



# NORTH LIVINGSTON PARISH

Historic Resources Inventory [2018]





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## Project Description

The goal of the North Livingston Parish historic resources survey is to identify and create an inventory of properties at least 50 years old located in Livingston Parish, north of Interstate 12. In total, we identified and documented approximately 350 properties. The documentation included at least two digital photographs per structure, site, or object and a completed Louisiana Historic Resources Inventory (LHRI) form. All documentation was carried out following the newly updated (2018) historic resource inventory guidance from the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development's Division of Historic Preservation.

Each inventoried property was mapped using ArcGIS to provide spatial and visual reference for future planning and research purposes. The final set of maps easily identify several areas with significant clusters of historic properties. The geographic survey area was determined by the previous 2014 historic resources survey of the southern half of the Parish, completed by Laura Ewen Blokker of Southeast Preservation (Blokker, 2014). Our team was responsible for completing the survey of the northern half of Livingston Parish. As such, we primarily focused on surveying the following communities: Albany, Denham Springs, Holden, Independence, Livingston, Walker, and Watson.

North Livingston Parish was significantly flooded in March and August 2016, during intense rain storms. The March and August rainfall resulted in record river flooding and

subsequent 22 inches of flooding throughout the majority of north Livingston Parish. Livingston Parish was one of four Louisiana parishes that experienced the most widespread flooding from each storm event. East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Tangipahoa were the other three significantly flooded parishes in 2016. It's estimated that 50,000 to 75,000 structures flooded (Advocate Staff, 2017) and 13 people died in the August flood alone. Experts have referred to the flooding as a "500 year" flood event, which means it has a .2% chance of occurring in any given year; however, with climate change and a resulting higher frequency of flooding, it is likely that the Parish will see similar floods more often than just once every 500 years.

The Gulf Coast region in general was dealt a significant and difficult blow in 2016 and 2017 as a result of storms (i.e. Irma and Harvey in nearby Gulf Coast states, Florida and Texas). According to climate scientists, this trend will continue and with it increased risks for the region's historic resources (Union of Concerned Scientists, 2018). Time is of the essence to document our histories and places that matter, especially those that have gone long unrecognized and documented. The preservation field has a significant opportunity to contribute to the critical documentation needs in coastal communities across the country, perhaps most notably in our own region of South Louisiana.



Figure 1. Map of North Livingston Parish + Surveyed Historic Resources

## Survey Background + Methodology

South Livingston Parish (south of Interstate 12) was surveyed to identify properties 50 years and older through a partnership between the Livingston Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Laura Blokker of Southeast Preservation, and the State of Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation (DHP). Funding was provided by the Federal Historic Preservation Fund, managed by DHP and awarded via a grant to Livingston Parish, who then hired Ms. Blokker to serve as the historic preservation consultant. Ms. Blokker completed the South Livingston Parish survey in 2014. Since then, the DHP and Livingston Parish have waited for the right timing to complete the Parish survey (north of Interstate 12 to the north Parish line). Additional funding became available in 2017, through the same Federal Historic Preservation Fund, grant cycle 2017-2018), to complete the survey.

Ms. Jeana Wiser of Greyspace Collective partnered directly with and was hired by the DHP in early 2018 to complete the remaining North Livingston Parish historic resources inventory and survey (not including central Denham Springs, which is covered by a separate contract) by June 2018. The first step in the process was for the Greyspace Collective team to meet with Ms. Blokker to ensure that each survey, the south and the north, were coordinated. She provided some of her old files and United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps, to the team, which were very helpful to fully understand the context, scope, and what was needed to complete the Livingston Parish inventory.

Our team gathered books and other materials, throughout the first few months of the survey, to best understand the historic context of the area. We connected with the Edward Livingston Historical Society, through its president Clark Forrest. As the fieldwork started, the team compiled in-person oral histories and other qualitative information from Livingston residents.

Due to a lack of parish records indicating the construction date of properties in Livingston, the team had to develop a methodology for simply identifying historic structures, from non-historic. The complete set of historic USGS quad maps for north Livingston Parish were gathered and referred to as the basis of our field research. We subdivided each map into a manageable set of sub-squares (~72 per quad map), with a naming mechanism to keep everything organized. The full set of USGS quad maps for north Livingston Parish: Pride, Pine Grove, Montpelier, Amite, Watson, Satsuma, Holden,



Figure 2. Typical rural historic house, Albany [32-01689]

Albany, Denham Springs, Walker, Frost, Springfield. The quad map dates ranged from 1962-1980, depending upon what was available from the USGS.

The Greyspace Collective team, including one sub-contractor (Water Works), kicked-off the north Livingston Parish historic structures inventory fieldwork in February 2018. We spent the majority of the month doing preliminary research, gathering background information, and familiarizing ourselves with the north Livingston Parish context. We worked with DHP to co-draft a letter, signed by DHP Executive Director, Nicole Hobson-Morris, to inform residents of north Livingston Parish about the purpose of the fieldwork and the project, and provided these letters to residents when we photographed their properties.

We prioritized the collection of oral histories, anecdotes, and information from property owners about the impacts of the 2016 floods on their property. We decided upon this unique approach as a way to balance the importance of understanding history and preservation in the context of increasing storm impacts, particularly in a region like south Louisiana. This approach is more comprehensive and reflective of the range of potential threats to the historic structures of Livingston Parish, not just limited to traditional preservation threats. We noted observed or confirmed flood damages on the Louisiana Historic Resources Inventory (LHRI), where applicable.

We also prioritized collecting information about the African American community. Communities of color history has been severely underrepresented for the entire history of this country, including Livingston Parish. As such, we worked with local African American historian and life-long resident of Livingston Parish, Ms. Lula Mae Hart to document even just a small sliver of the history she has spent a lifetime recording. Please see Appendix D for detailed information about her life and the overall African American experience in the Parish, including significant

contributions made to this region.

The town of Walker was selected as the starting point for fieldwork and data collection. From there, we moved northwest and then jumped over to Albany (far east Parish) and worked our way back to Walker and north to Denham Springs. As we worked through the USGS quad maps, we compared what existed on the quad map with what we saw in the field. We had to make a determination whether or not the structure from 50+ years ago on the map was the same structure we observed in the field. As we surveyed different quad maps and subsections we either marked by hand on the maps or marked on a digital copy of each map on the computer. Historic structures that were clearly no longer standing were also indicated on the maps.

We first focused fieldwork in the more rural areas of the Parish, reserving the relatively urban and compact cities and towns for the end when we were able to conduct the fieldwork more quickly and some of it even by foot. As expected, the rural parts of the Parish took quite some time to even complete one LHRI form due to access restrictions and concerns, locating the structures off fast highways, etc. This was a time consuming part of the fieldwork, but revealed the significantly rural dimension to the Parish. We noticed several farms and other rural land uses.



Figure 3. Roaming cattle observed in the rural survey area

During the first three months of survey and field work, the team tested a number of methodologies and techniques for fieldwork and data collection. It was determined fairly early on that there was a lack of recorded and documented information at the parcel and building level throughout north Livingston Parish. Addresses were often inconsistent. We checked in with the Parish planning office and were told that address calibration and refinement was an ongoing project, not yet complete. As such, we relied on using latitude and longitude coordinates to determine and record the specific location of each documented structure. A number of contemporary tools can be used to record

coordinates, but we eventually decided to use a combination of photo geolocation cross-referenced with Google Maps. Initially we tested an app called Solocator, but after using it on two trips to the field realized that the recorded coordinates were inaccurate and therefore had to go back and cross reference each incorrect set of coordinates with Google Maps and other spatial reference tools.

As we refined our fieldwork process, we settled on an approach that included taking photos, documenting the pin location (not lat/long, specifically, just general location for reference purposes), and other qualitative information we might have collected during conversations with historic building owners. Then, back in the office, we used the computer to compile all complete records of information, per structure. This strategy worked well.

We attended the meeting of the Edward Livingston Historical Association in March 2018 to inform the membership about the survey project (Livingston Parish News 2018). Several members expressed interest in supporting the project, some of whom are currently engaged in their own research efforts in the Parish. Subsequently, we organized a focus group in May 2018 to collect more information on the history of the Parish. Many of the attendees had strong family connections to the area, and this meeting provided helpful context about the Parish and the events and individuals who shaped its history. The event was held at Walker City Hall, following a suggestion from the Walker Mayor Pro Tem, Scarlett Milton Major. The focus group event could not have been successful without the partnership and support of Mr. Clark Forrest, Jr. of the ELHA who helped with invitations and general event advertisement.

Several months into the survey, we started to uncover some of the often under-represented and under-documented histories of the African-American communities in Livingston Parish. Simultaneously, we realized that many parts of the Parish continue to struggle to recover following the 2016 floods. It is estimated that over 75% of Livingston Parish was impacted by the flooding, and the effects of the flood damage is dramatically visible in nearly all areas of the Parish. The 2016 floods severely impacted Livingston Parish's historic resources, which has subsequently resulted in a number of demolitions, neglect, or significant alterations through post-disaster repairs.

All compiled data for each surveyed and inventoried structure, site or object (50 years or older) was formally recorded using the newly updated LHRI form. The final products of the 2018 North Livingston Parish Historic Resources Inventory consist of a digital copy of every



inventory form (350), along with at least two digital photos per surveyed resource. In many cases, there were more than two photos and those have also been made available to the DHP in digital form. Digital maps were created using the north Livingston Parish LHRI shapefile layer to indicate the location of each inventoried property and broad aggregations of historic properties in the region.

Moving forward, it will be important for DHP to coordinate with the Louisiana Office of Community Development (OCD) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to address the increasing vulnerability of historic structures to flood risk. Ideally, all three state agencies will work together to better understand, plan for, and mitigate future devastation from flooding. This final report will be shared with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Division of Historic Preservation. Additional recipients of a digital copy of the report will be: Livingston Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Livingston Parish Convention & Visitor's Bureau, the Edward Livingston Historical Association, and the Livingston Parish Planning + Development Department.

## Survey Findings

The historic resources survey of north Livingston Parish identified over 350 notable older residences, churches, cemeteries, and schools that help tell the story and the history of the Parish, north of Interstate 12. Typical eras of historic construction range from the early 1900s to the peak of mid-century modern ranch subdivision development in the 1950s and 1960s. The general development history and patterns follow the Parish's railroads, major highways, and country roads. Florida Boulevard runs east-west (also known as US HWY 190) and parallels the railroad (originally constructed in 1904 for Illinois Central). The major towns in the region are located on Florida Boulevard/HWY 190 starting in the west with Denham Springs, and westward to Walker, Satsuma, Livingston, Holden, to Albany. The major north-south highways and roads are: HWY 16, HWY 447, HWY 1024, HWY 63, HWY 1036, HWY 441, and HWY 43.

In general, each community has a strong north-south development pattern (rather than east-west). The more rural parts of the region are a mix of historic vernacular cottage and farmhouse-style houses, mobile homes, and some mid-century ranch homes. As one gets closer to Florida Boulevard, a concentration of new subdivisions and mid-century ranch subdivisions are obvious. Some central neighborhoods still have close to 100 year old houses, constructed around the same time as the area's official incorporation or settlement.

A critical role of the historic resources survey is to identify exceptional or important historic resources or districts potentially eligible for nomination and listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Collectively, nearly 100 resources were identified as either "potentially eligible" or "needing more research" to confirm eligibility or potential eligibility. Many of the 100 potentially eligible resources were historic cemeteries. For example, these were cemeteries in which Parish residents were buried

who served in the Civil War or members of prominent local families. Some of the residential homes identified are excellent representations of the broad spectrum of vernacular architectural styles found in the Parish. Some were family homes belonging to significant or influential families. The nearly 100 identified properties are described below in **Appendix A**. The comprehensive set of 350+ surveyed resources were mapped using ArcGIS and each documented resource has a minimum of two photos.

Finally, over 75% of Livingston Parish was flooded in 2016. As such, many of the surveyed properties had obvious and visible flood damage, including some lingering FEMA trailers. Others, were confirmed to have been damaged but had already completed repairs. The flood, from a historic preservation perspective, had several significant impacts on the Parish's historic properties and communities. First, physical damage due to floodwaters, reaching up to eight feet in some areas, permanently damaged many properties. In some instances, this was the first time the property had ever flooded to this extent. Second, the rapid repairs carried out for some historic properties post-flood have significantly and perhaps permanently impacted the historic integrity of the home. Planners, emergency management professionals, and historic preservation professionals in Livingston Parish should consider the increasing flood risks and threats to Livingston Parish's historic properties. In the future, this area will likely flood again. The Parish's most at-risk historic properties are not only those that have long-term neglect, a common preservation threat, but also those located in the areas that flooded in 2016. Measures should be taken now, or in the very near future, to mitigate the risk posed to these properties from future flood events.

### *Overview by Community: History, Findings + Representative Resources*

Twelve United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute series quadrangle maps that cover north Livingston Parish were surveyed during this project: Pride, Watson, Denham Springs, Pine Grove, Satsuma, Walker, Montpelier, Holden, Frost, Amite, Albany, and Springfield. The survey was concentrated in the following north Livingston Parish communities, located in one or more of the twelve referenced USGS maps: Albany, Denham Springs, Holden, Independence, Livingston, Walker, and Watson. The following includes our findings, by community:



Figure 4. Friendship Church Cemetery, Walker [32-01715]

## Albany

A total of 98 resources were documented in the Albany area. This community has a number of historic properties with many located just to the south of I-12, centered around the Albany Upper School. We identified 3 properties that may be eligible for the National Register and 11 properties that may be eligible after additional research.

Albany was settled in 1908 and incorporated in 1953. The railroad, built in 1908, initiated the settlement of the area. The community's first post office opened in 1908. Like many north Livingston Parish communities, Albany was first settled during the height of the region's lumber industry. Brakenridge Lumber, located 3 miles south of Albany, was founded in the early 1900s and depended upon employees moving to the area. Many of the company's first employees were Hungarian immigrants. As such, this area quickly became the center of the Hungarian settlement during the peak of the lumber industry. Another significant part of the local economy, in addition to the lumber industry, was the strawberry crop. Strawberries were Albany's principal crop (Edward Livingston Historical Association 1986) and many Hungarian immigrants worked in the strawberry industry too.

Albany has many early 1900s buildings. Two historically significant historic resources in Albany are: The Sunny Brand (Strawberry) Produce Company building and the Ivanisky Home. Both structures have historic significance related to the local strawberry economy and the history of Albany's rural development.

The Sunny Brand building is estimated to have been built by at least 1918, according to the current owner, Mr. Chris Olah and confirmed by a 1953 certificate from VC fertilizer to The United Hungarian Cooperative for 35 years of service. Mr. Olah's grandfather, Frank Koles, went



Figure 5. Sunny Brand (Strawberry) Produce Company, Albany [32-01748]

to work in the building in 1936. It remained a cooperative until the 1940s, when it ceased operation, Mr. Koles took it over as an association and purchased the building. He named it Sunny Brand Produce and operated the business until 1994. There were several full-time employees, throughout the years, along with seasonal help. Sunny Brand shipped strawberries by rail through the 1950s and then switched to truck. Mr. Koles passed away in 1996 and his family remains owner of the building to this day. Currently, Mr. Olah and his son operate Sunny Brand Agriculture Services out of the building (Olah 2018).

The Ivanisky Home is the current residence of Mr. Dennis J. Ivanisky. This house is a great example of Albany's rural vernacular, located north of Albany on Route 43, approximately 5 miles north of Florida Boulevard. The old Turnpike Road that used to connect Springfield to Natchez, MS in the early 1800s cut through Mr. Ivanisky's property and is still visible on the property today. In fact, Mr. Ivanisky has preserved the portion of the turnpike that exists on his property, traversing his backyard. (Forrest 2018).



Figure 6. The Ivanisky House, Albany [32-01613]

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond the scope of this project, but would be certain to yield additional supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.

## Denham Springs

A total of 31 resources were documented in the Denham Springs area, north of downtown, which was the focus area of this project. This region has a number of historic properties with many located along HWY 16, HWY 1019, and HWY 1024. We identified 1 property that may be eligible for the National Register and 10 properties that may be eligible after some additional research.

Denham Springs is the largest area of commercial and residential development in Livingston Parish. It was settled around 1828 with the purchase of claimed land by William Denham, following his marriage to Mercy Hogue.



Hogue's father was the original claimer of the land that Denham purchased. It wasn't until 1882 that the Denham Springs name was first used to refer to the settlement. From 1828 to 1882 the area was referred to as Amite Springs, in reference to the Amite River that forms the western border of Denham Springs and the Parish. Denham Springs was incorporated in 1903, just one year before the opening of the Illinois Central railroad in 1904 and the subsequent area growth and development boom. (ELHA 1986)

North Denham Springs has many early 1900s buildings. Two significant historic resources in north Denham Springs are: the Amite Baptist Church and Dr. Bridges' Home. Both structures have historic significance related to association with a historic church and history of rural Denham Springs' development.

The Amite Baptist Church was first established in 1841. It was organized on October 9th, with 20 members by the Reverend W.B. Allen who served the church for 45 years. In May 1856, a clear title was received to a piece of land, on the old river road from Denham Springs to Watson. This is the land where the first church building was constructed. In August of 1862, the Union Army damaged the original building. The current church campus was built during the late 1940s and completed in 1950. An adjacent educational building was built in 1961. At present, the church owns 13 acres, including one historic

cemetery and one contemporary cemetery. Throughout its entire history, only one African American person has ever been a member of this church. Ultimately the membership was short-lived, 1858-1861, as she was revoked of membership only a few years after being granted access. Today, the church is one of the largest rural churches in the Southern Baptist Convention (ELHA 1986).

The historic farmhouse on Weiss Road (37071) was originally built in the late 1800s by Dr. William H. Bridges (1849-1932), a country doctor and his wife, Mrs. Dora Pennington Bridges (1856-1937). Dr. Bridges and his wife



Figure 9. Dr. William H. Bridges + Mrs. Dora Pennington Bridges, Denham Springs [32-01803]

lived in Denham Springs for their entire adult lives and were buried in the nearby Salem Baptist Church Cemetery, ~1 mile from the Bridges' home on Weiss Road. The current homeowner has owned the home for at least 50 years and employed several members in the community to perform interior remodeling work in the 1970s (Sibley 2018).



Figure 10. Dr. Bridges' Home, Denham Springs [32-01777]

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond the scope of this project, but would be certain to yield



Figure 7. Amite Baptist Church, Denham Springs [32-01659]



Figure 8. Amite Baptist Church, Denham Springs [32-01660]

additional supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.

## Holden

A total of 36 resources were documented in the Holden area. This community has many historic properties with most found north of Holden's Florida Boulevard center, along HWY 441 and HWY 1036. While no properties were identified that may be eligible for the National Register, there are 13 that may be eligible after some additional research.

Holden is an unincorporated community in north Livingston Parish, located between Livingston and Albany. In the 1980s, there was an active post office, a public school, 2 churches (Tickfaw Baptist and United Pentecostal), and some businesses. Holden is located in a Spanish headright section - which was granted to Micajah "Cage" Spiller. The railroad came in 1907, a flag stop in 1909, and ultimately a train depot that was active from 1916-1946.

The town was named for James "Jim" Mahlon Holden, who was born in 1855 and died in 1928. He was a successful planter and raised livestock. James "Jim" F. McCarroll, owner of the McCarroll Lumber Company established in 1909, was a big contributor to the history of the town. McCarroll was the one who had the town surveyed into formal lots and convinced the railroad that he needed a railroad spur built to connect his mill to the railroad — referred to as "Cooper's Spur" after Sinclair Cooper who worked for the mill and constructed the spur. For a while, in fact, the area even became known as Cooper's Spur instead of Holden. Ultimately, however, the name didn't hold because people wanted the name to reflect someone "from" the area, hence Holden (ELHA 1986).

Holden has many early 1900s buildings. Two historically significant historic resources in Holden are: Lone Pine Church and the Bankston Cemetery (south). Both the church and the cemetery have historic significance related to the development of Holden.

The Lone Pine Church is located on Florida Boulevard and appears to be currently vacant. The church was originally located on land purchased by Mr. Edward Sherman Kinchen from the U.S. Government on August 8, 1887. The church was founded by Mr. Kinchen and his wife. Some believe this church is the oldest "holiness fundamentalist" church in Livingston Parish. Ultimately, the congregation needed a permanent home for the growing membership. A couple of sites just west of Albany were purchased or traded for. Several church buildings were constructed in the years 1921, 1926, and 1952. The current building was built in either 1926 or 1952. The Brackenridge Lumber Company sold one acre of land to the church. The white wood church structure is a great example of a historic vernacular rural

church in Livingston Parish and is an example of the proliferation of a unique and influential religious denomination of holiness fundamentalism in Livingston Parish (ELHA, 1986).



Figure 11. Lone Pine Church, Holden [32-01777]

The Bankston Cemetery is one of two Bankston Cemeteries in north Livingston Parish, with the other one located adjacent to the historic Fourth Ward school in Independence. The (south) Bankston Cemetery is on Pete Smith Road, where it intersects with Charles Holden Road. The earliest documented burial was in 1861, Willmuth Woodard Picket (1785-1861). Picket was born in Georgia, married William W. Ware in 1821, and had one daughter, Elizabeth Ware Lard (married Livingston Parish local, Noah Lard). She was the first person buried at the Bankston Cemetery with a headstone (ELHA, 1986).



Figure 12. Bankston Cemetery (south), Holden [32-01673]

Holden is also home to 1 of 2 currently listed properties on the National Historic Register: the Historic Macedonia Baptist Church. We spoke with the current and longtime pastor, Roger Dunlap, to learn more about the property. Pastor Dunlap told us that the original congregation was founded in 1856. The building that stands today was built by the congregation in 1898, and is the oldest Baptist Church building in Livingston Parish. The Macedonia Church was a stopping off point for people who were moving east and therefore the founding preacher was also traveling east when he stopped to found the church. The original church (pre-Civil War) was 2 stories and



segregated. White worshippers sat on the first level and African American slaves sat on the second level. After the church was burned during the Civil War, the church that stands today was rebuilt as a single story building. Macedonia Church was untouched and remained safe during both Hurricane Katrina and the 2016 floods (Dunlap 2018).

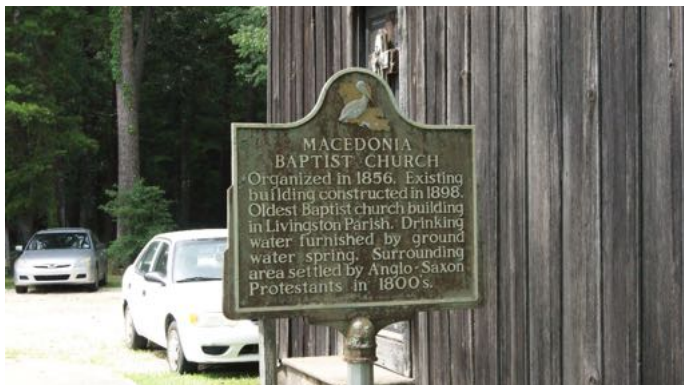


Figure 13. Macedonia Baptist Church history plaque, Holden [32-01811]



Figure 14. Macedonia Baptist Church, Holden [32-01811]

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond the scope of this project, but would certainly yield additional supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.

## Independence

A total of 41 resources were documented in the Independence area. This community has many historic properties identified in the far northeast corner of the Parish, adjacent to the Parish line. We identified 4 properties that may be eligible for the National Register and 4 properties that may be eligible after some additional research.

Neighboring Independence, in Tangipahoa Parish, used to be part of Livingston Parish until 1869. At first, the community was called "Uncle Sam" and had its origins in 1852 when the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railway began operation. The first building was said to be

constructed by Dr. William D. Wilson, the father of former Harry D. Wilson who was at one time Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture. The first post office was built in 1855 (ELHA, 1986).

Independence has many early 1900s buildings. Two historically significant historic resources in Independence are: the New Hope Baptist Church and the Banks House. Both resources are historically significant as a reflection of the community's development and history of African American property ownership in Independence.

The New Hope Baptist Church is a tremendous example of mid-century modern church architecture. The church is still original, as built in the 1950s, and maintains high historic integrity. The small architectural details like the stained glass above the front doors and the white column extensions from the roof make this church unique and charming.



Figure 15. New Hope Baptist Church, Independence [32-01719]

The Banks House is at least 80 years old. The grandson of the original owners and builders of the home is Walter Banks. Walter's grandfather, Anthony Banks, officially purchased the home and land in 1944. According to Walter, his grandparents were local sharecroppers who saved enough money to purchase the plot of land and build a home. Walter also mentioned that his sons and their families live on the same road (George Mashon) and experienced significant flooding in 2016. However, Walter's property remained dry and therefore served as a local refuge for family and neighbors. The home itself remains nearly untouched since its construction in the early 1900s. The condition is fair and in need of basic repairs to prevent collapse. At the same time, this home is important to the history of Independence and to Walter and his family. Walter does not live in the home, but rather next door in a trailer on the same land and acts as caretaker for the property (Banks, 2018).

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond



the scope of this project, but would certainly yield further supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.



Figure 16. The Banks House, Independence [32-01632]

## Livingston

A total of 37 resources were documented in the Livingston area. This community has many historic properties identified in central Livingston and due north, along HWY 63. We identified 2 properties that may be eligible for the National Register and 1 potential National Register district. 18 properties, mostly those potentially eligible for the District, were identified that may be confirmed eligible after some additional research.

Livingston was initially founded as a permanent logging camp in 1917. The original survey of the town was filed for record by the Garyville Land Company (68.94 acres in total). The first street names were 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and tree names suitable for a logging town (i.e. Poplar, Pine, etc.). The original street system was maintained by an African-American man, Richard Floyd "Old Floyd" - equipped with a shovel and a cart pulled by a mule. Many streets were bordered by a series of ditches to carry away rainwater to the south and east and also served to channel the constant flow of water from the artesian wells which were located within 200 feet from each house. The ditches also provided habitat for minnows, crawfish, and salamanders. Wooden sidewalks were first installed before the more contemporary cinder block sidewalks. The sidewalk's unique wooden nature simultaneously operated as a form of "morse code" depending upon the person's gait. In the early days there were no indoor toilets. Rather, each house had an outhouse located several yards away from the home.

All original houses and commercial buildings were constructed of wood. There were two primary residential typologies: 3-room shotgun style (45 ft by 16ft) and 4-room square (36 ft by 36 ft). Today, many of these original typologies are still standing in the central neighborhood.

This has always been a mixed-use neighborhood with commercial buildings and parks adjacent to the residential sections of town.

The first addition to Livingston was in 1920, which extended the town to the west by 3 blocks. This was also when electricity became common inside the home.

By the 1920s Livingston was a bustling town, sporting several semi-pro baseball teams, local ice delivery, New Orleans paper delivery, and occasional local farm merchants who sold vegetables, eggs, and chickens from wagons or old trucks using a horn to announce their presence.

The original elementary school was located on 3rd street, between Pine and Oak, and was created by converting 3 existing homes to support grades 1-7. High school students traveled to Walker until 1932, when Doyle High was built.

Livingston had a clearly designated African-American neighborhood, located to the southeast of the central white part of town and likely bordered by today's S Frost, Ohio Street, Red Oak, and Texas and including Railroad Avenue (now, Bloss Avenue) (Focus Group, 2018). In 1931 some of this community's homes were sold off for \$5 per room.

"The remaining neighborhood (along with many other parcels of land in town) was sold off by Garyville Land Company with a 25 year easement that the land could not be transferred, sold, or leased to a Negro or other colored person and no alcoholic beverages were to be sold on the property (ELHA 1986)."

This easement period was formerly active from 1931 to 1953. Of course, however, the generational impacts are still felt today.

By the early 1930s, with the departure of the logging industry, many families in Livingston had already left the area in search of new economic opportunities. Some of the original homes and commercial properties were moved or demolished. In 1933, the opening of the Civilian Conservation Camp provided new economic opportunity for some of the ex-loggers who still remained in Livingston. In 1936, the parish seat was moved from Springfield to Livingston (voted on by voters, decided by 2/3) and the resulting new courthouse was built and completed in 1941. The post-WWII growth and concentration of Parish governance led to Livingston's incorporation in 1955. In 1968, a new town plat was drawn and submitted, including incorporation of the former town of Doyle (ELHA, 1986).

Livingston has a good number of remaining early 1900s buildings, originally constructed during the peak of the town's logging boom. Two of Livingston's historically significant historic resources are: the Polk Building and the Livingston Parish Courthouse. Both resources are historically significant as a reflection of the political development of Livingston and mid-century commercial

development.

The Polk Building is a classic mid-century commercial structure that remains in good condition. It reflects the post-WWII development in Livingston along a major thoroughfare, Florida Boulevard/HWY 190.



Figure 17. The Polk Building, Livingston [32-01503]

The Livingston Parish Courthouse was built in 1941, after the Parish government and courthouse were moved from Springfield to Livingston to centrally locate near growing Parish towns. The building is a classic institutional Art Deco building designed by architect William R Burk. The building faces north and is a two-story stone and buff colored brick structure. It is located on spacious landscaped grounds with a flat roof line. An addition was constructed in 1970 (US Courthouses, date unknown).



Figure 18. Livingston Parish Courthouse, Livingston [32-01534]

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond the scope of this project, but would certainly yield additional supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.

### Walker + Corbin

A total of 102 resources were documented in Walker and neighboring recently annexed Corbin. These communities have many historic properties identified in central Walker, the original town of Corbin, and to the north along HWY 447. We identified 5 properties that may be eligible for the National Register and 22 properties that may be

eligible after some additional research.

Walker was founded in 1825 and incorporated in 1909. It was originally referred to as Milton's Old Field, named after Michael Milton who owned 400 acres and founded the town. Later, the town was named Walker in honor of a congressman from the district. Walker's early economy was supported primarily by timber activities, cotton, and sugarcane farms. There was an area cotton gin owned by Isaac Minton. In the Black community, prominent land owners were Ezekiel Keith, Granville Johnson, Frank Bell, Tommy Perkins, and Dan Stewart. The early 1900s saw the establishment of the Courtney Lumber Company by Fieldon D. Courtney. In Walker, many African American men worked at the Courtney Lumber Company. Among some of the men were Willie Dunn, Columbus Scott, Percy Williams, J.W. Stewart, and Willie Morris.



Figure 19. Walker's history plaque, Walker

In 1971, in support of efforts to expand, Walker officially annexed the village of Corbin - winning the vote to annex by only 2 votes. Corbin was originally settled in 1908 (or before) and incorporated as a village in 1964. It was homesteaded by Ezra Hill, in the early 1900s, on land owned by Robert A. Corbin of Hammond — therefore, named after him. The railroad and railroad station was completed by 1908 which offered the only water stop for trains between Baton Rouge and Hammond. At the time of settlement, the primary use of the land was for cotton farming. By 1913, with more residents moving to the area, the land was divided into lots with designated streets and names. J.E. Smoot bought most of the land and built a large sawmill and commissary. Not surprisingly, this attracted many mill workers to Corbin. The sawmill operated until the onset of the Great Depression and shortly after Corbin became known as the center of shipping for truck farming crops because of accessibility to the railroad and truck shipment.

After incorporation as a village, only one Mayor served Corbin: a botany professor at Southeastern, Dr. Earl Ray Wascom. Mayor Wascom was known to operate official village business out of his house (ELHA, 1986) (Focus Group, 2018).



Walker has a good number of remaining early 1900s buildings. At the same time, Walker is currently experiencing a significant period of growth and development and may lack a significant plan to protect some of its most important historic resources. As such, some of the identified historic resources are certainly threatened by encroaching development. Two historically significant historic resources in Walker are: the Morris Family home and a 100+ year old home in what was the village of Corbin. Both resources are historically significant as a representation of the early 1900s residential development, some segregated, in Walker and the surrounding village of Corbin. Walker is also home to 1 of 2 existing National Historic Register properties in north Livingston Parish: Walker High School.



Figure 20. Walker High School, Walker [32-01491]

The Morris Family home is a classic vernacular shotgun, at least 100 years old, located across the street from the railroad and constructed in the early 1900's. While the home itself is not in the best condition, it represents an important element of Walker's history: African American home ownership and development patterns. Many Livingston Parish communities had, for a time, easements and other means of essentially "redlining" their communities to ensure segregation. The Morris Family home is a representation of that historic practice.



Figure 21. The Morris Home, Walker [32-01481]

The 100+ year old home in what was the village of Corbin is an example of a Corbin resource with good historical

integrity that helps tell the story of the village of Corbin. The home appears to be partially vacant or abandoned, but nonetheless has been taken care of to prevent overgrowth or deterioration. This is a great example of a home that would potentially also have a very intact interior.



Figure 22. Historic unknown home, Corbin [32-01509]

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond the scope of this project, but would certainly yield additional supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.

### Watson + Live Oak

A total of 3 resources were documented in Watson. This is a small community with some older properties along HWY 1019 and HWY 16. The community is located due north of Denham Springs and is anchored by the Live Oak United Methodist Church, several restaurants, and the Watson True Value Hardware Store. We identified 1 property that may be eligible for the National Register and 2 properties that may be eligible after some additional research.

The Live Oak Plantation, located on HWY 16 just a few miles north of Watson, was the first mail center in this part of rural Livingston Parish. Before the Civil War, the plantation was owned by Levi Spiller. Levi Spiller's daughter, Elizabeth Jane Spiller, married John B. Easterly after the War. According to the 1860 Federal Census of Livingston Parish, Spiller had 21 slaves, however after conversations with local African American history experts our sense is that the true number was certainly under-reported. In addition to the post office, the plantation had a sugar mill, sawmill, a set of steam engines for the mills, a cotton gin, a blacksmith shop, a log Methodist Church that was burned during the Civil War, a store and post office. The plantation house itself was constructed out of cypress, immediately following the Civil War. 300 acres of the plantation's total 1500 acres was under cultivation for cotton until 1908-09 when the farm's economy was shifted to cattle, goats, and hogs (ELHA, 1986).



Watson has some remaining early 1900s buildings. Two significant historic resources in Watson are: the Live Oak United Methodist cemetery + the Live Oak Plantation. Both are potentially eligible for the National Register as the most intact architectural resources from this period in Watson's and Live Oak's history.

The Live Oak United Methodist cemetery started first as a small plot of land obtained from Jim Turner in the year 1895. The first grave was that of Mattie West, the daughter of Jake and Mary West, buried in 1893. At the time, there was no fence and the stock, such as horses, hogs, and cattle were on open range. Later, when other graves were added, there was a barbed wire fence enclosure built. The cemetery at present is about an acre or more in size (ELHA, 1986).



Figure 23. Live Oak United Methodist Cemetery, Watson [32-01801]

The Live Oak Plantation is located on HWY 16, a few miles north of present-day Watson. It was the first mail center for this rural area of Livingston Parish. In the years preceding the Civil War, it was owned by Levi Spiller. It is documented that Levi Spiller owned at least 21 slaves. After the war, the land was acquired by John B. Easterly (who married Levi Spiller's daughter, Elizabeth Jane Spiller, on July 4, 1865). There was a sugar mill, a sawmill, steam engines, a cotton gin, a blacksmith shop, a log Methodist Church burned during the war (this was the original Live Oak United Methodist), and a store. The post office was established on Oct. 4, 1869. The first postmaster for "Live Oak Store" was James Turner, who served until Jan. 19, 1872, when he was succeeded by Frederick Weiss. In 1886, the name of the post office was changed to "Live Oak," with John B. Easterly appointed as postmaster on May 11 of that year. Isaac Dwight Easterly (son of J.B. Easterly), became postmaster on May 13, 1898, and was succeeded by his brother, Seigle Bruce Easterly, on Jan. 16, 1903. After twenty-six years under the charge of the Easterly family, the post office was discontinued on Dec. 15, 1912. Mail was thereafter sent to Watson. The nearby plantation house was built shortly after the Civil War out of cypress, some of which was from an earlier structure erected by Levi Spiller. Today, it is the home

of E.W. Easterly and family. The Live Oak Plantation, the Live Oak Post Office and the Live Oak Methodist Church are all undoubtedly named for the evergreen live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) which grows abundantly in the area. It grows particularly well on the ridge which parallels the Amite River (ELHA, 1986).



Figure 24. Live Oak Plantation, Watson [32-01733]

The research required to confirm construction dates and reveal other themes of historical association was beyond the scope of this project, but certainly would yield additional supporting information for potential National Register eligibility.

## Historic Context

The history of Livingston Parish has been shaped by its Indigenous inhabitants, colonization by the English and Spanish governments, eventual annexation by the United States, slavery, and immigration. Its geography, including waterways and abundant forests, have influenced the economy and culture as evidenced by its lumber trade, agriculture, and the boats dotting its landscape. Documenting how historic, geographic, and natural forces have shaped the historic architecture of Livingston has been the main focus on this project. Additionally, as the Parish undergoes changes, including growth from neighboring parishes, economic shifts, and an aging population, this project aims to capture the oral histories of Livingston's residents and to document the impacts of increasing flood risk, as evidenced by the 2016 floods.

### Place

Livingston Parish became a governmental entity on February 10, 1832. Previously, the area of Livingston was part of West Florida, known as the Florida Parishes. In 1832, St. Helena Parish was split into two by the state Legislature, creating the boundaries of Livingston as we know it today (Livingston Parish 2012).



Figure 25. Map of Louisiana's Florida Parishes

The parish was named for either Robert Livingston, one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence, or Edward Livingston, a Louisiana congressman who helped draft the Louisiana Civil Code. The town of Livingston became the parish seat in 1941 when the courthouse was moved from Springfield (Livingston Parish, 2012). The Parish consists of eight major municipalities, including Denham Springs, Albany, French Settlement, Killian, Livingston, Port Vincent, Springfield, and Walker.

### People

The Houma Indians are thought to be the earliest recorded inhabitants of the area now known as Livingston Parish. The Houma hunting grounds extended to Baton Rouge ("Red

Stick"), which divided their lands from that of the Tunica Indians, who drove the Houma south in the early 1700s (Jackson & Owens 1988).

Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to reach the Gulf Coast area, in search of a route to the Pacific Ocean. Hernando deSoto's expedition in 1539-1541 may have reached the Houma's land. In 1682, René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle (LaSalle) claimed the lower Mississippi Valley for France and in 1699 Iberville passed through the area of modern-day Livingston Parish when returning to Ship Island by way of Bayou Manchac, Amite River, and Lake Maurepas, which form segments of the Parish boundary. In 1763, the Treaty of Paris ceded the Florida Parishes, including Livingston to England, and following the War of Independence and the Louisiana Purchase, Louisiana was admitted to the Union in 1812 as the 18th state (Livingston Parish American Revolution Bicentennial Committee 1976).

Livingston Parish is roughly divided by US Hwy 190, with the southern portion of mostly French-Catholic and the northern portion dominated by Anglo-Saxon Protestant. There is also a significant population of Hungarian immigrants, who settled in the parish in the 1800s and formed the community of Hungarian Settlement (Jackson & Owens, 1988).

"They began buying cut-over timber land south of the town of Albany in 1896. Their number continued to increase as others migrated from the northern industrial centers until Livingston had the largest Hungarian population in the state," (Livingston Parish American Revolution Bicentennial Committee 1976).



Figure 26. Citizenship class in the Hungarian settlement, Albany (circa 1940)

The population of African-Americans is commonly reported as historically smaller in Livingston Parish when compared



to other south Louisiana parishes. At the same time, the history of African Americans (like in many other parts of the country) have been woefully under-represented. While the slave populations may not have been as significant as other nearby parishes, African Americans made critical contributions to Livingston Parish that aided in its development and growth, including building the railroad, (forced and free) work during the era of slavery, working at lumber mills, and raising many white families' children.

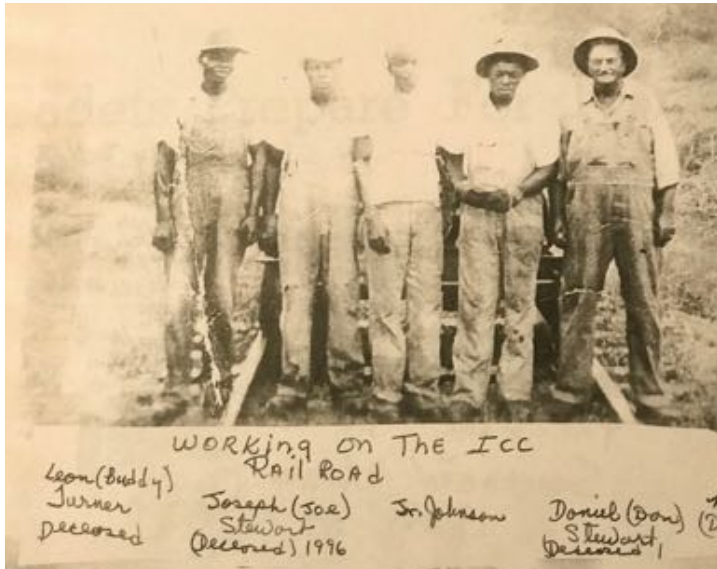


Figure 27. African American railroad workers, Livingston (circa 1940)

Please see **Appendix D** for more information on the African American experience in Livingston Parish.

Louisiana encouraged immigration to supply labor for its farms throughout the late 1800s. According to historical records, which included national recruiting and advertisements to lure immigrants,

"Officials preferred farm workers of northern European ancestry from nearby states and were often frustrated when the diverse ethnic groups did not want to stay on the plantations. Italians [mostly from Sicily] came in large numbers during this time, but many bought farms or moved into the towns and set up their own businesses" (Jackson & Owens 1988).

Most of the immigrants in Livingston have historically been English, Irish, German, French, and Hungarian.

## Economy

Lumber formed the backbone of Livingston's economy for many generations. Unlike neighboring parishes, Livingston did not have many large plantation farms due to the density of its forested land (Livingston Parish American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, 1976). However, the hardwood trees and pine attracted a number of lumber companies, including the Lyon Lumber Company of Chicago, which

effectively created the town of Livingston.

The Lyon Lumber Company incorporated in 1903 in Louisiana, focusing initially on cypress logging. They established a sawmill in St. John the Baptist Parish, and transported the felled trees south from Livingston (Livingston Parish 2012).

The importance of the railroad in Livingston was tied to the lumber industry. The Lyon Lumber Company built its logging railroad from the cypress swamps to Garyville in St. John the Baptist, and extended the railroad north as it cut down trees. Once they reached the Amite River, having cut down the cypress trees in the area, the company moved on to harvesting pine and hardwood. The railroad was incorporated as the Garyville Northern Railroad Company in 1915, and train depots are still found along its tracks (Livingston Parish 2012).



Figure 28. Harris McCullough, a former logging train conductor, stands in front of the former Livingston Post Office building

"Harris McCullough (*pictured above*) moved to the town of Livingston in 1920 to work for Lyons Lumber Company as conductor on a log train. By 1931 Lyons finished cutting all the pine and closed down its operations. Harris McCullough recalls, "I was raised on a cotton farm up in Mississippi. I knew how to make a living out of the ground. So when the job cut out . . . and the Depression hit, I went and bought me a pair of good mules. [I] had a few cows at the time and the cattle kept building and building. . . . I used to kill fifteen, twenty hogs every winter. I'd make sausage and fifty pound cans of lard. . . . How could you starve a man to death doing that?" The McCulloughs also had chickens and fig, pear, and persimmon trees, in



addition to their truck farm. Firewood came from the nearby forest, while blackberries, mayhaws, and mushrooms grew in the fields. McCullough would occasionally sell a calf if the family needed cash, though store purchases were limited to flour, sugar, coffee, and rice.” (Livingston Parish 2012)

The lumber companies created dependent company towns, including Holden, Doyle, and Walker, which all began as logging camps. While Livingston Parish experienced an economic boom during the logging that took place from the 1880s through early 1900s, the companies were not focused on reforestation and once the trees were gone, they moved on to other places. The dependence on the lumber industry during the early 20th century is evident in historical records:

“When all the timber was cut (about 1931), the company closed and everyone moved away except about twelve families. The company sold everything – even the church,” (Livingston Parish 2012).

Today, over 60% of Livingston is still designated as forest, and some economic activity is still tied to wood processing, including paper and furniture manufacturing (Jackson & Owens 1988).

## Community Meetings + Oral Histories

As part of this project, our team held numerous conversations with Livingston Parish residents while conducting fieldwork, presented at the Edward Livingston Historical Association meeting, and organized a community focus group to collect additional details on the history of the Parish. See **Appendix E** for the complete Focus Group meeting notes.

The focus group included over half a dozen Livingston Parish residents who shared their families' histories along with information on various historic structures. Structures that qualified as being of historic importance to the parish were either included in the surveys or have been noted for future research.



Figure 29. Focus group attendees and Miriam of Water Works, Walker (2018)

Some notable discussion points include:

- There were Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects in Livingston Parish, including the old Walker School building and the old Livingston Courthouse. Note: the project team could not verify these as WPA projects, but did find records of the former Denham Springs City Hall being a WPA project constructed in 1940 and records that the WPA conducted citizenship classes for the Hungarian settlement in Livingston (Federal Writers' Project, 2013).
- The railroad was very important to development in Livingston. Each town had section foreman and housing built by the railroad, such as the shotgun houses found in Livingston.
- A number of focus group participants noted that development has impacted the parish, with residents sharing that they've seen places like "Walker going from a village to a city." They also noted that a lot of historic structures were destroyed when Highway 446 was expanded. Participants further noted that the interstate and railroad construction has contributed to flooding in the parish, effectively creating a dam that flooded north Walker. They noted that on the eastern side of the parish, canals have not been dredged, and new development, including construction built up on fill, is adding to runoff and increased flooding as was seen in 2016.
- The importance and legacy of the timber industry was discussed during the focus group. The town of Livingston was initially a logging camp and then company town for the Lyon Lumber Company, with participants noting that the company built worker housing on Frost Road. Another participant recounted that a major supplier of pulpwood paid his employees in company money until the Federal government cracked down, at which point they threw all the company money into the Tickfaw River. During the early 20th century, lumber companies had a "cut out and get out" policy, and when local forest resources were exhausted, the Lyon Lumber Company packed up in the 1930s and moved to Linn County, Oregon, where it merged with Cascade plywood and later U.S. plywood. Many small sawmills existed throughout northern Livingston, including the Pepperwood mills, which employed families in the parish. Early timber logging took place along the rivers, so that the wood could be floated down river. With the railroad, logging expanded to other parts of the parish.
- Once the timber was exhausted, strawberry farming became the dominant industry through the 1960s. Strawberries were well suited for the area, due to the highly acidic soil. Participants recounted that children would get out of school in March to help pick strawberries, but that this declined once school schedules changed in the 1970s. Associated industries included box factories in Hammond and Tangipahoa, which fabricated the wooden crates used by strawberry farmers. Participants noted that a Strawberry Association building sat behind the Sandwich Shoppe in Albany.
- Participants recounted that World War II impacted the parish economy, with farmers leaving the fields for jobs with aviation fuel companies. A lot of people in the eastern part of the parish also went to work in New Orleans at the Higgins Shipyard.
- The Hungarian population was discussed during the focus group, noting that Hungarian immigrants tended to farm north of Albany.
- There are a number of prominent families in

Livingston, including the Watsons, Miltons, Courtneys, Grahams, and Sibleys.

- The Macedonia Baptist Church is a notable historic structure and has been in use since the 1890s.



Figure 30. Macedonia Baptist Church, Holden [32-01811]

- Focus group participants shared that a “long time ago, judges did judging out of their house” and that there is still a “hanging tree” standing in the yard of one of the prominent Livingston family’s property. In researching the history of lynching in Livingston Parish, the project team came up with differing reports. The Equal Justice Initiative’s Report, “Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror” notes one incident of lynching in Livingston between 1877-1950. However, another report notes three lynchings carried out between 1882-1910 for murders committed in the parish (Hines, 1992).
- The American Legion Hall on Highway 190 was noted as an important historic structure (Wall, 2018).



Figure 31. American Legion Hall Post 178 dedication, Denham Springs (circa 1949)

- Focus group participants noted that there were black sections of town in Denham Springs, Walker, Livingston, and Albany, and that in many instances the black community is still located in these areas. Greater St. Mary’s Church and St. Mark’s cemetery were mentioned as historically black, and a number of black churches were said to be located in Walker.

During the focus group, we were told about a handful of specific buildings and sites to investigate further. We were able to find some, and therefore have documented them, others we were not able to identify in the field (indicated below):

1. Macedonia Baptist Church
2. Grantham barn\*
3. Lard Cemetery\*
4. St. James Baptist being torn down now
5. Grantham Chicken Houses + homes\*
6. Stafford House (log cabin)\*
7. PR Irwin Home\*
8. Dennis Ivanisky House
9. 4th Ward School
10. Kinchen Home\*

\*Not identified or confirmed during this survey. Additional research and information will be needed.

In addition to the focus group and conversations with Livingston residents, the project team consulted recorded oral histories documenting the lived experience of people in the parish. The Livingston Parish Library launched a Livingston Parish Oral History Project in 2013, and has been collecting stories from African-American residents documenting their experiences. An interview with Daniel Landry of Denham Springs recounted the following family history:

- “My mother lived in this parish, in this area. Her mother and family lived in the area but they moved, I wouldn’t know exactly what year it was, but they moved quite early I guess, in the late 1800’s, into the Denham Springs area. They moved from an area which was called Deerford. Now my parents, my mother, they were sharecroppers and they lived on persons’ places, and they did sharecropping, and they would have a little house or something. So they didn’t always stay at the same place, but eventually they landed in this area. My grandmother Rachel Hamilton, bought property in the area, in fact I live on a piece of the property now, off of East Street, and she bought a plot of land which was enough to provide, she had nine children, nine lots and I live on one of those lots now. And it ran from between what is now Martin Luther King, was Rodeo at one time, all the way to what is Bay Street” (Landry, 2013).
- In another interview, Philisee Fuller responded to the question of how Denham Springs has changed from when she was growing up in the 1940s/1950s by explaining:
- “Well, one thing is that it built up so much. I was telling a lady, was it yesterday? We was talking, I said if they keep building apartments and things in Denham Springs, ain’t gonna be nowhere to raise a little garden.



Cause they really built up. That McDonalds used to didn't be there. Right there were Albertsons is, they used to have a swimming pool there. See now there's Albertsons. Going down Range Avenue, they didn't have all of that. Post Office was right up there, and you could go to the post office and get your mail, there wasn't no, we didn't have mail delivered to us. You had to go to the post office to get it. And more stores are in here, and more people have moved into Denham Springs. Cause there had been a time that we knowed everybody by name in Denham Springs. I think that's how small we were, and now everybody's coming in" (Fuller, 2014).

Additional information on the Livingston Parish Library's Oral History Project is available at:

<http://www.mylpl.info/resources/oral-history-project/>.

Another source of oral histories was a panel held February 22, 2018 by Indivisible Livingston Parish, in which speakers discussed their experiences of segregation and during integration of the school system. One panelist, Daniel Landry, shared the following account of joining civil rights marches during the push for desegregation:

- "During A.Z. Young's march from Bogalusa to Baton Rouge in August of 1967, Gov. John McKeithen called out the National Guard, the state troopers and just about every other policeman they could find. They said the marchers wouldn't get through Hammond and they did ... then they said they wouldn't get through Albany and Holden, and they did ... and then they got to Denham Springs. Me and about 10 of my friends — I was a young college student at the time — decided we wanted to join the march. I kept telling the National Guardsmen all the good stuff I learned about freedom of assembly and they just kept saying, 'Disband! Disband!' Then an officer told the men, 'Fix bayonets!' I had on a flimsy little shirt made out of some funny material and when I turned my back, a guardsman cut that shirt off my back just like that. Shocked, I turned to my friends and said, 'You heard the man! Disband! Disband!' And we off we ran." He added that he did join Young's march "after it got across the Amite River" (Couvillion, 2018).
- The panel also focused on the integration of Livingston Parish Schools. While the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* ordered schools to be desegregated in 1954, Livingston Parish schools began integrating in 1969 (Stuart, 2005).

## Flooding in Livingston Parish: Then + Now

The widespread flooding in August 2016 had a profound effect on Livingston Parish, which experienced serious damage from a slow moving storm system that dumped over 20 inches of rainfall in two days. Denham Springs broke records with 25.5 inches, while Livingston received nearly 22 inches of water, and the two-day rainfall was classified as a 1 in 1000 year event. The storm caused river levels to rise dramatically in the Amite and Comite rivers, and their creeks and tributaries, overflowing their banks and led to localized flooding of homes (Hardy, Adelson, & Wold 2017). In Livingston Parish, up to 70 percent of the more than 50,000 homes were among those that flooded, including widespread damage to historic structures (Stole & McClure, 2016).



Figure 32. 2016 Great Floods flooding extent, Livingston Parish

During our time in the field, surveying and photographing north Livingston Parish, we spoke with many property owners about the Great Floods of 2016 and if and how they were impacted. In our estimation over 50% of the surveyed and documented properties experienced some level of flooding, ranging from standing water in the yard to multiple feet inside the home. Some properties are clearly still significantly impacted and damaged, nearly two years later, and had yet to even go back to their flooded (and historic) home. For some, this wasn't by choice but due to a lack of recovery money available to them to repair the home and remedy the water damage.

We spoke to the owner of the historic property at 30455 North Montpelier Road who told us that while the property is located on relative high ground, they experienced several feet of flooding for multiple days in August 2016. When FEMA came to inspect the damages, following the flood, they were told that their house didn't qualify for FEMA recovery money because the house was determined to be "un-livable," before and after the flood. The damage assessor told her that there wasn't any way that the family was living in the home prior to the flood (they in fact were). The property owner told us the house, prior to the flood,

was a lovely home and had been in the family for over 100 years. One piece of evidence FEMA cited to draw the conclusion that the house was ineligible for recovery money was in pointing to the buckled original wood floors. The property owner explained the buckling was due to the water damage. Nonetheless, the family was not awarded FEMA recovery money.

This example highlights one of the many reasons why historic properties in north Livingston Parish are so vulnerable. Livingston Parish is not just vulnerable to traditional historic preservation concerns like demolition by neglect and zoning but its most historic and culturally significant properties are also clearly vulnerable to flooding. Even if the 2016 floods don't repeat in the near future, the community was so devastated and damaged in 2016 that they will certainly be experiencing the impacts for quite some time. Many historic buildings and sites will simply be lost, torn down, abandoned, etc. We heard that several historic cemeteries experienced so much standing water that they are now in desperate need of reburial and repair.



Figure 33. Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, Independence [32-01561]. Flood damaged above-ground caskets.

Other surveyed historic homes were nearly unseen from the road because they had been abandoned and the surrounding trees, plants, etc. had overtaken the building.

While the parish has experienced flooding in the past, notably in 1983 when the Comite and Amite rivers also overflowed and flooded homes across Livingston, residents stated that the 2016 flood was the worst they have experienced (Rainey, 2016). While the storm was a rare event, the potential more increasing rainfall and slower moving tropical storms due to climate change, means that Livingston will need to take action to protect its properties from future flooding.

## Conclusions: Recommendations

After spending five months in north Livingston Parish surveying the wide array of historic resources, it is clear that there are a significant number of under-recognized and under-documented historic resources and history, overall. Based on the survey and our overall findings we make the following recommendations for additional documentation of Livingston's historic resources:

### Recommendation #1

There are over 35 named historic cemeteries with many un-named or un-marked family or slave burial sites on private land that may still be intact. Additionally, there are over 25 historic churches. While many area churches have been well documented and histories available to the average researcher or genealogist enthusiast, some have not. Overall, the Anglo-Saxon history has been significantly documented through community efforts like the excellent work of the Edward Livingston Historical Association. Their work is tremendous and has provided the community with a deep understanding and documentation of Livingston Parish's history and families. However, the African-American history, including churches and cemeteries, is notably under-documented. We recommend instituting a formalized effort to thoroughly document the community and building history of significance to the African American community in north Livingston Parish, including the identification and marking of slave burial sites. Ms. Lula Mae Hart is an excellent starting point and has already collected some materials but it's important that those stories are made available to the public, alongside Anglo-Saxon history. According to Ms. Hart there have been efforts, over time, to hide African American history records. She would also like to see African American researchers engaged in any future efforts to thoroughly document north Livingston Parish's African American history. As a starting point, documented oral histories and experts, like Ms. Hart, who have excellent foundations of knowledge and resources to contribute already.

### Recommendation #2

This survey revealed that flood risk is an increasing threat to Livingston Parish's historic properties. We recommend creating a prioritized list of historic properties at-risk of collapse or demolition due to flood damages, and then creating a prioritized list of historic properties at-risk of future flood damages. The GIS layer of surveyed properties from this project could be

overlaid with the 2016 flood extent GIS layer, current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) data.

### Recommendation #3

This survey identified approximately 100 resources potentially eligible for the National Register. Additional research, however, will be necessary to confirm their eligibility. This will require speaking with current property owners and working closely with members of the community who have strong local knowledge.

### Recommendation #4

Pursue potential nomination to the National Register for the central Livingston Historic District. This potential district has a majority early 1900s buildings (both residential and commercial) that were instrumental to the early development of Livingston from a lumber camp into the parish seat. A potential District nomination needs to be explored and confirmed through additional, more in-depth research about the existing structures. Some families with connections to the town's founding still live in the neighborhood and may be able to provide additional information, including photographs and original documents.

### Recommendation #5

The oral histories collected through the survey and focus group meeting provided critical information to this project. The Livingston Parish's Oral History Project is doing excellent work documenting the untold stories of Livingston Parish residents. If possible, collecting additional oral histories through this project could provide important additional information towards documenting the parish's history.

### Recommendation #6

Conduct a Parish-wide survey of existing resources related to the Hungarian immigrant settlement in Livingston Parish. We noted a number of buildings related to this part of the Parish's history, but a comprehensive survey is certainly needed. As noted by many local and national historians, Livingston Parish and Albany more specifically was the region that experienced one of the largest influxes of Hungarian immigrants in the entire country. It is a part of the Parish's history that is a source of pride and worthy of being more intentionally explored. Several members in the community are very active in the Hungarian cultural



center and other Hungarian-American history, they would be a great starting point.

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## Appendix A: Potential National Register Eligible Properties + Districts

The following properties were identified as potentially eligible for **individual** listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The brief descriptions are not meant to be comprehensive. Rather, the description and photo together will hopefully provide some relevant information and form the basis of future research. Each property survey form provides additional information about each identified potentially eligible National Register property.

There are two categories of potentially eligible for individual listing: a) *potentially eligible*; b) *more research needed*.

### Walker

#### Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church Cemetery 13590 Dunn Street

African-American congregation. The cemetery was damaged during the 2016 August flood, which required some re-burial.



Figure 34. Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church Cemetery [32-01497]

#### Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church 13590 Dunn Street

African-American congregation first built across the street in 1915 on land purchased by Mr. Dan Stuart (a founding member of the church) for \$110. Greater St. Mark's was the first African American church in Walker with the majority of their congregation coming from "over the tracks." At first, baptisms were done in a pond in nearby Corbin until a man-made pond was constructed behind the church. Later,



Figure 35. Greater St. Mark's Baptist Church, Walker [32-01498]

the church was moved to its current location and the existing structure was built (1967). A fellowship hall was later built in 1997.

#### Stine Family Home 29500 Route 447

Stine's family home. Told by members in the community that it is the oldest building in Walker and perhaps a former museum.



Figure 36. Stine Family Home, Walker [32-01573]

#### Corbin Post Office 30090 Corbin

Spoke with the current owner. The home was built in 1917 and served as the original post office for the village of Corbin, before it became part of Walker. The building was rotated, and an old front door with a window (now at the back of the house) was the post office's front door. The interior has tongue and groove wood and wallpaper with old cloth underneath. The owner purchased the home from Billy Grout, who may have been the first owner since the building served as a post office. One of the first post mistresses was Mary E. Peak with Charles C. Murray taking over in 1910. Following Murray, was another post mistress, Berniece E. Hutchinson.



Figure 37. Corbin Post Office, Walker [32-01607]

#### Sylvester Courtney House Courtney Road



Mr. John Swetledge built this house for Sylvester Courtney's family. Sylvester's son is Redrick Courtney. Some family members are still alive (like, Edna). Sylvester owned a lot of land in Livingston Parish. This is one of the most intact and highest integrity homes in north Livingston Parish. It is a single story, with a metal roof, brick chimney, and large front porch farmhouse cottage style indicative of south Louisiana. The windows are possibly original. There is also an old fence that surrounds the house, along with old vegetation.



Figure 38. Sylvester Courtney Home, Walker [32-01744]

## Independence

### Banks House

30380 George Mashon Road

Tongue and groove pine. The grandson, Walter Banks, is the current owner. His grandparents, Harriett Banks and Anthony H. Banks, were sharecroppers and built the house themselves. Walter still has the original deed to the land and the home. This property did not flood during the 2016 floods. Very simple, vernacular construction, everything is original, including roof.



Figure 39. Banks House, Independence [32-01584]

### Fourth Ward School

33835 HWY 43

Historic Fourth Ward school, currently owned and managed by the Volunteer Fire Department District 4; previously

damaged during Hurricane Katrina, received FEMA funding for repairs.



Figure 40. Fourth Ward School, Independence [32-01711]

### Bankston Cemetery

Turkey Creek Road

Bankston Cemetery



Figure 41. Bankston Cemetery (north), Independence [32-01770]

### Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery

28928 Horseshoe Road North

Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery. The entire cemetery is an above ground mausoleum. This is an African American cemetery and church that was founded in 1916. Isadore B. Booker, Sr., the son of Fortz Booker and Lovey Causey was co-founder of the church. He was elected deacon in 1918 and served the church until his death in 1982. He is buried in the cemetery. He was also a member of the Livingston Parish Voters League. The cemetery itself was flooded in 2016 and as a result nearly all mausoleums are peeling and need to be repaired.





Figure 42. Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, Independence [32-01561]



Figure 44. Strawberry Association Building, Albany [32-01748]

### **Erdey-Kiss Amvets Building** 29025 HWY 43

Arpadhon Hungarian Settlement Cultural Association;  
located in the former Erdey-Kiss Amvets Building.



Figure 45. Erdey-Kiss Amvets Building, Albany [32-01562]

### **Denham Springs**

#### **Live Oak Plantation** 37976 HWY 16

Live Oak Plantation is a moderately altered farmhouse with a front porch and added on garage.



Figure 46. Live Oak Plantation, Denham Springs [32-01731]

### **Livingston**

#### **Livingston Parish Courthouse** 20180 Iowa Street

Art deco style, white brick facade with lettering, original

### **Albany**

#### **Old Stewart Place** 30455 North Montpelier Road

This is a 100+ years old home, referred to as the Old Stewart Place. The highway in front of the house is currently in the process of expanding. As such, the state has purchased a sliver of the land and will cut down 100 yr old trees to make room for the newly straightened state highway. This property was significantly flooded in 2016 and the owners are still living next door in a manufactured home.



Figure 43. Old Stewart Place, Albany [32-01636]

#### **Strawberry Association Building** Florida Boulevard

Previously, the Hungarian Strawberry Cooperative and VC Fertilizers/Sunny Brand Produce.



windows. The town of Livingston grew up around the courthouse, built in 1941 as a WPA project. The parish seat was moved to Livingston from Springfield to be closer to railroad.



Figure 47. Livingston Parish Courthouse, Livingston [32-01534]

### The Old Red Oak Cemetery

29300 Red Oak Road

Cemetery in Livingston dating back to the 1800's with about 800 known graves. Originally for the 1st families in Livingston where they were buried. Now only members of Red Oak Church are allowed to be buried there. There are a number of issues including subsidence, missing or broken head stones.



Figure 48. The Old Red Oak Cemetery, Livingston [32-01766]

The following properties were evaluated to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as part of a **District**, the town of Livingston. Roughly, the borders of the recommended District are: Florida Boulevard to the north, South Range Road to the west, Texas Street to the south, and South Frost Road to the east. This district was the original neighborhood settlement for families who moved to Livingston to work in the sawmill. It is a densely developed residential neighborhood with some of the original sidewalk pathways, many first era buildings, and noticeably shaded thanks to a dense tree inventory that contributes to the unique look and feel of the district. Several original families still own property and descendants live in the neighborhood. The integrity of the homes vary, but overall many of the original architectural elements remain. It is obvious that this neighborhood was also a relatively mixed-income neighborhood with several 2-story Victorian-style homes ranging to single vernacular shotguns. This district is one of the only walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods in north Livingston Parish, with the Livingston Parish Courthouse and several other government and office buildings and churches located in the center.

Some sample buildings in the ***potential* Livingston Historic District**:

20048-20092 Circle Drive



Figure 49. 20048-20092 Circle, Livingston [32-01779]

20195 Circle Drive



Figure 50. 20195 Circle Drive, Livingston [32-01780]



29511 South Poplar



Figure 51. 29511 South Poplar, Livingston [32-01786]

29879 Bloss Avenue



Figure 52. 29879 Bloss Avenue, Livingston [32-01793]

Bloss Avenue



Figure 53. Bloss Avenue, Livingston [32-01809]

29401-29701 Bloss Avenue



Figure 54. 29401-29701 Bloss Avenue, Livingston [32-01785]

North Livingston Parish has a number of vernacular historic (50+ years old) resources. Due to time constraints, we were not able to fully vet the following resources but have strong reason to think that some of them might be eligible for the National Register. As such, we have categorized the following into the "**Additional Research Needed**" or "**Other**" categories. Many of these resources are located in the areas of the Parish that flooded severely in 2016. Moving forward, the full set of risks posed to these historic resources should be fully documented, understood, and mitigated where possible.

Please see the following for a full list of documented historic properties in north Livingston Parish worthy of further research and potential listing on the National Historic Register:

### Albany

32-01530	19052 Florida Boulevard
The Old John's Pharmacy Building: This is the old Fannaly Strawberry Stemming Plant. It was built in the 1940s when then owner, Marion T. Fannaly acquired the land from the railroad. Fannaly later went on to lead the world's largest shrimp and strawberry freezing business, Marion T. Fannaly, Inc. Today, the building is undergoing rehabilitation and has been purchased by a man from Pontchatoula who owns several other businesses in nearby Hammond.	
32-01538	25890 HWY 442
Old Zion Hill Baptist Church: Zion Hill was founded in either 1832 or 1847, following Margaret Kinchen Stewart's donation of one acre of land for a church and cemetery (where her husband asked to be buried, he died in 1843). History tells us the original church building was likely burned by Yankee soldiers and a new log house building was constructed in 1867, on the exact site that was originally gifted by Ms. Stewart and where today's church building stands. In 1872 a larger building was constructed due to increased membership. It was at that time that the church was officially named "The Zion Hill." In 1909 a storm blew the church down and a subsequent church building was constructed on the same site. Yet another new building was constructed in 1945, due to a growing membership up to 172. In 1963 the church was officially incorporated and the word "Old" was added to the name out of a need to differentiate itself from another nearby church with the name Zion Hill. Today's church building was constructed in 1965.	

32-01539	25890 HWY 442
Old Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery	
32-01613	30164 Route 43
Old Ivanisky House: Dennis J. Ivanisky is the current and long-time owner of this 80+ year old home. Mr. Ivanisky has preserved a portion of the old sunken road which used to be the Old Turnpike Road, connecting Springfield to Natchez, MS, located in his backyard.	
32-01647	30647 Pea Ridge Road
Old Glasscock House: The old Glasscock House belongs to the Glasscock family who have lived on Pea Ridge Road for generations. The home was likely built ~100 years ago.	
32-01653	30741 Pea Ridge Road
Unknown mid-century modern home.	
32-01680	31138 Pea Ridge Road
Blood River Baptist Church: mid-century construction.	
32-01696	32210 HWY 43
Old Mormon Church: This church was built in the 1940s and was abandoned when the building was flooding in 2016.	
32-01767	Scott Lane, end of road
Scott House: This house was built in the 1920s by Mayor Glasscock's grandparents, Clara Dickson Scott and Freddie Edward Scott.	
32-01529	18880 Florida Boulevard
Bankston Home: This home is owned by "Little" Tully Bankston, it is ~100 years old.	
32-01615	30169 Lowe Lane
Dr. Lowe House: Dr. Lowe was a local doctor who saw patients at his home. 80+ years old.	



## Denham Springs

32-01659	7100 Amite Church Road
Amite Church: The Church was established in 1841, with 20 members. In 1862, the Union Army burned the building. The current church campus buildings were built during the late 1940s, with completed in 1950.	
32-01660	7100 Amite Church Road
"Old" Amite Church Cemetery: The old cemetery is located due west of the Church, on the banks of the Comite River. Some seasonal flooding has washed away some of the graves. As such, today there is a second more modern cemetery in use by the Church. Oldest burial date from inscription: Mrs. R Gore (1796-1859).	
32-01666	9364 HWY 1019
Curtis Family Home: 100+ years old	
32-01726	36435 HWY 1022
80+ year old home	
32-01724	36250 Outback Road
St. Peter Cemetery: Oldest burial date: Ester Bell Gross (1917-1919).	
32-01772	13730 Springfield Road
100+ year old home	
32-01798	33465 HWY 1019
Womack Cemetery: Oldest burial date: Mary R. Humstock (1866-1866)	
32-01803	37071 Weiss Road
Bridges Home: Dr. Bridges home, built in the late 1800s.	
32-01807	7761 Amite Church Road
100+ year old home	
32-01469	10415 Arnold Road
Emmanuel Baptist Church: Established in 1950.	

## Independence

32-01719	34921 HWY 43
32-01747	Ernest Stilley Road
32-01754	HWY 43
32-01758	Horseshoe Road North

## Holden

32-01777	17999 Florida Boulevard
Lone Pine Church: The church is located on land originally purchased by Mr. Edward Sherman Kinchen from the U.S. Government on August 8, 1887. The church was founded by Mr. Kinchen and his wife. Some believe this church is the oldest holiness fundamentalist church in Livingston Parish. Ultimately, the congregation needed a permanent home for the growing membership. A couple of sites just west of Albany were purchased or traded for. Several church building were constructed in the years 1921, 1926, and 1952. The current building was built in either 1926 or 1952. The Brackenridge Lumber Company old one acre of land to the church. The white wood building is a great example of a historic vernacular rural church in Livingston Parish as well as the proliferation of a unique and specific religious denomination of holiness fundamentalism.	
32-01812	HWY 1036
Courtney Cemetery: Oldest burial date from inscription, William Howze (1886).	
32-01813	HWY 1036
Drumwright Cemetery: Located on private property, no longer accessible to the public. Mrs. Lucille Drumwright Comish's great-grandfather and great-grandmother were buried in unmarked graves around 1870.	
32-01535	21445 HWY 442
Magnolia Baptist Church: established 1919	
32-01604	30010 Carl Hodges Road
100+ year old home	
32-01608	30091 HWY 441
Holden Baptist Church: mid-century church structure	

32-01619	30200 Hwy 441
80+ year old home that is located near Holden School.	
32-01673	30876 Pete Smith Road
Bankston Cemetery (south): Oldest burial date: Willmuth Woodard Pickett (1861)	
32-01690	31930 Hwy 1036
St. James Baptist Church Cemetery: Oldest burial date from inscription, Loise Sourak (1820).	
32-01746	Dubois Road
Kinchin Cemetery: family cemetery started by the Kinchen family. Oldest burial date from inscription: 1887.	
32-01769	Stafford Cemetery Road
Stafford Cemetery No. 1: Oldest burial date, 1889. Community cemetery donated by Steve Stafford. Some Confederate soldier graves.	

### Livingston

32-01785	29401-29701 Bloss Avenue
100+ year old home, possible Livingston District	
32-01786	29511 S Poplar Street
100+ year old home, possible Livingston District	
32-01788	29779 S Pine Street
Home built in the 1940s, possible Livingston District	
32-01791	29860 S Magnolia Street
80+ year old home, possible Livingston District	
32-01792	29874 S Magnolia Street
Home built in the 1940s, possible Livingston District	
32-01793	29879 Bloss Avenue
80+ year old home, possible Livingston District	

32-01796	29895 Bloss Avenue
100+ year old home, owned by original family, possible Livingston District	
32-01809	Bloss Avenue
100+ year old home, could have been worker or African-American housing, possible Livingston District	
32-01503	13731 Florida Blvd
Polk Building: mid-century commercial	
32-01550	28475 Red Oak Road
Glory Baptist Church: White church structure not currently being used. Established in 1998, but the structure looks older.	
32-01599	29880 South Satsuma Road
Satsuma Baptist Church: The Satsuma Baptist Church received one acre of land from the Gaylord Container Corporation to build a church in 1958. It was originally referred to as Satsuma Baptist Mission. It wasn't until 1963 that the name became Satsuma Baptist Church.	
32-01779	20048-20092 Circle Drive
80+ year old home, possible Livingston District	
32-01789	29840 S Magnolia Street
Mid-century office building, possible Livingston District	
32-01780	20195 Circle Drive
Victorian 2-story home, possible Livingston District	
32-01782	20380 Blind Street
Pale yellow vernacular cottage with full front porch, metal roof with added carport.	
32-01784	20935 E Railroad Avenue
100+ year old home, could have been worker housing for sawmill.	

## Walker

32-01774	16032-16618 Varnado Road
S Stafford Cemetery: Oldest burial date from inscription, Nancy Stafford (1880)	
32-01776	17739 Lod Stafford Road
H Stafford Cemetery: Oldest burial date from inscription, Amos Stafford (1881)	
32-01799	34690 Buck Carroll Road
JD "Buck" Carroll (aka Uncle Buck) purchased the property in 1944. The Vickers Family used to live on the land and established the Vickers Cemetery (also located on the property that Carroll purchased). Carroll built the home that is on the property today in 1946, with volunteer help from the deacons at the nearby church where he was minister (Judson Baptist). Shortly after, Carroll donated the cemetery to the community to be managed by a community board and maintained as a community cemetery (open to anyone). The organization is still active today. The house was originally 2 bedrooms, but a third bedroom was added in the 1960s when Carroll's sister, Deedee King came to live with him as Carroll never married and needed help around the house. Carroll's house was the first home on the road at the time of its construction. A few years later, as part of the WPA program, the road was extended and connected to the nearby Springfield road.	
32-01804	37734-37906 John Lanier Road
Lanier Cemetery: Oldest burial date from inscription, Pearson W. Lanier (1882)	
32-01810	Buck Carroll Road
Vickers Cemetery: Oldest burial date from inscription, E. S. Blount (1878)	
32-01481	13151 Browden Street
Morris Home: 100+ year old home. Spoke with the owner (older African-American woman), said they'd lived there their whole lives.	
32-01485	13247 Hodges Lane
Hodges Home: Mr. Hodges had lived and died in this home. 80+ years old. Road named for the family.	

32-01806	38100-38538 Salem Cemetery Road
Salem Cemetery: The Salem Cemetery was established in the early 1800s, in conjunction with the Salem Baptist Church. The Church was founded in 1854 by 71 members. The first building was built on a site very close to where the present building is, on the Middle Colyell Creek and constructed of rough lumber. In 1886, the church was moved up to the hill where the Salem Cemetery is located. 22 years later, a tornado blew it down. Later, a two-story building was built in 1943 and 1949. Today, a single story building with brick facade serves as the primary church building. Its construction date is likely in the 1970s or 1980s. The cemetery has had several additions with three formal documented sections. The first recorded burial was of Ida Mae Waskom (1833) who was the daughter of Joseph Dawson and Martha Cotton, Joseph Dawson was originally from Wales or Ireland via Chester County (PA) before traveling to New Orleans as a rifleman during the War of 1812.	
32-01465	10108 Florida Boulevard
Rudolph Peak Family Home: Built 1930s, currently serving as an antique shop. The antique shop owner told us that the structure is on high ground and sits in front of what used to be a dirt cattle run.	
32-01466	10161 Florida Boulevard
Crossway Christian Freedom Center: built in the 1940s	
32-01501	13697 Aydell Lane
Milton Family Home: One of the many homes owned by the Milton Family, the original founders of Walker. Built in 1962.	
32-01476	12580 Burgess Avenue
Palmetto Cemetery: This is a large cemetery located in central Walker with over 500 graves (including 3 Confederate burials). The oldest burial date is Willie Clayton (1874-1876). Originally, the Palmetto Methodist Church was built at this site, alongside the cemetery. In 1929 the church building was torn down and moved to the current site on Stump Street. Hurricane Betsy, in 1965, destroyed the 1929 building. Today, the late 1960's church building stands today and is operating as the Walker United Methodist Church.	



32-01507	14080 Lockhart Lane
Classic mid-century ranch style home, original owners still live in the home.	
32-01517	14372 Carrol Avenue
100+ year old home	
32-01518	14377 Carrol Avenue
Mid-century home custom built by current owner's father for his wife (sister of Sydney Hutchinson). Constructed using stone brought down from Arkansas.	
32-01519	14410 Lockhart Lane
80+ year old home	
32-01528	18558 Lod Stafford Road
100+ year old home	
32-01614	30167 Stump Street
Walker United Methodist Church: mid-century church with classic mid-century modern style and form.	
32-01700	34260 Walker Road
Friendship Methodist Church Cemetery: This is a cemetery located adjacent to the Friendship Methodist Church, with the oldest burial of Addie Anna Hall (1916). Friendship Methodist Church was established in 1850 as a circuit rider church at the intersection of Springfield Road and Walker Road. In the mid-1870s, the church was moved to its second location about one quarter mile from the third and final location (1905). The current church location was donated land, but came with the request that the church be built in front of a small white oak tree (which still stands today). As of 1916, Friendship Methodist Church became loosely associated with the Mangum Chapel Methodist Church (established as a branch church).	

32-01768	Stafford and Wiley
100+ year old house. Used to be an old store for the train depot and was converted to living space in the 1940s, without indoor plumbing. Today, the building is in poor condition and vulnerable to collapse.	
32-01509	14232 Latil Street
100+ year old home	
32-01565	29149 Gaylord Road
80+ year old home	

### Watson

32-01800	34966 HWY 1019
Live Oak Methodist Church: The inaugural church building was constructed on Levi Spiller's land, the Live Oak Plantation, before the Civil War. During the Civil War Yankee soldiers burned the building. By 1893, the membership demanded a larger building. This building was in use until 1950. The present building, which is now used as a thrift store, was built between 1946-1949.	
32-01801	34966 HWY 1019
Live Oak Methodist Cemetery: Oldest burial, 1853	

(USGS Cemeteries: Livingston Parish, date unknown)

## Appendix B: Abandoned Mines + Increased Flooding in North Livingston Parish

There are 8,000 acres of abandoned mines on the Scenic Amite River upstream of Livingston (Darlington to Grangeville) that could be restored to slow floodwaters in North Livingston. That's 8 billion gallons of water retention.

Decades of unregulated sand and gravel mining degraded Louisiana's iconic rivers and the surrounding wetland forests. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, residential development rapidly increased in these river basins (i.e. north Livingston Parish). As a result, large swaths of important bottomland hardwood forests along the Amite and Tangipahoa Rivers have been destroyed, reducing important habits, degrading water quality and increasing flooding of local parishes. The impacts became clear during the floods of 2016, when thousands of people were faced with the real impacts of the loss of floodplains along the Amite and Tangipahoa.

Since 2013, there has been permitting of over 180 acres of wetlands in Livingston (this is the highest number of acres in the Florida Parishes). This can otherwise be thought of as a potential displacement of over 180 million acres of water that needs a new home during floods (Fessenden & Omri, 2018).

After the Great Floods of 2016, there has been a boom in new slab-on-grade construction in wetlands in the Florida Parishes. Wetlands are considered to be 1 year floodplains, meaning they are guaranteed to flood every year. This begs the question: where is that water going? New developments are only designed to protect themselves, leaving only the Parish and the State to act in protection of the watershed.

These mines are also the source of additional sediments clogging drainage. Within communities, these mines are a silica hazard --breathing the sand dust can lead to Asthma, COPD, and general respiratory problems.

Currently, New Orleans-based nonprofit Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) is working with those landowners who want to restore their wetlands for the sake of hazard mitigation and recreation. This form of restoration will not just help the wetlands, it will also protect North Livingston Parish's historic resources located either within a wetland or in a nearby floodplain. It will also reverse the trend of disappearing wetland forests. The 8000 acres of identified abandoned mines along the scenic portions of the Amite River can be restored. Not only can these areas be restored, their restoration is supported by the Scenic Rivers Act (which the state already is committed to restoration of these areas) (Montoya, 2018).



Figure 55. Aerial view of abandoned mine, Amite River

## Appendix C: Miscellaneous Notes + Research from Community Members

Notes from David Wall:

"Yes, that's Ellis Facundus Post 178 in Denham on 190. Building is still there, but appears abandoned since flood. Has been there all my remembered life. At different times, it was used by Alma Lockhart as a cafe, and Justin Wilson as his "Cajun Kitchen". Lots of dances, beef and turkey shoots, etc were held there, and in the back building through the years. My class had one reunion there. My Parents home was across 190, a little to the east of the hall."



Figure 56. David Wall's childhood home on HWY 190, Denham Springs (circa 1940)

Finally got the ID's of those I know at the American Legion Hall dedication. My mother took the photos, not sure of date, but had to be late 40's after the were home from WWII. Have numbered the 5 men that I know on attached copies. Maybe someone else (old-timer) could possibly recognize some of the others.

1. Lorin Wall
2. Austin Lockhart
3. Nelson "Gander" Courtney
4. VW "Bill" Brignac
5. Clarence A "BooBoo" Piper

1948 aerial photo of Dodge City/McCarroll sawmill area, showing the American Legion Hall (red arrow)



Figure 57. American Legion Hall dedication on HWY 190, Denham Springs (circa 1948)

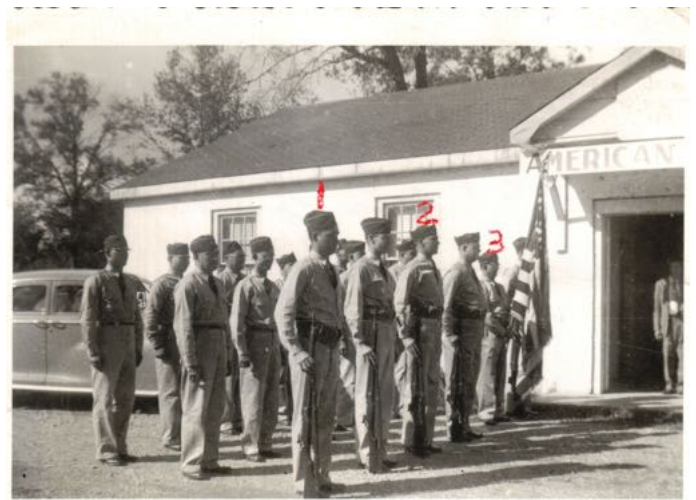


Figure 58. American Legion Hall dedication on HWY 190, Denham Springs (circa 1948)

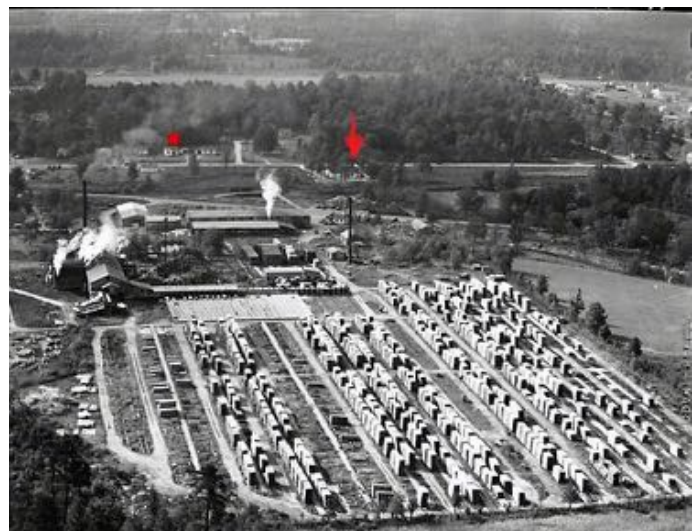


Figure 59. Aerial photo of Dodge City/McCarroll sawmill area, with the American Legion Hall, red arrow, Denham Springs (circa 1948)



Notes from Sylvia K. Smith:

1. David Baker owns the house on N. River Road in Denham Springs. It was built in 1859 not long after his great grandfather, John Richardson Allen returned from the Civil War. Part of the family has lived in that home ever since it was built.
2. The Levi Garrison house was built in about 1870 by my great uncle, John Levi Garrison. Larry Casso has even done a painting about the old home. It is on Garrison Lane right off of the 4-H Club Road in Denham Springs. I have pictures and stories about the family.
3. The old James Edwin "Pet" Garrison home on 4-H Club Road was built in 1942 when his two younger sons were fighting in WWII. I also have pictures and stories about this house and family.

Notes from Chris Olah:

"I don't know the exact date the building was built, but there is a certificate from VC fertilizer to The United Hungarian Cooperative for 35 years of service. The certificate was given in 1953. So we know it was at least there in 1918. Frank Koles, my grandfather, went to work there in about 1936. It remained a cooperative until some time in the 1940's when it ceased operation and my grandfather and a partner took it over as an association. My grandfather took full ownership a few years later. His business was Sunny Brand Produce and he operated it until about 1994. He bought the building some time in the 1940's from the owners who were from Chicago. My grandfather employed several people and students seasonally. They shipped strawberries by rail through the 1950's. Then strawberries and vegetables by truck. My grandfather passed away in 1996. My mother, her sister and brother now own the building. My son, Ethan, and I now operate Sunny Brand Agriculture Service from there. If I can help any more, let me know."



Figure 60. VC Fertilizer building/United Hungarian Cooperative, Albany (circa 1940)



Figure 61. VC Fertilizer building/United Hungarian Cooperative, Albany (2018)

## Appendix D: African Americans in North Livingston Parish

The following photos and documents were supplied by Ms. Lula Mae Hart, a life-long Livingston Parish citizen and expert. Some photos relate to her family and some the general African American history of Livingston Parish.

Ms. Hart was born Lula Mae Stuart in Charity Hospital , in New Orleans, in 1945. She grew up in Walker, Louisiana. Her father and his father's family came from Livingston Parish and her father's mother's side of the family came to Livingston Parish by way of Clinton in Feliciana Parish. Ms. Hart told us that the Stuart's came off of the Live Oak Plantation, pre-Civil War when Levi Spiller still owned it. Specifically, it was certainly one of Ms. Lula's grandfather's - Mr. Daniel Boon Stuart - who was a slave at Live Oak Plantation. She estimated that there were many more slaves at Live Oak than the estimated 21 reported earlier in the report based on information from the 1860 Federal Census of Livingston Parish.

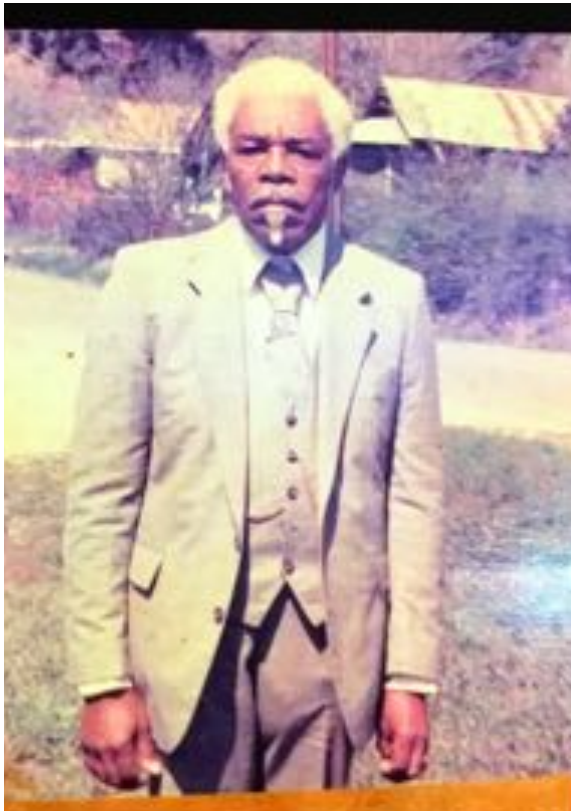


Figure 62. Ms. Lula Mae's father, 1970s, Walker

Ms. Lula attended elementary school at what was known as the Benevolent Home, at the time. Ms. Lula estimates that the original Benevolent Home (still standing, 30526 Travis) is the oldest building of significance to the African American community in Livingston still standing (estimated year of construction, 1929). Today, the

building is used by the New Sunrise Baptist Church.

Later, Ms. Lula attended West Livingston High School (one of two segregated, African American schools in the Parish - the other one being East Livingston High School). In fact, the first school for African American children wasn't built until 1907 (Denham Springs) and moved around the north Parish several times before integration. Early on, African American children didn't have buses to ride to school on. Rather, they had to walk while their white counterparts rode buses that often splashed mud onto their clothes while walking. The African American students were not allowed to be late. Discipline was a significant component of the African American schools. Although, by 1969 both East and West Livingston High Schools shut-down due to integration and the process of busing the African American students took over.

Following high school , in the early 1960s, Ms. Hart attended Southern University and received a degree in Social Studies with emphasis on history and library science. In 1962, Lula was married to Mr. Benjamin Hart and she and Mr. Hart purchased a home in Albany to live and raise a family.

Ms. Lula's father (and many other African American men in Livingston Parish) worked for the railroad for over 36 years, from 1942-1978. Other African American men, if

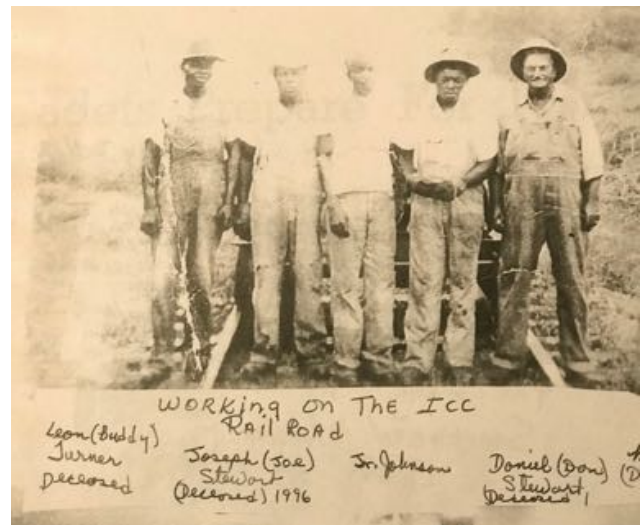


Figure 63. African American Workers on Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) Railroad, Livingston Parish, 1940s (estimate)

not working for the railroad may have been employed with one of the region's sawmills. It is estimated that in the 1940s African American men working on the railroad or sawmill likely made approximately ~\$.60 per day.





Figure 64. African American employees at Courtney's Sawmill, Walker, 1950

African American women likely made around \$2.50 per week (considerably less than the men).

A famous 1967 civil rights march, organized by A.Z. Young the President of the Bogalusa Voters and Civic League, from Bogalusa to Baton Rouge went right through Livingston Parish along Florida Boulevard/HWY 190 and only 4 blocks from Ms. Lula's home. This route was also straight through one of Louisiana's KKK strongholds.



Figure 65. Old Ku Klux Klann robe on display at the Tangipahoa African American Museum of History, 2018, Hammond

"Just outside of Satsuma, a group of whites, some of them children, broke through the ranks of the troopers and attacked A.Z. Young and others. The march was postponed for one day because of the attack, which allowed the LCDC to demand more troops to protect the battered marchers." (Stole 2011)

There are many active African American churches in Livingston Parish. Two great examples are: St. Mark's



Figure 66. Amite River Association Building, 1951, Old Baton Rouge HWY, Hammond

Baptist on Dunn Road in Walker and Sweet Home Baptist on South Cafe Line + HWY 190 in Albany.



Figure 67. Old St. Mark's Baptist Church, early 1960s, Walker

Livingston Parish's civil rights and African American history doesn't stop in the 1960s. In fact the Parish is still quite segregated, with many "firsts" still taking place today. The continued and accelerated research, documentation and sharing of this part of Livingston Parish's history is critical. What Ms. Lula shared with us is just a small, yet important, sliver. There is more to be done to recognize the significant contributions of African Americans



throughout Livingston Parish's settled history. Please see the **Conclusions: Recommendations** section for specific recommendations that relate to this topic.



Figure 68. St. Mark's Baptist Church 1st annual Vacation Bible School, Walker



Figure 70. St. Mark's Baptist Church's Rev. Mitchell (right), 1960s, Walker



Figure 69. St. Mark's Baptist Church Rev. Johnny Banks giving baptism to a church member, 1960s, Walker

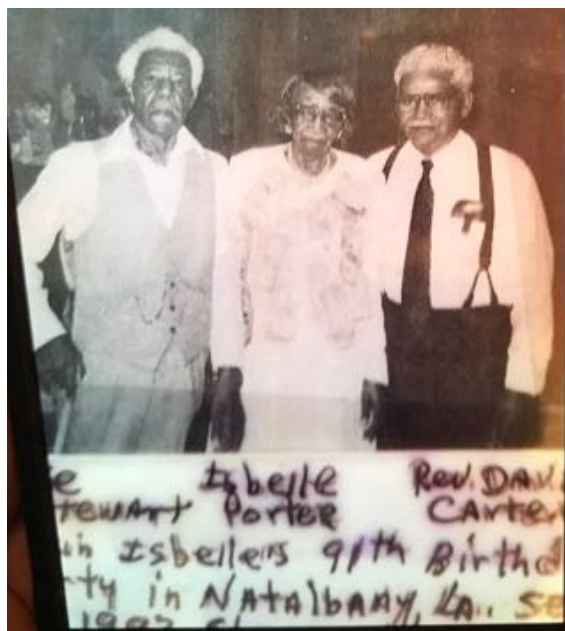


Figure 71. Ms. Lula Mae's father (left) at a birthday party, 1997, Natalbany



Figure 72. Viola Lockhart Taylor, first African American high school graduate and first African American voter, Livingston Parish

## Appendix E: Focus Group Meeting Notes

Focus Groups: 5.23 [notes taken by Miriam, mostly, and little bit by Jeana]

1. Walker, LA
2. Stafford House

— — — — —

Attendees:

Jeff Boyd: Livingston, LA (family been in the area for over 200 years)

Clark Forest: Lone Pine Church of God and the Rainbow Taven (between Albany and Holden)

Florence Crowder: lived in Livingston/DS all throughout adult life

James Minton: DS - used to work for local paper

Kim Sibley: Walker, life-long, Kim's daddy was the founding family of Walker (George Milton)

Myra Streeter: parents have had businesses in the area — been here pretty much her whole life

Travis Clark: mayor

— —

Notes:

Hungarian Settlement (just south of Albany)

Denham Springs started on Main rd and drifted. If you take River Rd. and Centerville St., every bldg will be 50+

Shelly -- some sites

Cochran Acres

Are there any log houses still standing? There is a log smokehouse still standing - off Centerville Street on Wax Street, near Ellis Electric

In Iowa Street — old courthouse, on other side of Frost Rd., old red brick house Craftsman style. Across street from that, old log structure across from Main Library in Livingston. Older homes in front of the library, between library and Florida. On Lodd Stafford Rd. have Lodd Stafford house — sits up on hill, before you get to Hiram Stafford cemetery

Holden founded in 1909 — Doctor Carter

Railroad came along 1908 — some of original houses

Walker is older and Doyle part of Livingston

Walker incorporated in 1909

Corbin was incorporated into Walker in 1970s, Corbin had

more businesses

Denham Springs depot was moved

WPA — old Walker School was a WPA project. Can find a book by LSU professor had done on WPA buildings. Includes old Livingston Courthouse

Railroad was important to development — each town had section foreman, housing,

In Doyle —

Hills Equipment in Old Livingston was the old depot

North of Albany - old 4th Ward school, now being used as church?

Iris Tilly — lives north of Albany; only log house I know in area — wouldn't recognize it as log house now because logs have been covered

Holden Baptist Church — across from Holden school, also historic

St. James Church is being torn down — 1036 North of Holden

Old Bankston house —

Marion Bankston's house — unoccupied

Clark — treatise on Fanley (?) — real innovators in adopting quick freeze, strawberries — email Clark

Hungarian Cole's — had Sunny Brand, being Olih

Hungarian Museum — Mr. Kropag

Hungarians farmed north of Albany; old Hungarian farm and resters — contact Alec Kropog

Albany elementary used to be where town hall, fire department — number of little houses south, some were used as classrooms. Mr Hewitt Dubois was a student in the building and can give some background on the buildings. On the East side of the road — think they should be early 1900s

Macedonian Baptist Church been there since 1890s — 1036 North

Flowell??

All schools in Denham Springs are older than 50 years except for junior high

Families need to talk to: Watsons, Miltons, Courtneys, Grahams, Sibleys — Walker did not flood other than from Murphey's South —

Jetson Baptist Church — on Walker North



Mr. John has a lot of land — old Friendship Methodist Church — moved from original site

Long time ago, judges did judging out of their house — should ask Scarlett about the hanging tree which still stands; lynching

1036 Oak Trees — half of Oak avenue; was a lot of logging in area

Up Walker North — old houses in those areas of old families

By Jetson Baptist Church — Jetson community cemetery; church there is the 3rd one, first one burned down, second one is over 50 years old

Walker history — can remember the meat market, Mr. Sidney's — went and got our meat but isn't there anymore; old post office (Melanie Richer — has old post office boxes that came — manager at Whitney Bank)

Have the cross saw that was used to cut cross section to Walker North

Museum closed in 2013-2014

Myra has all of the minutes — first mayor is Kim Sibley's great grandfather

Old city hall in Denham Springs — history room, people have detailed family history

A lot was destroyed when 446 was expanded

Walker used to do Christmas to the Community — people from Baton Rouge started coming, was never intended to serve people outside Livingston

Seen Walker go from village to a town to a city;

Barrier dam on interstate — would have been some localized flooding; wall — have a picture of water on one side, Walker South flooded time and again before 2016; never flooded in North Walker; Canadian National Railroad has been raising the tracks, which has increased flooding; on eastern side of parish, haven't had any dredging of canals; new development going up 447 there's that building that used to be a tire store and a spice making business; went next door to build in another building — built up on fill which is causing more flooding; as population expands, the amount of rooftops accelerates the runoff

Old First Baptist Church in Denham Springs flooded badly

Cole's Strawberry Association behind sandwich shoppe in Albany

American Legion Hall on 190

Dodd City in Denham Springs

Boat dock — had several landings, because of the scooters would travel to New Orleans through Lake Maurephas/Pontchartrain; numerous saw mills; prominent mill GHH Thomas saw mill and Collums Springfield Lumber Company; Hungarians brought by Brakenridge saw mill — came south to cut the yellow pine;

Strawberry farming and poultry farming — Tall Pines egg company

After timber was exhausted (early timber along river — cypress would float down the river; John McDonough had one of the earliest sawmills on the Amite river — his wealth came from cypress; Brown was his partner "they scalped the Parish clean," New Orleans and Baltimore owned parts of Livingston Parish — because McDonough donated some of his land to his hometowns; strawberries was a crop that was well suited for cut over land that was very acidic

Pepperwood mills - small local mills

Line limber company — 63

Livingston was the logging camp for the old Line Lumber Company; Mr. Harrison McCulough said they had old worker housing on Frost Rd. going towards interstate; Dr. May did a history on the parish; Ms. McCulough was postmaster — old post office in the park

Railroad Roundhouse — Continey Grocery Store

South of interstate are the older towns because of the rivers — southern towns were connected to lakes

Lumber bridges?

Bridge around 1953 in Albany

Mr. Polk/Pope? was a major supplier of pulp wood — paid his employees in company money until the Feds cracked down; interviewed Ms. Polk said they threw all the company money into the Tickfaw River

House right past Burgess Ave comes into Florida, where used to have trading post; used to have a Grits Mill there, mill is gone, but house is still there; Ms. Carr

Shotgun houses by the railroad were built by the railroad - Maddie Street

North of Livingston — family that had sawmill; black settlement, the quarters? remnant of the sawmill — families worked at sawmill

Mr. Polk —

LSU has a lot of documents

On Frost Rd in Livingston — all those little houses must

be worker houses; was a company town, the large house was one of the company officials (street that runs parallel is named for him: Bloss); Livingston was a company town — old town was Doyle preceded it, when Line Lumber Company extended their line, needed worker housing; when the company packed up in 1930s, moved to Lane County, Oregon; merged with Cascade plywood, merged with U.S. plywood, track book — ended back up in Holden; industrial building

Era of timber — “cut out and get out”

Timber —> Strawberries were dominant industry through 1960s, kids would get out of school in March to help pick strawberries, started to decline when kids’ school schedule changed in 1970s (used wooden crates, so had box factories in Hammond, Tangipahoe; would peel logs into sheets to hold produce—>

Brown Ore Factory in Denham Springs — used ore to make bats and ores? Had box factory there too

1960s — bedroom community

WWII — farmers moved to standard oil, aviation fuel companies took people out of the field and put them in the plants; a lot of people in the eastern part of the parish worked in New Orleans in Higgins Ship Yard

Black communities — a number of black sections of towns in Denham Springs, Walker, Livingston, Albany; black community that’s still there — still refer to the area of Walker North as the Quarter and the Bottom; another area call The Front

in Livingston north of the railroad tracks on Wiese Rd. Greater St. Mary’s Church is black church; St. Mark’s cemetery is the black cemetery?

Black Church at Albany — Sweet Home Church (Ms. Lula Mae Hart — 225-567-9794 — Hart is big family); will be able to identify church and community there

Have several black churches in Walker — at least 7

Chris Olah — grandson that operates his grandfather’s business, Sunny Brand — 985-320-4622  
ChrisOlah2@Bellsouth.net

Mr. Alex Kropog — 225-294-5732/ 225-610-7474

For Railroad information — want to contact Tom Davison, rr history buff has evaluation of records;  
985-345-6150/7238

[davidsontom@bellsouth.net](mailto:davidsontom@bellsouth.net)



PREPARED BY:

# GREYSPACE COLLECTIVE + WATER WORKS

North Livingston Parish Historic Resources Inventory [2018]

