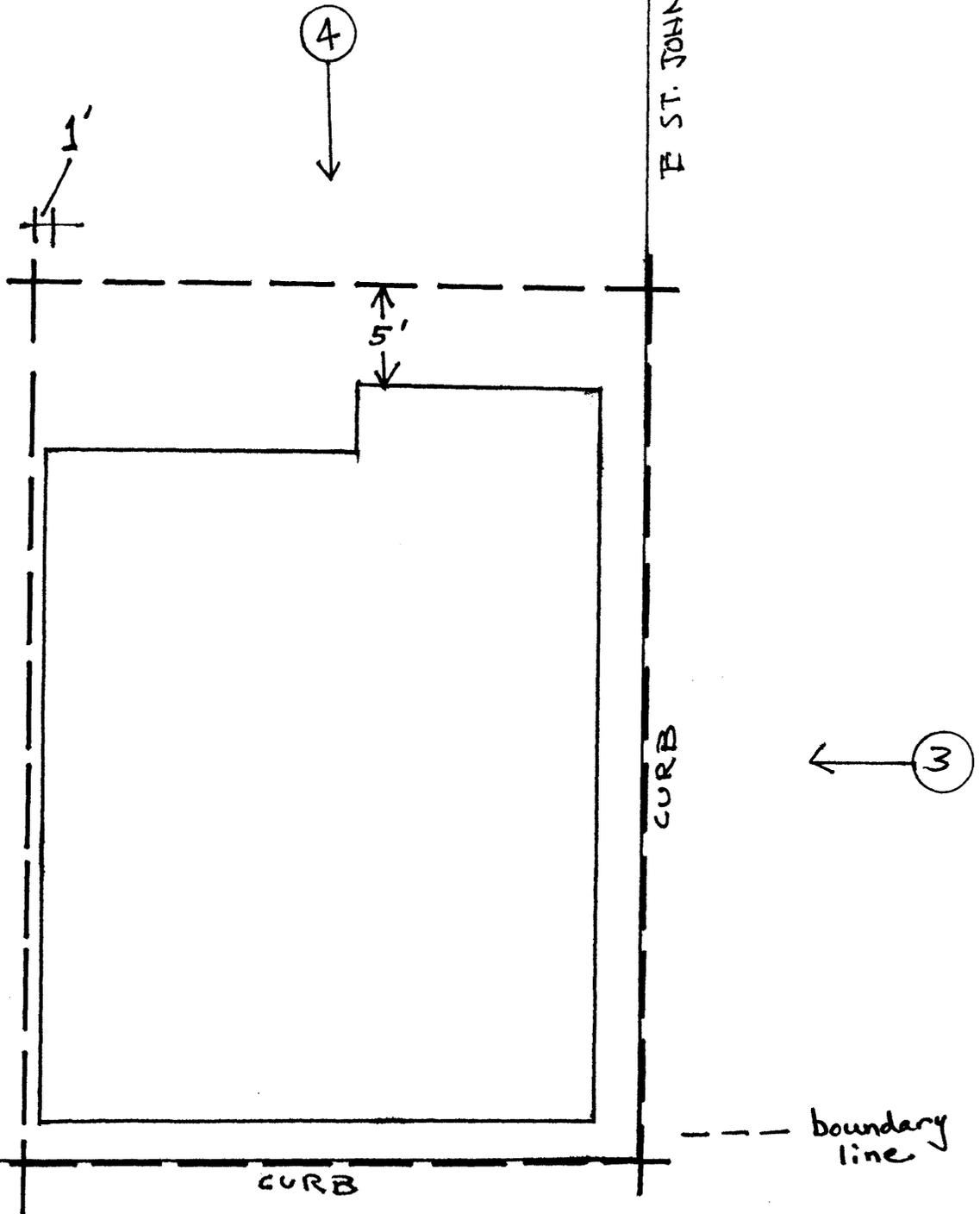
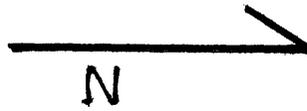
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

MADISONVILLE BANK

ST. TAMMANY PARISH



Cedar St. is the eastern boundary. East St. John St. is the northern boundary. The western boundary is parallel to the rear of the building, at a distance of 5 feet. The southern boundary is parallel to the building's southern elevation, at a distance of 1 foot. This close boundary line was chosen in order to exclude a modern nondescript shed.

NOT TO SCALE

2