1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Lafayette Central Business District
Other Names/Site Number: Le Centre
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: Lafayette
City or town: Lafayette
State: LA
County: Lafayette

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national  ☑ state  ☐ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☐ A  ☐ B  ☐ C  ☐ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sanders, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:
Date

Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Lafayette Central Business District

4. National Park Certification
I hereby certify that the property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: ___________________________

Signature of the Keeper ____________________________ Date of Action ____________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] Private
- [X] Public – Local
- [ ] Public – State
- [ ] Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- [X] District
- [ ] Site
- [ ] Structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Non-contributing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
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<td>Objects</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>79</strong></td>
<td><strong>53</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 9

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): COMMERCE/business; COMMERCE/specialty store; COMMERCE/financial institution; COMMERCE/restaurant; GOVERNMENT/city hall; GOVERNMENT/courthouse
Lafayette Central Business District

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): LATE VICTORIAN; MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco; MODERN MOVEMENT: Brutalism; MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style; NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: 
walls: Brick, wood
roof: Asphalt shingles
other: 

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Lafayette Central Business District is located in downtown Lafayette, Louisiana, spreading largely southwest from the intersection of Jefferson Street (also known as "Rue Jefferson") and the railroad tracks. The district occupies approximately 70 acres of urban streetscapes and includes 141 resources. The district is composed of 79 contributing and 53 non-contributing elements, plus 9 resources already listed in the National Register. Rue Jefferson serves as the main spine of the district in its curve from the railroad to the intersection with Lee Avenue. Secondary streets spread out from Jefferson before terminating in largely residential neighborhoods to the north, west, and east. As the commercial, government, and retail center of Lafayette, the central business district reflects these functions through a range of building types and styles, including a former city hall, a current parish courthouse, multiple bank buildings, shops, and restaurants. The district is populated largely by low-rise brick buildings with storefront facades; while there are several buildings that exhibit characteristics of high-style architecture, many of the buildings are modest buildings with limited expression of historic architectural styles. Common alterations included changes to storefront facades to accommodate a shift in businesses occupying the space, replacement of windows and doors, and small rear additions, as well as the addition of surface parking lots. The Lafayette Central Business District reflects the city's commercial growth in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the historic role of the district as a central hub and destination, both for shops and professional offices, for the surrounding population.

Narrative Description
The Lafayette Central Business District serves as the commercial and governmental heart of Lafayette, Louisiana. It also is the location of the former city hall, banks, libraries, offices, and stores. The buildings of the district reflect dominant periods in Lafayette's growth, including the early twentieth century as agricultural workers left rural areas for urban opportunities encouraged by the arrival of the railroad and the economic boom of the oil and gas industry. The district holds many of Lafayette's iconic buildings, including the former
Lafayette Central Business District

Name of Property

City Hall (217 West Main Street), the Lafayette Parish Courthouse (800 South Buchanan Street), and the Evangeline Hotel (302 Rue Jefferson). Since the district held government buildings, a transportation hub, the primary shopping district, and offices, the population had a variety of reasons to utilize the district. Over time, the specific buildings may have changed, since courthouses were replaced, banks swapped buildings, and warehouses yielded to music clubs, but the central business district remained a destination for the citizens of Lafayette and the surrounding area.

The district is bordered by a railroad track to the northeast, residential developments to the northwest and southeast, and several churches, a large cemetery, and residential construction to the southwest. The Freetown-Port Rico Historic District, a collection late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences, sits to the southeast of the Lafayette Central Business District historic district. The railroad served as an initial driving feature of the district, allowing the hotels and other businesses to advertise their proximity to the depot and rail line. Residential development in the surrounding area was driven by proximity to the central business district.

Rue Jefferson serves as the primary street for the district. The commercial buildings are concentrated along its stretch between the railroad tracks and the southern terminus at Lee Avenue. Significant buildings within the district, such as the individually-listed Gordon Hotel and Evangeline Hotel, along with continued focus by the city on civic improvements along Rue Jefferson reflect the historic importance of this street. By the mid-twentieth century, Lafayette retained noted New Orleans architect Charles Colbert to develop a master plan for the city; Colbert’s plan recommended prioritizing access issues to the central business district via modifications to Rue Jefferson to ensure free and easy access to the district.

While some of the more recent construction, such as Jefferson Towers (556 Rue Jefferson), have incorporated setbacks into their designs and interrupted the historic streetscapes, most of the buildings are constructed with little to no setbacks. The buildings are tightly packed; the streetscapes are interrupted by largely modern changes, such as access to surface parking lots or recent parks. The district does not include additional notable landscape features; cypress trees were added along Rue Jefferson in the late 1990s and side streets have limited landscaping efforts that appear to be connected with individual buildings.

Early development of the central business district did not include a central city square or other greenspace. However, the district does include three parks; these three parks were developed in the early 1990s as part of a downtown rejuvenation effort and do not fall within the period of significance.

Contributing/Non-Contributing Resources

The Lafayette Central Business District contains 141 resources made up of 137 buildings, 2 structures, and 2 objects on 24 city blocks; there are 86 contributing and 51 non-contributing buildings in the district, along with 1 contributing structure, 1 non-contributing structure, 1 contributing object, and 1 non-contributing object. Six properties within the district have been previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Evangeline Hotel, Gordon Hotel, Hope Lodge #145, Lafayette Hardware Store, the Old Lafayette City Hall, and the Old Guaranty Bank Building. A recently listed district, the Downtown Lafayette Civic Complex, sits at the southern end of the Lafayette Central Business District and contains two buildings and one object.

Many buildings of the Lafayette Central Business District are entirely commercial in nature and feature several businesses within a single building behind multiple storefronts. Other blocks are consumed entirely by a single institutional property, such as a courthouse, or by a larger commercial facility, such as a bank.

Many of the storefronts have been reconfigured to accommodate changes in tenants and tastes, but the overall building configurations, footprints, scale, and use have remained constant; the commercial district has

1 National Register of Historic Places, Freetown-Port Rico Historic District, Lafayette, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, National Register #15000694.

2 Charles Colbert, A Sketch Plan for the City of Lafayette, prepared for the City Planning Commission, 1953. p. 54.
remained the primary commercial center for Lafayette and the continued use of the buildings for primarily commercial purposes reflect this historic trend. Nearly all the commercial buildings in the central business district have had alterations at the first floor, many several generations of changes, throughout the period of significance. These changes are a reflection of the commercial nature of the buildings and often reflect the twentieth century trend toward bands of large, plate glass windows at street level. The number of replaced storefronts illustrates the lengths to which building owners went to retain businesses downtown. Because the alterations were pervasive and seen throughout the district, storefront alteration does not preclude a building from contributing unless the alterations affect the configuration of the facade or change the function of the building.

Those buildings that were considered non-contributing to the district were largely constructed outside the period of significance, but buildings constructed within the period of significance that were determined non-contributing due to the accumulation of changes impacting the historic character of the building, such as 802 Rue Jefferson. Many of these changes occurred as a result of businesses and owners seeking to modernize the appearance of their buildings, particularly as the Central Business District sought to compete with other commercial developments. A common alteration was the addition of stucco to the exterior, thus obscuring the bricks below and creating a backdrop for signage. If these alterations took place during the period of significance (1870-1970), the building is considered a contributing element. If the changes occurred outside the period of significance, to the extent that could be determined, the total impact of the accumulation of changes were evaluated to determine contributing status.

The district has a handful of residential buildings; most of these residential buildings are scattered on the fringes of the district. Several former residences have been converted to commercial use during the period of significance and continue to function as commercial properties, such as the Grado Building (631 Rue Jefferson).

Landscape elements and street furniture are not significant features of the Lafayette Central Business District largely because they were constructed, installed, or grown after the close of the period of significance. The cypress trees along Rue Jefferson are recent additions to the streetscape, as are the bollards and benches scattered throughout the area. The district does not contain historic streetlights or street signs. Lafayette adopted numerous improvement efforts for the district over the years, resulting in the replacement of sidewalks and street paving many times over. There are three parks in the district, Parc Sans Souci, Parc Putnam, and Parc De Lafayette; none of the parks are contributing features to the Lafayette Central Business District Historic District due to their relatively recent dates of construction.

Buchanan Street

1. 339 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
   Date of Construction: ca. 1940
   This one-story commercial building is constructed of concrete block, but the façade has a brick parapet and façade featuring stone and metal panels. The front gable roof is sheathed in corrugated metal panels. Oriented towards the northwest, the building has a symmetrical façade, large storefront windows, metal overhang, and replacement doors that are partially glazed. The building is not of a notable or historic architectural style. A stone wall extends from the north corner of the building towards South Buchanan Street. In 1949, the building was in use as a bus station. It replaced a previous bus station on the property constructed in the 1920s.

2. 521-25 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
   Date of Construction: Ca. 1965
   This two-story building is oriented towards the northwest. The building has an irregular footprint, flat roof, and asymmetrical main façade. The southwest corner of the building has an exterior stairwell enclosed by concrete block while the remainder of the building is clad in brick. The second story projects over the first floor. The windows on the second floor appear to be modern metal replacements, as does the main entrance near the

Note: Review of contributing status of all properties is ongoing and may change before the nomination is finalized.
south end of the building; a secondary entrance is located at the northernmost bay of the west elevation. The main doors are typical commercial doors of metal and glass. The building is not of a notable or historic architectural style.

3. 604 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1935
This building is broader at the façade (northeast elevation) than at the rear (southwest elevation) creating a T-shape for the footprint. It is set on a slab foundation. The spine of the building was constructed of concrete blocks and the portion of the building fronting Buchanan Street was made of bricks and is five bays in length. The entrance is centered in the façade; tall windows covered by shutters are set in the flanking bays. The building has a flat roof. In 1949, the building was listed as a doctor’s office on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps.

4. 605 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
A curved exterior wall marks the northwest corner of this building. The one-story building has a plain exterior, punctured only by one narrow doorway and small window opening filled with glass block. A second entrance and boarded over openings mark the recessed portions of the west elevation. The building has a flat roof, stucco exterior, and irregular footprint. The building does not have a notable or historic architectural style but retains a few characteristics of Art Moderne.

5. 611 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955
This one-story brick building received a new façade, likely ca. 1960. The rear portion of the building is constructed of red brick laid in common bond, but the western elevation has narrow, Roman-style tan bricks, also laid in common bond. Several of the windows have been boarded over, but appear to have once been large, plate glass windows. The west elevation also has an asymmetrical appearance and shallow overhang. The main entrance door is a glazed commercial door. The building has a flat roof and rectangular footprint. In 1949, the property was the site of a steel joist construction company. The industrial buildings and support offices were demolished around the time the extant building was constructed.

6. 617 South Buchanan Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 2000
Despite the outwardly residential appearance, this building has a commercial purpose. Oriented towards the west, the building has paired entrances, a projecting entrance pavilion, and a hip roof covered in asphalt shingles. The exterior is clad in stucco. The main entrance doors are partially glazed. The building is two-stories in height and has an irregular footprint.

7. 626 South Buchanan Street (Edgar G. Mouton Building Annex)(contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955
This annex is associated with the office building at the intersection of South Buchanan and West Vermilion streets. It is one-story in height with a rectangular footprint and a flat roof. The side elevations were constructed of blonde brick. Small windows and a garage door are set into the north elevation. The façade (east elevation) is decorated with colored panels designed to look like marble. Glass doors are set at the ends of the façade. In 1949, Edgar G. Mouton Property Management operated in this building.

See also 200 West Vermilion Street.

8. 718 South Buchanan Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
This brick commercial building is two stories in height and five bays in length with a slab foundation and a flat roof. The upper floor windows have been replaced with 12-pane sliding units. The largest of the doors is
located in the southern-most bay of the façade (east elevation). The other two doors of the façade are made of metal and plain in appearance. The windows of the other bays also are replacements. Modern metal awnings shade many of the doors and windows. Several bays appear to be filled in; the date of this alteration is unknown. Advertisements from the 1940s and 1950s suggest the building housed offices by that period; the building continues to house offices currently. The footprint is L-shaped but the rear (west elevation) was not visible from the public right-of-way. The current footprint is consistent with a 1969 aerial of Lafayette.

9. 800 South Buchanan Street (Lafayette Parish Courthouse) (contributing)
Date of Construction: 1965
The interior of the Lafayette Parish Courthouse was remodeled in the 1980s and was under renovation at the time of survey. The building is seven stories in height and features limited Brutalist elements such as concrete construction, vertical concrete panels, dark windows, and a flat roof (photo #13). Designed by local architect Don J. O'Rourke, the building footprint is irregular and has several projections. Portions of the building are cantilevered over the entrances.

The extant building replaced a previous courthouse constructed in the 1920s. This city square has been designated for judicial use since Lafayette, then Vermilionville, was platted.

10. 807 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
This one-story commercial building has a flat roof, symmetrical façade, and rectangular footprint. The central recessed doorway is flanked by two large rectangular windows and a curved entrance. The majority of the building is constructed of brick, but a stone block façade has been added to the west elevation. A stone block inscribed “Dugas” sits in the center of the modest parapet. This building does not have any characteristics of a notable or historic architectural style.

11. 809 South Buchanan Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: 1978
This large parking garage is utilitarian in appearance (photo #10). It has five levels of parking above grade, a concrete exterior, and primary access and exit points on the west elevation. Three large vertical shafts run the height of the west elevation to likely house elevators and stairs. At the time of the survey, the garage appeared vacant and no longer in service. A chain link enclosure has been added to the perimeter of the building.

12. 917 South Buchanan Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955
The base of this commercial building is one-story in height with a flat roof. It was constructed of red brick and is set on a slab foundation. The glass door is recessed. A band of ribbon windows, an element of International Style, is set at the top of the walls just below the roof. A modern addition is set to the rear of the brick construction. This addition has an irregular footprint and is elevated atop a brick foundation. The walls are clad in manufactured wood boards. It also has a flat roof.

Central Street
13. 100 Central Street (Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Building) (contributing)
Date of Construction: 1927
As the name indicates, this brick building opened in 1928 as the local telephone and telegraph office at the corner of Central and South Buchanan streets (photo #15). The original section of the building has a symmetrical façade, brick quoins, and regularly spaced fenestration pattern. The windows are 6-over-6 hung. Many of the exterior doors have been replaced with metal doors. Vents also are set into the elevations. A penthouse is visible on the roof. A band of concrete, the building’s sole decoration, stretches between the
second and third stories. The brickwork is set in American bond. The building was designed by architects Marye, Alger, & Vineur.\(^3\) An addition was constructed at the rear (north elevation) of the building in 1941.

By 1968, the building had expanded to the northwest to reach the corner with Pierce Street (now Rue Bibliotheque). This addition consisted of five bays along Central Street. This five-story section is constructed of red brick as well, but lacks the quoins found on the original building. This addition includes regularly-spaced, plain fenestration, a flat roof, and limited architectural detailing; the only architectural ornament is styled Greek key motifs on a band between the second and third floors.

Further expansion extended along Pierce Street by 1971; a three-story addition was constructed from the northeast elevation of the building. The roof is flat. It is five bays in length. Brick pilasters divide the bays. Although also constructed of red bricks, the color of the bricks is different than the original building. It also has a flat roof. A thin band of concrete stretches above the second story; this band is even with the concrete band of the original construction but narrower. Another concrete band between the third story and the roof.

The building was locally designated in 2009.

**Congress Street**

14. 108 West Congress Street (contributing)

Date of Construction: Ca. 1945

This small, one-story building has a parapet roof, plain exterior, and a slightly asymmetrical façade (photo #4). Oriented towards the southwest, the building has a rectangular footprint. The southwest elevation features a storefront façade similar to the other historic commercial buildings in this area of Lafayette; the façade has large plate glass windows, a metal overhang, and a modern glazed door. The southwest elevation is clad in stucco while the remained of the building is brick.

15. 116 East Congress Street (contributing)

Date of Construction: Ca. 1925

This freestanding commercial building has an irregular footprint that reflects the shape of its lot and its location at the intersection of East Congress and Polk streets. Originally four storefronts, the building has been modified into a single commercial space during the period of significance; the renovation was completed by 1969. The former entrances have been reset with panels archways supported by brick columns or pilasters. An arched colonnade fronting Polk Street obscures the recessed entrance. The building is one-story in height and appears to have a flat roof. In 1939, the building was used by an insurance agency.

16. 200 West Congress Street (IberiaBank) (contributing)

Date of Construction: ca. 1965

The International style IberiaBank Tower consists of a vertical glass box over a horizontal section, a configuration likely influenced by Skidmore, Owings & Merrell’s Lever House in New York City (photo #5). The building is eleven stories in height, of glass curtain wall construction, and has a square footprint. Stone veneer panels frame the windows of the second story. The first floor is recessed; the main entrances may have been modified to accommodate revolving doors. A pavilion for drive-through bank services is located on the northeast portion of the parcel; this structure is clad in the same stone panels as the main building.

**Convent Street**

17. 113 West Convent Street (non-contributing)

Date of Construction: Ca. 1940

This commercial building is three bays wide and seven bays in depth. It shares its west wall with the adjacent building. The building was constructed of concrete blocks sheathed in stucco (north elevation). A small parapet

\(^3\) Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Building Local Designation, ca. 2009.
projects above the center entrance. Keystone decorate the windows and door; the windows were shuttered at the time of survey. A metal awning shades the modern French doors.

18. 117 West Convent Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
This one-story commercial building is three bays wide. Single pane, squared windows flank the central entrance. The door is a replacement. A concrete band frames the entrance. The building was constructed of concrete blocks and the façade is sheathed in stucco. Metal windows are set into the bays of the side (west) elevation. The roof is flat and the building rests on a slab foundation. It shares a wall with 113 West Convent Street.

19, 20, and 21. 201 West Convent Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1915
This property contains three buildings. The former Mount Carmel Convent initially opened in 1846 as a girls school by the Sister of Mount Carmel, a Catholic religious order. In 1967, the school combined with a nearby boys school into Cathedral-Carmel High School; the Mount Carmel Convent was sold in the early 1980s to the First Baptist Church (FBC) of Lafayette. FBC operates the First Baptist Christian School in the former Convent buildings.

The two-story school building (19) is oriented towards the north and West Convent Street (photo #11). The building is clad in brick; the bricks in the parapet and majority of the building are laid in running bond, but soldiers and headers are used to decorative effect on the façade. The crenellated parapet features decorative elements at the center, consisting of three torches. The windows appear to be replacements, but they mimic historic sash window styles. A two-story addition was added to the building in the 1950s. The addition references the red brick and delineated windows of the original portions of the building but reflects Modern architectural style characteristics.

A nearly identical school building (20) fronts Lafayette Street; it features a deep setback for the parking lot and a playspace. This parking lot once held a grassy pavilion with sidewalks leading to a central religious statue. The pavilion was repurposed once the school converted to use by FBC. A metal breezeway connects this two-story school building with the others on campus. The building was constructed of bricks with a pitched parapet across the three center bays. It is nine bays in length at the façade. The exterior six bays feature a regimented window patterns with narrower window sets at the central bays. The entry is obscured from the public ROW.

This one-story building (21) is within the 900 block of South Buchanan Street. It features a broad pitched roof framing a one-story entry with a flat roof. The horizontal feel of the building, the roof types, and the windows are indicative of its era of construction (It was constructed in 1954.). The now-general purpose center was built of red and black brick set in common bond. The roofs and eaves are now covered in sheet metal. The entry casement windows have been replaced and are set in aluminum frames. The doors similarly have been replaced. The current doors are metal and each contains a single pane of glass. The façade bays are irregular in length. Some panels are expanses of brick while others are recessed concrete-covered panels framing windows.

The building stretches five bays along Barry Street. The center three bays contain formerly-casement windows at the first and second stories; the outer bays lack the first story fenestrations. Some panes have been replaced with a/c units. Brick pilasters separate the bays. The building is rectangular in place.

Cypress Street
22. 124-128 East Cypress Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1945
Lafayette Central Business District

This commercial building fronts East Cypress Street and faces the modern Rosa Parks Transportation Center and the historic train depot. The building is divided into three portions – a concrete block garage fronting East Cypress Street, a metal and glass showroom also fronting East Cypress Street, and a metal warehouse/work area centered behind the garage and showroom. The portions form a generally T-shaped footprint. The warehouse is clad in sheet metal and is 1.5 stories in height. Small rectangular windows are set approximately 8 feet from the ground. Both pedestrian and garage doors provide access to the warehouse. The concrete block garage and showroom share a mid-century modern appearance and Art Moderne features with triangular projections between bays and a curved edge detail that frames the roof of the showroom and a cornice at the garage. The garage is divided into six bays. A vehicular garage door is set into the northern-most bay. The garage door is made of wood. The showroom is set to the north of the garage and is distinctive of mid-20th century automobile dealerships. The façade is divided into eight bays with a pedestrian door in the southern-most bay. The north elevation is divided into six narrower bays with three pedestrian doors visible. Many of the original windows have been boarded or are missing. In 1949, the building was used by J. Alfred Begnaud GMC.

23. 136 East Cypress Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This brick building faces the side elevation of the Rosa Parks Transportation Center. It is one-story in height with a flat roof. Parapets are visible at the side (north and south) elevations. The building contains both office and work space. The façade (west elevation) is divided into seven bays of irregular length. Five of the bays allow natural light to enter through 6-over-6-over-6 windows set in metal frames. The two southern bays bear a recessed entrance and a set of transom windows at the corner. The southern elevation contains small 4-over-4 windows and a single entrance. The main entrance consists of paired metal doors with small square windows.

Garfield Street

24. 209 Garfield Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1960
This freestanding commercial building is one story in height and has a flat roof. It was constructed of brick; the brick has been painted. The entrance is set in the center of the building. Windows flank the door and fixed, square windows are set above the panes. An independent set of windows is located close to the northwest elevation of the building and may have replaced an entrance. The building is rectangular in shape and sits atop a slab foundation.

25. 215-217 Garfield Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1960
This one-story, freestanding commercial building can accommodate two businesses. The northwest portion of the façade is plainer than the other and features only a glass entrance next to a brick wall. The glass door is set in plate glass. The southeast portion of the façade is divided into seven windows set in metal frames. The windows are reflective. Concrete blocks frame the whole of the façade. The roof of the rectangular building is flat and its foundation is a slab.

26. 223 Garfield Street (Caffery House) (contributing)
Date of Construction: 1886
The Caffery House is largely obscured from view at the public right-of-way by vegetation. It is a 2.5-story center hall residence. It is five bays across the façade. Stained glass is set into the panels of the French doors and in the transoms of the center doorways at the ground floor and at the second story to allow access to the gallery. The roof is hip and the house includes two brick chimneys. The building is clad in wood. It was constructed about 1886 and renovated in the early 1990s. The residence was constructed for Charles Caffery, father of Jefferson Caffery, an American ambassador to five countries between the 1920s and the 1950s, including France at the end of World War II.
The residence does not contribute to the district because its function is not commercial, institutional, or governmental. It was locally designated in 1993.

**Grant Street**

**27. 113 West Grant Street (contributing)**

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1925

This warehouse has been converted into a popular music club (photo #1). Although addressed on Grant Street, the building is oriented currently to the west (away from Grant Street) toward the associated parking lot; this reorientation likely occurred when the building was converted to a music venue. The original Grant Street elevation retains its historic appearance and fenestration pattern, but the doors and windows have been replaced to accommodate the change in use. It is one-story in height with a nearly square footprint. A covered porch stretches across the west elevation. The building is set on a pier foundation. It was constructed of brick with a flat roof. The rear (east elevation) of the building is five bays in length and contains three doors, including two garage doors. The side elevation windows are boarded and painted.

The Failla Brothers Wholesale Fruit and Produce Company used the building before it became Grant Street Dance Hall in 1980. As a music venue, Grant Street Dance Hall featured renowned Louisiana musicians, such as Clifton Chenier, Sonny Landreth, Zachary Richard, Irma Thomas, and Dr. John, as well as Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Ray Charles, and Bonnie Raitt.4

**28 and 29. [201] West Grant Street (contributing)**

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1965

This address contains two, one-story buildings. The northern building (28) is a ca. 1915 commercial building, likely a former commercial space, given the parapet roof, narrow rectangular footprint, and orientation towards the railroad. The north elevation has a brick façade with a parapet roof while the west elevation and roof are clad in corrugated metal panels.

The southern building (29) is a large warehouse-like building with multiple front gable roofs, an exterior clad in brick and metal panels, and an asymmetrical appearance. The main entrance for the building appears to be located at the south end of the northeast elevation; the entrance consists of a partially glazed door with a narrow overhand above. The rear portion of the building is a two-story brick building with a plain exterior. The first floor windows are boarded, but the second floor appears to retain original multipane windows.

**Rue Jefferson (Jefferson Street)**

**30. 106 Rue Jefferson (contributing)**

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1900

This two-story brick building was vacant at the time of survey. The building once was sheathed entirely in stucco but portions have been removed or fallen, exposing the original brick construction. By the early 1960s, the ground floor of the façade (southeast elevation) had been re-clad in faux stone panels and its windows have been covered by concrete. A metal door has replaced the original entrance. Three second story windows are 4-over-4 sash and shaded by metal awnings. The roof is flat behind a small rounded parapet. The building is rectangular in shape. The building held a dry cleaners in 1949.

**31. 108 Rue Jefferson (contributing)**

**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1945

This one-story brick building has stucco on the façade but the other elevations appear to be brick. The building is oriented to the southeast and fronts a section of Rue Jefferson/Jefferson Street that dips below the train overpass as the roadway enters downtown. It was vacant at the time of survey. Past occupants placed concrete over the façade (southeast elevation) storefront windows and replaced the original door with one

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4 Club listings for Grant Street Dance Hall, *The Daily Advertiser* (Lafayette, Louisiana), Various dates.
made of metal. Concrete also obscures the fenestrations across the southwest elevation. The roof is flat and the footprint is rectangular.

32. 200 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
The former Lafayette Auto Top Shop now holds a coffee house. The building is one-story in height behind a parapet façade. It was constructed of brick and has a rectangular footprint. The façade (southeast elevation) holds large storefront windows and a recessed entry. The original door has been replaced. A band of modern windows stretches across most of the northeast elevation.

33. 201 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1900
The brick building at the intersection of Rue Jefferson and East Cypress Street recently was renovated. The building is two stories tall and five bays in length at the façade (north-northwest elevation). Storefront windows stretch along Rue Jefferson and wrap onto the East Cypress Street elevation. Two glazed doors are located at the façade. A metal shed-style awning shades these lights. Five windows decorated with jack arches are located at the second story of the façade. The roof is hidden behind a small, flat parapet but appears to be flat. The second story windows on the main façade are two-over-two, double hung sash windows. The base of the building was constructed ca. 1900, but the building was enlarged at least twice (in the 1920s and 1940s). In 1940, the building was used as an auto sales and service store.

34. 207 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This one-story commercial building shares its walls with adjacent ones. Three modern single-pane windows are located to the northeast of the recessed entry. It has a flat roof and is rectangular in shape. The façade has been modified by the application of faux rusticated stone paneling that features a jack arch that has been painted; the finish obscures the original brick facade. While the modification date for the faux finish could not be determined, the treatment is typical of mid-twentieth century applied faux finishes.

35. 209 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1945
This one-story brick building was vacant at the time of survey. It has a flat roof and rests on a slab foundation. The building is rectangular in shape. The façade has been significantly modified to include a deep recess holding entrances to three commercial spaces. Paneling has been installed within the recess and at the façade. The façade features large, plate glass windows and modern doors with some glazing. In 1939, the building was used as a liquor store. Ten years later, the building was a sporting goods store.

36. 214 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1995
The Lafayette office of the Lemoine Company is one of the largest buildings in north downtown Lafayette and distinctive for its projecting windows and late twentieth century construction. The building has a rectangular footprint that is not evident by its façade (south elevation). It is four stories in height and features a flat and a shed roof. The paneled cladding and lines of the windows are key to highlighting the rectilinear feel of the construction. Windows are cantilevered over the main entrance. The building was constructed on the site of the Martin & Castille Funeral Home (operational in 1939).

37. 221 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1980
This commercial building fronting Rue Jefferson shares its east and west elevations with neighboring buildings. It was constructed of red brick and its parapet roof was designed to mimic a streamlined mansard look. The roof is covered in tiles designed to look like slate. The façade is nine bays in length with a center entrance. Jack arches are set above the fenestrations. The main entrance consists of paired modern commercial doors
of metal and glass. The windows are modern, six-over-six sash windows, several of which are obscured by shutters.

38. 222 Rue Jefferson (Attakapas Iron Works) (contributing)
Date of Construction: 1926
This two-story brick building was the site of the Attakapas Iron Works but has been converted into restaurant/commercial space. It was vacant at the time of survey. The façade has been modified during the period of significance to include glass bricks above the first-floor fenestrations. It appears the building may at one time have been covered in stucco but most of the original brickwork now sits exposed. The second story holds bands of sash windows. The primary entrance to the building is recessed at the intersection of Rue Jefferson and Vine Street. Sash windows span the second story as they extend along Vine Street. These windows are uniformly spaced and 1-over-1 sash in design. (See also 222 West Third Street)

39. 227-229 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
The façade of this broad, brick commercial building has been modified. The 227 storefront is covered in faux marble paneling with large plate-glass windows. The recessed entrance is centered and holds a glass door. The 229 storefront has been replaced with dark wood frames holding multi-pane windows. The entrance is off-center. Corrugated metal stretches across the second story of the façade to create a unified appearance. The building is rectangular and rests on a slab. A small parapet obscures the roof.

40. 302 Rue Jefferson (Evangeline Hotel)(contributing)
Date of Construction: 1928
The former Evangeline Hotel is a six-story building oriented towards the southeast (photo #2). Constructed in 1928, the building features Italian Renaissance Revival detailing at the top story, as evidenced through the blind arcades and double arch windows. Brick quoins frame the southeast and southwest corners of the building. The exterior is largely brick laid in running bond with stack bond headers in the spandrels, but the first floor exterior has been sheathed in stucco. The windows on the upper stories are three-over-three, double hung sash windows while the first floor has large storefront windows. To the west, the building has a one-story section with similar commercial windows, arched doorways, and a flat roof. This section of the building also has a stucco exterior. The rear addition to the building (109 Vine Street) is one-story in height, has a stucco exterior, and a flat roof. The building has a curved awning and window configuration to give it a vaguely Art Nouveau styling.

A one-story portion of the building extends towards the southeast of the main hotel block. The building has a symmetrical façade consisting of two large storefront windows flanked by paired, partially glazed doors; the doorways feature arched lights above. The building has a stucco façade, rectangular footprint, and a flat roof. The building’s plain façade does not have any notable architectural detail or ornamentation.

The Evangeline Hotel was a downtown landmark in Lafayette for generations. By 1949, a coffee shop also operated in the ground floor of the building. It was converted to use as a state office building in 1969.

The Evangeline Hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture in 1994. It is a locally designated historic property.

41. 307 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1920
Like many storefronts in downtown Lafayette, the original entrance to this commercial building is recessed and located in the center of the façade. A band of stylized concrete stretches across the façade just below the cornice. Transom windows are set above the ground floor storefront. The brickwork of this area has been replaced with wood frames holding paneled doors. A metal awning projects from the façade. The building is
rectangular and rests on a slab foundation. The parapet façade obscures the roof. Two large, plate glass windows flank the main entrance. The main entrance consists of paired, partially glazed wooden doors.

42. 310 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
Oriented towards the southeast, this one-story building has large storefront windows, a recessed entrance, and a stucco exterior. The primary façade features pilasters, plain horizontal bands, decorative figures, and a rounded projecting bay at the center. A sign for an earlier business remains on the southeastern façade. The building has a flat roof and rectangular footprint. The primary façade retains its historic mid-century appearance. In 1949, the building served as the office of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

43. 311 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This building is sheathed in stucco over the original brick. It features a small, rectangular parapet that obscures the roof from the public right-of-way. The building is rectangular in shape. Plate-glass windows stretch the length of the building at ground. Two glass doors, each off-set of center, provide entrance into two commercial spaces.

In 1949, Standards Electric & Plumbing Company operated at 309-311 Jefferson.

44. 313-315 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1890
This building features one of the more stylized cornices in downtown Lafayette. The cornices are constructed of dentils and recesses of differing sizes set into parallel bands. The building is more than two stories tall and was constructed of brick. Much of the original construction obscured by a stucco finish. The roof is flat. Single-pane storefront windows have been set into the ground floor. The glazed doors are modern.

45. 314 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This two-story building is oriented towards the southeast. The building does not exhibit any characteristics of a notable historic architectural style; the southeast elevation has a mix of materials, including stucco, two types of decorative metal panels, and tile. A shallow metal overhang runs the width of the building. The main entrance is off-center and located at the western end of the main façade; the doors appear to be modern replacements with no glazing. The building does not have any windows on the southeast elevation. The building has a rectangular footprint and flat roof. In 1939, the building was used by a tailor and Hillard's Café.

46. 317 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1960
The façade of this one-story building has been re-clad in narrow bricks. Opaque paneling has been installed above the plate glass, storefront windows. A cloth awning extends of the entrance, which is set flush with the sidewalk. This glass door is set to the northeast of center. The roof is flat and the building is rectangular in shape. It rests on a slab foundation. In 1949, a real estate office and insurance agency were recorded at this building; the property also was the location of Pelican Creamery.

47. 323 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1970
Dwyer's Café is located on the site of the long-time home of the Church of the Ascension, an Episcopal congregation. In the 1950s, the congregation constructed a new facility and vacated the downtown lot. The café features an irregular footprint but is rectilinear in design. Brick construction is located at the intersection of

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5 “History”, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Lafayette, Louisiana. Available online at https://www.ascensionlafayette.com/about/history/
Rue Jefferson and Garfield Street. This portion of the building features a metal roof that alternates between flat and shed in style. Sliding windows wrap the street-facing elevations. A large concrete block addition projects from the southeast elevation (rear). It features a flat roof. The Garfield Street elevation of this addition is decorated with a large mural.

48. 324 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1915
This commercial building has traditional storefront façade on the western half of the building, including awning, central entrance flanked by large windows, and signage above the awning at the second story level. The northeastern addition, constructed ca. 2005, is one story in height, has a shed roof, large windows, and cast iron columns. The building does not have characteristics of a particular historic architectural style. In total, the building has a largely rectangular footprint. The original, southwest elevation has arched windows and an exterior of brick laid in common bond; the brick on the southeast elevation has been obscured by later cladding additions of metal and stucco. The main entrance features modern, glazed doors.

49. 402 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1925
Oriented toward the southeast, this one-story commercial building has a curved façade and entrance set on the corner. The building has a plain exterior and does not have any characteristics of a notable of historic architectural style. The main portion of the building has a flat roof and low parapet, but the rear addition has a shed roof. The original section of the building is clad in brick, that has since been painted, but the rear addition is sheathed in siding. The storefront windows on the southeast elevation may be historic, but the ironwork security doors are likely a later addition. The main entrance doors are partially glazed.

50. 407-09 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1930
The building was constructed of concrete blocks covered in smooth stucco. It appears the roof is flat or nearly so behind a short parapet. The entrance to 407 Rue Jefferson is offset to the southwest of the center of the bay. Glass set in metal frames forms the modern door. Pilasters frame the door. A plate-glass window is to the southwest of the door with three plate-glass windows opposite. These windows do not reach the ground. The main entrance is paired modern commercial doors of glass and metal. Several single storefronts were constructed in the early 1900s but were demolished and then replaced. This building was the Royal Coffee Shop in 1949.

51. 408 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1935
This one-story building has a storefront façade with a recessed entrance and large plate glass windows. The façade is dominated by the large parapet sheathed in square metal panels. The current appearance is likely not original to the building, but a historic alteration. The western corner of the southeastern elevation has decorative feature of cubes projecting from a spine; this element likely served as signage in the past, but any letters have since been removed or painted over. The storefront windows have wooden frames and single panes of glass.

The addition added to the west (now addressed 410 Rue Jefferson) is a one-story commercial building with a façade of square metal panels similar to its neighbor. Constructed ca. 1935, the building has a recessed entrance flanked by areas that were once likely enclosed with windows, but now those portions of the building are enclosed by mid-century metalwork; any windows have since been removed. The building has a plain exterior and does not have any a characteristic of a historic or notable architectural style. In 1939, Roosevelt Tailors used the building.

At the rear of 408 Jefferson sits an addition that reaches South Buchanan Street (currently addressed 403 South Buchanan Street). Constructed ca. 1945, this two-story building is oriented towards the northwest. The
building has a plain exterior consistent with past use as a commercial space and does not possess any elements of a notable historic architectural style. The building is constructed of brick laid in common bond. The first floor windows have shallow arches, but the upper windows are flat. The windows largely appear to be replacements, like due to conversion of building to residential and retail spaces; the first floor windows retain a fenestration pattern consistent with the historic appearance of the building. The building has a recessed main entrance on the northwest elevation, flat roof, and asymmetrical façade. In 1949, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company identified the building as a garage. By 1968, the building had been repurposed into a furniture store. It has been modified into loft apartments. A review of historic aerials suggests the building retains its historic footprint, but this portion of the building is non-contributing.

52. 411 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1930
Plate-glass storefront windows span the lower portion of the bay addressed 411 Rue Jefferson interrupted only by a recessed center entrance. The door also is constructed of glass set in a metal frame. The one-story building has a parapet roof sheathed in stucco, commercial storefront façade, and awning. In 1939, Coco's Shoe Store operated at 411 Jefferson. The storefront was a watch and jewelry repair store in 1949.

53. 412 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1935
This one-story building has a parapet roof, stucco-clad exterior, and a symmetrical façade. The building retains its storefront appearance of a central door flanked by large, plate glass windows, but the doors and windows appear to be later replacements. The upper section of the parapet retains earlier architectural features, but the building does not exhibit notable architectural details. The building has a rectangular footprint and is oriented towards the southeast. The main entrance doors are typical modern commercial-type doors of metal and glass.

In 1939, both the Western Union Telegraph Company and Abdalla's, a local department store, were addressed 412 Jefferson. Abdalla still occupied the space in 1949.

54. 413 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of construction: ca. 1930
The 413 Rue Jefferson bay is plain. Its entrance is slightly offset from center surrounded by fixed panes set in aluminum frames. A small metal awning shades the entrance. The one-story building has a parapet roof sheathed in stucco.

55. 417 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1930
The rectangular building addressed 417 Rue Jefferson shares its northern elevation with 409-413 Rue Jefferson. The façade is divided into three large bays with entrances in the northern and southern bays. Each bay is divided into three pieces with plate glass windows and pilasters flanking the center. The center bay holds another plate glass window rather than a door. The horizontality of the building is enhanced by horizontal bands crowning each bay and a cornice stretches the length of the building. Similar to other buildings downtown, the façade has been covered in stucco. Small modern lamps are set within the bay divisions and at the terminuses of the façade. J.C. Penney Company operated out of this building in 1939.

56. 422 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1920
Clad in square panels similar to its neighbors to the east (408 and 410 Rue Jefferson), this commercial building also has a recessed entrance. The center is sited off center and flanked by large glass storefront windows. The height of the building could not be determined from the right-of-way as the parapet and neighboring buildings conceal the southeastern end of the building; the northwestern end appears to be one-story in height.
The building appears to be constructed of brick and has a rectangular footprint. A children’s clothing store operated in the building in 1949.

57. 423 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1910
This 1.5-story building shares its south elevation with the north elevation of 425 Rue Jefferson. The upper portion of the façade has been covered in smooth concrete. The lower portion of the façade is distinctly commercial. The recessed entrance is centered in the façade. Casement windows flank the entrance and are shaded by cloth awnings. Three curbed lamps project from just below the roofline to light the business name. In 1939, a small insurance agency operated at 419 Jefferson. It also held a florist.

58. 425 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1925
Stucco has been applied to the façade of the 1.5-story building addressed 425 Rue Jefferson. A set of three paired doors stretch across most of the first-floor façade. These multi-pane doors are framed in wood and flanked by small vertical lamps. A metal awning bisects the façade. The parapet roof rises to a point. The building is rectangular in shape.

In 1949, a variety shop called Horner’s used the building as its storefront.

59. 426 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1930
This one-story building has a rectangular footprint, plain exterior, and brick construction. The storefront façade features a recessed entrance, large windows, and a stone kickplate under the windows. The façade is slightly off center to accommodate a doorway on the westernmost bay; the door appears to be a modern replacement and the transom light has been removed. The building is not a notable architectural style.

60. 427 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This one-story commercial building has a rectangular footprint, parapet roof, and stucco façade. Recently renovated for a restaurant, the building’s gable roof is sheathed in metal panels. The primary façade, oriented towards the northwest and Rue Jefferson, has a band of windows and a single glass door, resulting in an asymmetrical appearance.

61. 428-30 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1910
A two-story building oriented towards the southeast, this building is currently used as a medical office; in 1939, the building was an optometrist office and as a watch and jewelry store. The brick building has a stucco façade, metal gallery with decorative railing, and a recessed entrance at the northernmost bay. The building has a rectangular footprint. One the primary façade, the second story windows, of single panes of glass with decorative muntins, are modern replacements, but the partially-glazed wooden door may be historic. The first floor windows, of fixed, 8-pane design, may be historic, but the partially-glazed doors may be later alterations. The building does not have a notable historic or architectural style.

62. 431 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1925
This one-story commercial building features a short parapet at Rue Jefferson. The pitched roof is visible from the public right-of-way. The plate glass storefront windows fronting the street are similar to many others in downtown Lafayette. The main entrance is a modern commercial door of metal and glass. The stucco finish now on the façade does not quite obscure the brick construction beneath. A metal awning projects 90 degrees from the façade. The building was vacant at the time of survey.
63. 433 Rue Jefferson (Maurice Heymann Building)(contributing)
Date of Construction: 1925
The Lafayette Science Museum opened in the former Maurice Heymann Department Store building in 1992. The rectangular building is one of the largest historic buildings in downtown Lafayette. It is three stories in height with a parapet roof. The first story of the building retains the plate glass storefront windows that characterize much of Lafayette, although many are covered in temporary stickers advertising the Museum. This story is shaded by a metal awning that projects perpendicular from the northwest and southwest building elevations (fronting Rue Jefferson and East Congress Street, respectively). The building footprint is irregular but rectilinear.

The second and third stories share many stylistic details. The corner at Rue Jefferson and East Congress Street is decorated with 4-over-4 hung windows set in sets of seven. The sets are paired to each side of the corner. A cornice decorated with geometric shapes is set above these windows. The cornice and the diamond motif visible in the walls are elements of the Art Deco style. The eaves of the building are accentuated with dentils. A large parapet faces Rue Jefferson.

The building is a locally designated historic property.

64. 434 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1920
Oriented towards the southeast, this two-story building is clad in a mix of materials (photo #3); the storefront on the first floor has a stone panel veneer, while the second story has a stucco cladding and the parapet is brick laid in common bond. The first floor storefront features, including the stone panels appear to be a mid-twentieth century alteration to an older building. The building has a balcony that appears to be a later addition; the balcony features brick supports and a metal railing. The rear portion of the building is only one-story in height, but a parapet wall runs the length of the southwest elevation to give the appearance of a two-story building for the entire footprint. The second story one-over-one windows appear to be historic; these windows feature transom lights with a diamond pattern. The first floor doors and windows are commercial in appearance, featuring large panes of glass.

65. 444 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1920
This two-story building is constructed of brick laid in running bond. The building is oriented towards the southeast. The southeast elevation is symmetrical, featuring a recessed entrance flanked by paired windows and sets of three windows above; at the time of the survey, the windows were concealed behind shutters. This building does not have the storefront appearance commonly found on the other buildings along Rue Jefferson. The exterior is fairly plain; jack arches above the windows and a prominent brick cornice are the only decorative elements. The building has a one-story addition to the northwest.

66. 500 Rue Jefferson (Old Guaranty Bank)(contributing)
Date of Construction: 1908
The former Guaranty Bank building exhibits characteristics of the Neoclassical style, including arched windows framed by Tuscan pilasters, entablature with modillions, and decorative keystones (photo #6). The most prominent feature, the domed entrance pavilion at the northeast corner, features many of these same details as well as Tuscan columns. The original fenestration patterns appear to be largely retained, even if many of the doors and windows are modern replacements; the southernmost bays on the southeastern elevation appear to be a modern alteration, but some effort has been made to reflect historic characteristics of the building. The windows on are largely one-over-one, double hung sash. The building is two stories in height, clad in brick laid in running bond, and has a rectangular footprint.

The Old Guaranty Bank was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture in 1984. It was locally designated in 1990.
67. 502 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1905

This building is currently part of the adjacent building, formerly the Old Guaranty Bank, but was constructed initially as a separate building. The building currently has a brick façade and cast stone features to match the adjacent portion of the building, including an arched entrance flanked by fixed large plate glass windows and engaged columns; the main entrance is a partially glazed two-leaf door. The building has a rectangular footprint and flat roof. A review of Sanborn maps suggest the two story building was constructed by 1906 and joined with the adjacent bank building by 1921. The building has one-over-one sash windows on the second floor.

This building is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture as part of the Old Guaranty Bank building. It is also locally designated. However, it was determined to be non-contributing to the Lafayette Central Business District due to the number of changes to the façade.

68. 516 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1965

This awning stretches across the entrance to a parking lot; it extends from 500 to 520 Rue Jefferson. It is supported by eight rectilinear piers. The structure is clad in stucco. The roof is straight but extends to a diamond-shape at the center before again narrowing to a line.

69. 501-505 Rue Jefferson (Levy Building) (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** 1907

The Levy Building bears a small sign at the northeast corner that states "Levy Bro's 1907." The façade is divided into three large bays; all three commercial storefronts were vacant at the time of survey. The plate glass storefronts are framed in smooth stucco. The exposed brickwork of the upper story has been painted white. Ten wood frames across the upper story hold 1-over-1 hung windows. The building is rectangular. Its roof is obscured by parapets to the façade and sides.

The Garfield Street elevation (north elevation) retains the buff color of the original brick. The bricks are laid in running bond. This elevation is five bays in length with windows of the same size and design at the upper story as those at the façade (Rue Jefferson elevation). Brick pilasters denote the bays. Small rectangular fenestrations are visible along the first story but the windows have been boarded.

In 1939, the building, then addressed 501-507 Jefferson, held a women's store called LaParisienne and the LaMode Dress and Shoe Shoppe. It also was the site of offices for four oil producers/shippers. There address was given simply as "Levy bldg." in the city directory. La Parisienne was still operational in 1949.

70. 509 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1910

The words "Teche Drugs Est. 1945" have been engraved into the finish of the façade of this two-story building fronting Rue Jefferson. The building is approximately 1-2 feet shorter than the commercial buildings to either side and projects approximately one foot more into the public right-of-way along Rue Jefferson. As with other storefronts in downtown Lafayette, the first story is decorated with plate glass windows to allow passers-by to peruse wares. A concrete fleur de lis is fixed between the engraved letters. It is flanked by free-floating cornices. The windows of the second story are plan in composition and framed by fixed shutters.

71. 511-15 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1905

The façade of this commercial building appears to have been subdivided into two storefronts but contains entrances for at least three entities. The southern third of the façade retains the exposed brick details across the upper story; the northern portions have been covered with stucco. The effort left the brick dentils exposed.
The windows of the southern third similarly retain the historic multi-pane configuration while the windows of the counterpart have been replaced with 1-over-1 hung units. Stucco has been applied across the entirety of the ground floor, including at the brick dentils. Large fleurs de lis have been adhered to the stucco. The commercial nature of the building is evident by the plate glass storefronts of the first story. The parapet obscures the roof. The building footprint is generally rectangular. A small addition is visible at the rear on aerial photos but is not visible from the public right-of-way.

In 1939, Donlon's Shoppe, a women's furnishing goods, and a florist were located in the building. Moore's Studio and Gift Shop was addressed 515 Jefferson. By 1949, both 513 and 515 were in use as shoe stores. The storefront addressed 511 housed a florist shop.

72. 520 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1910
This one-story commercial building has a plain exterior, recessed entrance, and parapet roof. The building's façade has been heavily modified, including the addition of a stucco cladding at the parapet, decorative siding at the entrance, and modern commercial doors of metal and glass. Oriented towards the southeast, the building has an irregular footprint, flat roof, and brick exterior on the northeast and northwest elevations. Large, plate glass windows frame the main entrance. The building does not exhibit any characteristics of a notable historic architectural style.

In 1939, the building was used by an osteopathic physician. By 1949, it was in use with a real estate office, a dentist, and a diamond dealer.

73. 522 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1910
Oriented towards the east, this one-story commercial building has a parapet roof, plain exterior, and flat roof. As with many of the buildings along Rue Jefferson, the building has characteristics that give it a storefront appearance, including a center doorway of two leaves of metal and glass flanked by large windows and plain parapet to allow for signage; the door and windows are likely later replacements. The building does not have a notable or historic architectural style. The building operated as a restaurant in 1949.

74. 523 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1960
The footprint of this commercial building reflects the bend in Rue Jefferson. The building's façade is curved; the rear of the building is narrower than the façade. The building was constructed of brick but concrete panels and banded windows have been installed across the façade. Metal awnings shade the lower story. A metal parapet has been added to the south elevation.

75. 524 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
This one-story commercial building is oriented towards the east. The brick building has a plain exterior, recessed entrance, and barrel awning on the east elevation. Stone veneer panels are extant on the north and south ends of the east elevation. Alterations to the primary façade include modern doors, addition of a brick veneer on the lower portions of the exterior walls, and changes to the fenestration pattern. The building has a rectangular footprint and a flat roof. The building has modern doors with fan lights as the main entrance points.

76. 532 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1930
The commercial storefront on this one-story building has a recessed entrance, large plate glass windows, and tiled kickplates. The main entrance if a typical glazed commercial door, likely modern replacements. The parapet has been stuccoed; ghost marks for previous decorative paint or signage are extant. The building has
a rectangular footprint and is oriented towards the east. The exterior is plain; the building does not have any notable features associated with a historic architectural style.

**77. 533 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)**
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1925
The entrance to this 1.5-story brick commercial building is located in the southern-most bay of the four bays visible at the façade. The remaining bays at ground level are sliding single-pane windows. The entrance and windows are recessed behind an arcade. The façade has been covered in smooth stucco. The roof appears to be flat. The northern elevation has been capped with a sheet metal parapet. The rectangular footprint of the building is consistent with most of the Rue Jefferson streetscape. In 1939, the building was used as an insurance agency.

**78. 534 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)**
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1980
This two-story commercial building has a heavily remodeled east façade. The upper portion is clad in stucco with a bank of two-over-two double hung sash windows; the windows are not on center. The lower portion of the building has a brick façade, arched openings, and a recessed entrance. The building has a modest brick cornice. And external staircase is tucked into the southern corner of the covered area. The main entrance appears to have replacement doors and windows. The building does not have any characteristics of a historic architectural style. In the 1940s, the property was the site of a movie theater according to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company.

**79. 535 Rue Jefferson (contributing)**
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1925
The façade of this 1.5-story commercial building has been covered with stucco. The finish obscures the ridges of the masonry but follows the contours of the ornamentation included in the original brickwork. The red brick is visible at the south elevation. The building has been subdivided into two businesses. A metal awning shades the southern entrance, which is made of glass and adjacent to two plate glass windows. The northern entrance also is made of glass but is flanked by plate glass to either side. The façade has a small parapet. It is assumed the roof of the rectangular building is flat. In 1939, the building was used as an insurance agency. It was a jewelry and clothing storefront in 1949.

**80. 538 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)**
**Date of Construction:** ca. 2015
This one-story building has a rectangular footprint and is oriented towards the east. The primary façade features storefront details, including space for signage above the awnings and large plate glass windows. The building appears to have been recently renovated, including replacement doors and windows, but the plain pilasters may be original to the building. The main entrance is a two leaf door of glass and metal. The main façade is sheathed in stucco. The building does not possess any features of a notable or historic architectural style.

This building extends to South Buchanan Street and fills the width of the block. The South Buchanan portion is a two-story brick building is oriented towards the west. The façade has modern commercial door on the center axis, flanked by large plate glass windows and surmounted by a stylized awning. The second floor has a band of small square windows. A narrow brick cornice serves as a decorative feature on the west elevation. The west elevation is almost symmetrical, save a door on the southernmost bay. The building has a rectangular footprint.

Two portions of the building (538 Jefferson and 615 South Buchanan) were heavily damaged by a fire in 1969 and were subsequently rebuilt.6

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81. 537 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
**Date of Construction:** ca. 2015
Constructed ca. 2016, the restaurant (537 Rue Jefferson) is one-story in height and clad in horizontal wood planks. The building is oriented south but has an entrance facing west toward Rue Jefferson. A porch extends north from the rear (north elevation). The windows of the south elevation of 5-over-2 glass panes set in wood frames and the west elevation entrance doors are multi-paned.

82. 539 Rue Jefferson (Parc de Lafayette) (non-contributing)
**Date of Construction:** 1986 (1933)
Parc de Lafayette is a small park sandwiched between commercial buildings fronting Rue Jefferson and the Parc Auto du Centre-Ville (parking garage). The park was constructed ca. 1985 during the mayorship of Dud Lestrapes and was one of several community planning and development implemented during his administration. The gazebo (non-contributing structure) is located at the southern park boundary. It was constructed as a cupola for the St. Mary's Orphanage Central Dormitory Building constructed in 1933. The City of Lafayette salvaged the cupola and moved it to Park de Lafayette when the orphanage building was demolished in 1986. Portions of St. Mary's still exist on West Saint Mary Boulevard and were locally designated in 1996. The gazebo is octagonal and supported by four round, metal posts. The cornice is decorated with diamonds and the roof is covered in terra cotta tiles than have been painted brown. A squared vent projects up from the center of the octagonal roof. It is capped with a ball.

83. 544-46 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1920
This two-story brick building may now be joined with its neighbor to the south (548 Rue Jefferson), given the similar exterior treatments (photo #7). This brick building has a stucco exterior, recessed entrance, and a cornice with dentil details. The windows on the second floor appear to be modern replacements of a fixed style with multiple panes. The entrance has been modified to accommodate the new use of the building as a medical office. The building has a rectangular footprint. In 1949, a men's sportswear and a hat store operated at out of this building.

84. 547-549 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1930
The one-story commercial building appears to have a flat roof. It shares its south elevation with the adjacent building. Parc du Lafayette is located in the lot to the north. There are no windows facing the park. Plate glass windows dominate the façade (west elevation) and clearly denote the building as commercial in use. A small metal roof projects 90 degrees from the façade to partially shade the windows. Glass doors are located in the center of the façade. Champagne Jewelry used the 547 Jefferson storefront in 1949. In 1939, 549 Jefferson was the site of the De Luxe Café. It was a bar in 1949.

85. 548 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1920
A two-story building oriented towards the east, the building may now be joined with its neighbor to the north (544-46 Rue Jefferson), given the similar exterior treatments. The exterior has been sheathed in stucco and the windows and door have been replaced, but the second story retains a few general architectural features. The fenestration patterns appear to be altered to accommodate modern commercial usage. The first floor windows are large, plate glass windows while the second floor appear to be fixed, but possess individual panes. The building has a rectangular footprint.

86. 551 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1925
This two-story commercial building was vacant at the time of survey. Like many on Rue Jefferson, it shares its north and south elevations with neighboring buildings. It was constructed of concrete blocks. The façade (west
87. 555 Rue Jefferson (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1925
This 1.5-story commercial building shares north and south elevations with the neighboring buildings. It was constructed of concrete blocks and decorated with rusticated concrete quoins at the southern façade (west elevation) corner. Two narrow bands of rusticated concrete blocks are set beneath a cornice decorated in a floral motif. The parapet roof obscures the roof. A one-room entrance projects from the northern corner of the façade. A large plate glass building is set into the façade adjacent to the entrance. The plate glass and the adjacent hung windows are shielded by a metal awning.

In 1939, the building was used as General Office Supply Company and as a real estate office.

88. 556 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1980
Jefferson Tower is an 8-story modern office building in downtown Lafayette. The building has glass curtain walls on the east and west elevations. The north and south elevations include glass and metal panels; the north elevation has a mural of 1950s-era automobiles. The center portion of the building projects above the flanking sections to the east and west, allowing for a roof deck and enclosed atrium. The building is oriented towards the east and has a recessed entrance.

89. 557 Rue Jefferson (Moss Building) (contributing)
Date of Construction: ca. 1885, significant addition in 1906
The Moss Building occupies the corner of Rue Jefferson and Rue Vermilion Est (East Vermilion Street). The building features a corner entrance at the intersection. Owner Nathaniel Moss added an upper story of rusticated concrete blocks in 1906. Flat concrete quoins accentuate the building's corners. A pressed concrete cornice is visible at the juncture of the flat roof and street-facing elevations. A metal awning bisects the building.

The first story is much plainer than the second and is covered in a smooth stucco. Four sets of narrow French doors punctuate the south and west elevations. Shutters constructed of vertical boards cover the doors. The primary entrance are replacements.

In 1939, J. Alfred Mouton, Inc., an insurance company, operated in Suite 207 of the Moss Building. Suite 203 was used by a geologist. A bar operated in the building in 1949 and Suite 202 was used by a tax service company.

The building is a locally designated historic property.

90. 600 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1975
The Chase Bank Building is a 15-story building in downtown Lafayette designed by local architect Don J. O'Rourke. The building has a largely square footprint and a large parking garage connected to the west. The exterior of the building is clad in stucco. The recessed entrance on the east elevation feature partially glazed doors. The first and second floor on the west façade feature narrow vertical bands of windows, but the upper floors have rectangular windows framed by beveled reveals, giving the building a distinctive appearance for Lafayette. The building has a flat roof and small penthouse that likely houses mechanical equipment. The associated parking garage has eight levels above grade, steel construction, and open elevations.

91. 625-627 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)
**Date of Construction: Ca. 1925**

This 2.5-story, freestanding commercial building was constructed of brick and appears to have a flat roof. It was constructed of red brick. A two-story gallery dominates the façade and partially obscures fenestration across the second story. The gallery is supported by round, metal poles with small crowns. The roof of the gallery appears to be modern sheet metal. The roof is hip and set atop small brackets. Plate glass windows are spread across the first story of the façade. No windows are visible at the side (north and south) elevations at the first story. In 1949, a photo studio operated at 625 Jefferson.

92. 631 Rue Jefferson (Grado Building) (contributing)

**Date of Construction: 1890**

Portions of the Grado Building were constructed as early as 1890, but little of these elements are visible. The Grado Family modified the house into a commercial building by constructing a brick addition to the north of the original structure. A bold parapet distinguished this portion of the building. The family later constructed a second brick addition to the south of the original structure to serve as a residence (ca. 1930). This portion bears a front gabled roofline. The entire building has since been covered in stucco and sheet metal added to the roof. The building is oriented west toward Rue Jefferson. Stucco obscures the foundation. In 1949, the building held Jr.’s Café.

The Grado Building was locally designated in 2008.

93. 700 Rue Jefferson (contributing)

**Date of Construction: Ca. 1970**

The second story projects slightly over the first floor in this building on Rue Jefferson (photo #9). The building has a square footprint, narrow windows, and a recessed entrance. The first floor exterior is clad in bricks while the second floor is sheathed in stucco. The main entrance features paired modern commercial doors flanked by large windows. The building has a flat roof.

94. 705 Rue Jefferson (former Federal Building/United States Courthouse) (contributing)

**Date of Construction: Ca. 1955**

The former federal courthouse building is four stories tall, has a flat roof, and is oriented towards the west. The light tan brick exterior is laid in common bond with sixth row headers. A geometric decorative pattern is achieved on the façade through the shallow projection of certain bands of bricks. The first floor façades features a band of plate glass windows and metal louvers, while the upper floors have regularly spaced metal windows. The west elevation has two entrances with glass doors and metal overhangs. The rear portion of the building is also clad in brick, but a perforated metal screen covers the north elevation. The entrance on this elevation has a glass door flanked by windows and a decorative canopy.

This building has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Downtown Lafayette Civic Complex.

95. 730 Rue Jefferson (contributing)

**Date of Construction: ca. 1900**

This two-story former house features a gable-on-hip roof sheathed in asphalt shingles, clapboard exterior, and brick pier foundation. The windows appear to be modern replacements but retain the general location and fenestration pattern of the originals. The partial width two-story porch appears to have modern metalwork, but the columns may be historic. The building does not retain any details of a notable or historic architectural style. In 1939, a tire dealer and repair store operated at 730 Rue Jefferson. The building later was a physician's office and a dentist in 1949.

96. 734-40 Rue Jefferson (contributing)

**Date of Construction: Ca. 1940**

Lafayette Central Business District  
Lafayette Parish,  
Louisiana  

Name of Property  
County and State
This one-story commercial building features a brick exterior, flat roof, and rectangular footprint. The building is subdivided into 3 discrete commercial spaces. Oriented towards the east, the primary façade features an awning over the northernmost bay and storefront featuring large plate glass windows. The southeast corner has an angled, corner store entrance facing to the southeast. The building is plain in appearance and does not have any notable or historic architectural style. The doors are of modern commercial design in glass and metal.

In 1949, a restaurant operated at 736 Jefferson.

97 and 98. 735 Rue Jefferson (Lafayette (Second) City Hall))  (contributing)

Date of Construction: 1939

The Art Deco-style former City Hall (97) is located at the intersection of Rue Jefferson and Lee Avenue (photo #16). The limestone-clad building is oriented towards the southeast; the parcel features a small park and statue (98, contributing object). The two-story building has a symmetrical façade and the three center bays project from the flanking sections. The primary entrance has paired glazed doors with a decorative screen above. Many of the windows appears to be replacements.

The building was locally designated in 2007. This building has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Downtown Lafayette Civic Complex. The nomination includes a “civic monument” sited to the south of the building; this monument is within the boundaries of Le Centre and is included a contributing object connected to the former federal courthouse.

The adjacent building (addressed 731 Rue Jefferson) was constructed as an addition in 1956. This two-story brick building used to be used as the City of Lafayette Police Department. It is located to the north of the second Lafayette City Hall (see 735 Rue Jefferson). The building was constructed of blonde brick with the second story cantilevered above the first. Red panels decorate the façade (west elevation) of the cantilever. The entrance is a simple glass door framed by plate-glass windows set in metal frames. The roof is flat and no windows are visible at the side (north and south) elevations. It is rectangular in shape and rests on a slab foundation.

99. 802-12 Rue Jefferson (non-contributing)

Date of Construction: Ca. 1950

This building currently serves as a hotel with a separate business occupant on the ground floor. It is two stories tall and covered in rough stucco. The roof appears to be flat. All visible windows are modern with decorative muntins; most of those on the ground floor are shuttered. The windows of the upper story are fixed and hold four panes. The primary entrance is located at the intersection of Rue Jefferson and West Main Street. It is deeply recessed with multi-pane storefront windows to the north of the modern glass door. The building was significantly modified in the past decade for the opening of the hotel. A music store operated at 802 Jefferson in 1949.

Lafayette Street

100. 811 Lafayette Street (contributing)

Date of Construction: Ca. 1880

This Queen Anne cottage is set on a brick pier foundation with an L-shaped footprint. Like many Queen Anne cottages, the facing bay is convex with 1-over-1 hung windows set into each of the elevations. A partial-width, covered porch stretches along the primary facade. A second convex bay is set at the opposite bay. The roof is covered in sheet metal. The residence is clad in wood boards. An entrance with a replacement door is located beneath the porch.

101. 825 Lafayette Street (non-contributing)

Date of Construction: Ca. 2000

This two-story office building is addressed on Lafayette Street and fronts a fenced parking lot. The southern elevation of the building is flush with the streetbed along West Vermilion Street. It stretches nine bays at Lafayette Street and four at West Vermilion. The building features a flat roof and is covered in a textured
concrete. It is two stories in height. The footprint is S-shaped with a small projection to the east. These bays feature a projecting entry toward Lafayette Street as well. This portion also has an irregular fenestration pattern incongruous with the rest of the building. A two-story entry pavilion with squared gallery projects from the southern elevation toward Lafayette Street.

102. 907 Lafayette Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1915
This small residence-turned-office was constructed between 1912 and 1921. It was in use as an office by 1949. Colonial Revival details have been added to the entrance. The building is clad in planks and the roof is covered in sheet metal. The façade is divided between a gable end and another bay. This bay holds a plate glass window flanked by small 4-pane windows. The entrance to the building is set into the gable end. It is topped by a broken pediment and framed by windows and pilasters. A small porthole window is set into the gable.

103. 1005 Lafayette Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1965
The footprint of this one-story commercial building is nearly square. It is set on a slab foundation and its roof is flat. The primary entrance is recessed and set in the center of the façade (west elevation). A second entrance, far more plain in appearance, is set to the east of the primary entrance. The bricks of the exterior cladding are set in vertical stacks of running bond.

104. 1017 Lafayette Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
The façade of this one-story brick building is a modern alteration. The original construction was rectangular in shape and was constructed of red brick. No windows are visible at the side elevations. The addition was constructed of blonde brick. The entrance is largely obscured by the arcade. It has a flat roof and a slab foundation.

105. 1019 Lafayette Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1975
The original construction has been covered and obscured by the additional of rough stucco to the exterior. A wood door serves as the primary entrance; it is deeply recessed and modern. Multi-pane windows are set in the centers of the façade (west elevation) bays. The roof is flat.

Main Street
106. 109 East Main Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This one-story, freestanding commercial building contains Pat's Downtown, a local restaurant and bar. The building is oriented south toward East Main Street, but patrons generally enter on the west elevation beneath the large porch roof. The flat-roofed building was constructed of brick and bears a largely rectangular footprint. Plate glass windows on the south elevation frame the paneled doors. These features are shaded by an awning. In 1939, the building was used as a feed store. From 1949 to 1958, the building was a printing shop.

107. 111 East Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1985
This two-story office building replaced a parking lot constructed after the demolition of a grocery. The extant building was constructed of concrete block but the façade (south elevation) is decorated with brick. Arches frame the second story windows and open archways provide access to the building entrances. Small balconies are provided at each of the upper-floor windows. The roof appears to be flat.

108. 115 East Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1965
This one-story building is oriented south toward East Main Street. It shares its eastern wall with 119 East Main Street. The building was constructed of brick. The façade (south elevation) includes a stucco frame. The entrance is recessed but flush with the adjacent plate-glass windows. Horizontal panels form a decorative element as does a set of four windows set vertically at the eastern edge of the façade. The roof appears to be flat. In 1949, the building was used as Lafayette Music & Piano House. In 1958, the building was used as an attorney’s office and the headquarters of the Acme Brick Company.

109. 115 West Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1985
This two-story building has a brick exterior and a rectangular footprint. Oriented towards the north, the primary façade features arched openings on the first and second floors, as well as on the arcade over the sidewalk. The north elevation also features decorative metalwork and security grilles, as well as a pent roof covered in barrel tiles and brackets. And older building may be encased within these alterations, but it was impossible to determine from the right-of-way. The building does not possess any elements of a notable or historic architectural style. The doors and windows are modern. In 1958, the lot was used as a photography studio.

110. 119 East Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955, ca.
This two-story building has a heavily modified East Main Street façade; the modifications occurred outside the period of significance. The façade (south elevation) has been covered in stucco and given a parapet. The first-floor entrance is recessed. The second story plate-glass windows are hidden by horizontal bars. The building is two stories in height, has a flat roof, and a rectangular footprint.

111. 123 East Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: ca. 1955
This two-story building has a flat roof, rectangular footprint, and brick exterior. This two-story, freestanding commercial building is located at the corner of East Main and Polk streets. It is oriented south. The eastern façade has restrained decoration. A flat roof wraps the corner of the brick building to shade the entrance. A series of ribbon windows are visible at the second story. A series of tiled panels and ribbon windows indicate the bays of the east elevation. In 1958, most of the offices in the building were used by oil operators. One was used by a life insurance company.

112. 124 East Main Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955
A sign for the Acadiana Center for Film and Media is located above the entrance of this irregularly shaped brick building. The footprint reflects its location at the intersection of East Main Street and Lee Avenue. The building roof is flat. The bricks are pale in color. Bands of ribbon windows stretch across the upper portions of the building at the Lee Avenue and East Main Street elevations. The doors are made of glass and flanked by window units that have been boarded. In 1958, the building was used as the Lafayette Public Library.

113. 201 East Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1985
This modern building was constructed of red brick. Its footprint is nearly square and its roof is flat. The entrance is located near the west side of the façade (south elevation). The bays to the east of the entrance are similarly recessed and hold windows within decorative wood panels. A slab foundation supports the construction. In 1958, the lot was listed as the site of a pet store.

114. 201 West Main Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955
This office building is located at the intersection of West Main and South Buchanan streets. It measures six bays along West Main Street and seven along South Buchanan Street. The building is two stories in height and was constructed of darkly colored brick. Recessed bays of windows and concrete paneling are set between
brick walls. The windows are covered in a reflective coating and set into metal frames. The entrances are located along West Main Street. Concrete panels in a design popular in the mid-twentieth century are set above the doors. The roof of the building is flat. A concrete panel is cantilevered above a door on South Buchanan Street. In 1958, the offices were used by lawyers.

115. 202 West Main Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1860
This brick two-story building has been heavily remodeled since its original construction. Currently, the building has a stucco cladding but exposed brick side elevations, an ironwork gallery, and a symmetrical façade. The first floor openings are arched while the second floor lintels are flat, but with decorative stucco treatments to give them an arched appearance. Wooden shutters obscure the windows. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

116. 207 West Main Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1870
This three-bay shotgun is one of the few residences left in downtown Lafayette, although it currently is used as commercial space. It is rectangular in shape and rests on a pier foundation. The primary entrance is located in the western-most bay of the façade. The other bays hold 2-over-2 wood-framed sash windows. The hip roof is covered in metal. The building is clad in wood planks. The windows and doors are shaded with cloth awnings. The building was used by attorneys as office space in 1949 and 1958.

117. 208-212 West Main Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1955
This one-story building was constructed of thin bricks set in running bond. Their exposed side is rough. The roof is flat and the fascia is encased in metal. A set of glass blocks are set in the center of the façade. Large storefront windows and a glass entrance decorate the façade. The building is rectangular in shape and rests on a slab foundation. The entrances to the building are recessed. Recessed, fixed windows are visible at the west elevation. These windows are 4-over-4 in design. In 1958, the building was known as the Bertrand Building. It held offices for attorneys, insurance agents, real estate interests, bookkeepers, and the Crescent Aircraft Puerto Rico, Inc.

118. 211-215 West Main Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1955
This one-story brick building retains some hallmarks of mid-20th century design such as a horizontality, faux marble paneling, and plate-glass windows, but is generally plain. The building measures five bays at the façade. It rests on a slab foundation. The eastern three bays project slightly into the right-of-way. Fixed transoms are located above the entrances. In 1949, several attorneys rented space at 215 West Main Street but that building was demolished after 1949. In 1958, the extant building was used by Saloom & Trice Attorneys.

119. 217 West Main Street (La Vieille Marie/Old City Hall)(contributing)
**Date of Construction:** 1898
This two-story Italianate building was designed by local architect George Knapp and was once used as Lafayette's first City Hall (photo #12). While the red brick on the side elevations is laid in common bond, the façade features larger, darker red brick laid in running bond. The façade also features the decorative use of tan brick as quoins, in the arches over the windows, and along the cornice. The building is 3 bays wide; the main entrance is located on the westernmost bay. The most notable architectural feature is the small, curved wooden balcony at the center bay of the second floor; the balcony features a balustrade, large arched opening, and inverted funnel roof. The 1-over-1, wooden double hung sash windows appear original, as do the wooden doors. In 1958, the building was used by the City and Parish Civil Defense.

The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and was locally designated in 1990.
120. 221 West Main Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This one-story brick building is freestanding. It is rectangular in shape, has a flat roof, and rests on a slab foundation. The façade is quite plain. A glass entrance is recessed from the public right-of-way. It is framed by single-pane windows. Plain ceramic tiles fill the floor of the exterior entry. In 1958, the building was used as attorneys' offices.

121. 225 West Main Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1980
This one-story building was constructed of brick and is set on a slab foundation. It has a flat roof and a generally rectangular footprint. Only the façade (north elevation) is decorated. Three arched fenestrations are set in the center of the façade. The west inset holds the primary entrance. The other two hold plate glass, arched windows. Mechanical equipment is visible on the roof of the building. In 1958, the lot was the site of a feed store.

Polk Street
122. 110 Polk Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1955
The one-story brick building near the intersection of Polk and Garfield streets includes a large outdoor gathering space surrounded by a concrete block fence. The building is rectangular in shape. The façade is a series of narrow plate glass windows set in metal frames. Glass doors are located at each end of the façade. The roof of the building is flat. A wooden awning projects northeast into the outdoor seating area. In 1958, the building was used by a finance office.

Second Street
123. [105] West Second Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1880
This two-story building is located near the railroad line. The building is oriented towards the northwest and has a rectangular footprint. The exterior brick has been laid in common bond with sixth row headers. The exterior is fairly plain and likely has been altered; shallow arches over the windows and ornamental brickwork at the corners are the sole decorative feature. The southwest façade features a pent roof supported by wooden brackets and a loading dock. Several windows have been boarded or infilled with brick. The rear section of the building is only one story in height but is also of brick construction.

Third Street
124. 203 West Third Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1900
This two-story commercial building is located to the rear of 222 Rue Jefferson and bears similar proportions and design. Sash windows span the second stories of each buildings as they extend along Vine Street. These windows are uniformly spaced and 1-over-1 sash in design. A pedestrian entrance and single-pane windows are set in irregular spacing along the first floor of this elevation. The original brickwork pattern of the construction is visible along this elevation.

Vermilion Street
125. 100 East Vermilion Street (Gordon Hotel)(contributing)
Date of Construction: 1904, remodeled 1928
The former Gordon Hotel was designed by New Orleans firm Favrot & Livaudais with local assistance from architect George Knapp. The four story building has an exterior clad in stucco but exposed brick quoins. Exposed bricks are also found in the jack arches over the windows, barrel arches over the upper windows, and a decorative band at the upper story. Decorative features concentrated along the parapet include a cartouche framed by floral swags, stylized guttae, and floral motifs framed in diamonds; the fourth floor is notably different
in architectural ornament and style. The first floor features decorative bands within the stucco as the primary ornament. Large storefront windows line the first floor, while the upper stories have 9-over-2 double hung sash windows. The building has a rectangular footprint.

The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in 1984.

126. 101 West Vermilion Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1950
The current Acadiana Center for the Arts consists of two parts: the older stone clad section on Jefferson Street and the newer, glass and metal sheathed portion to the west on West Vermilion Street. The original section, a former bank, features cladding in two types of stone, fixed windows with deep reveals, and a flat roof. A decorative figure of a man in colonial-era military garb, likely the Marquis de Lafayette, is located on the northeast corner of the building. The later, ca. 2005 addition of the building has darker stone cladding at the lower levels, referencing the older portion of the building, but the exterior mix of glass and metal, recessed entrance, and large commercial vehicle access on the west end are a notable break from the earlier portions of the building. The building has an irregular footprint.

127. 114-18 West Vermilion Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1940
This two-story brick building is oriented towards the south. The first floor of the building has large plate glass windows, recessed entrances, and awnings; these features contribute to the overall commercial appearance of the building. Modern commercial windows and doors line the exterior of the first floor. The second floor has seven bays of plain windows, but the westernmost bay features a round window. Decorative details on the south elevation include cornices and stucco scored to look like stone blocks on the first floor. The building has a rectangular footprint. The building does not possess any characteristics of a notable or historic architectural style.

128. 116 East Vermilion Street (Hope Lodge #145)(contributing)
Date of Construction: 1917
This two-story brick building is oriented north toward East Vermilion Street and faces the Parc Auto du Centre-Ville. It was constructed in 1916 as Hope Lodge #145, a masonic fraternal organization active in Lafayette since the 1850s. The lodge was constructed on the grounds of the previous lodge. Lodge activities still continue in the building, though most of the space has been converted to restaurant and special event use.

Designed by locally significant architect George B. Knapp, the façade of the lodge is five bays wide with dual façade (north elevation) entrances. Arches are set above the doors. The brickwork is red with the exception of the quoins which are buff. The windows are capped with decorative cornices. A small, one-story room projects from the west elevation. The roof of the building appears to be flat.

Hope Lodge #145 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture in 1983. It was designated locally in 1990.

129. 121 West Vermilion Street (Lafayette Hardware)(contributing)
Date of Construction: 1890
The former Lafayette Hardware building has a high degree of materials integrity (photo #8). Oriented towards the north, the symmetrical north elevation features pressed tin cladding, fixed awning, large storefront windows, partially glazed wooden doors, and cast iron decorative details. The architectural detailing at the parapet include floral and geometric patterns, fleur-de-lis, modillions, and a swag motif at the pediment. The west and south elevations are sheathed in wooden siding and retain their double-hung wooden sash windows. The side gable roof is covered in corrugate metal. Given the decorative detailing and paired wooden doors on the second floor, the building likely had a balcony or gallery at some point; this feature is no longer extant.
The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and is locally designated.

130. 121 East Vermilion Street (Parc Auto du Centre-Ville) (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: ca. 1985
Parc Auto du Centre-Ville is a large, modern parking garage in downtown Lafayette. The garage is four stories in height and was constructed of concrete. Pedestrian access to the garage is given by a 4-5 story brick stairwell.

131. 200 West Vermilion Street (Edgar G. Mouton Building) (contributing)
Date of Construction: Ca. 1930
The Edgar G. Mouton Building faces the intersection of West Vermilion and South Buchanan streets (photo 14). Pedestrian entrances are visible at each street front (south and east elevations) and in the clipped corner (southeast elevation). The building was constructed of brick with a prominent entrance rising into a parapet. This corner feature was constructed of concrete. Plate-glass storefront windows line the first story while smaller, single pane replacements are visible at the second story. The building roof is presumed flat. A modern metal/glass door is set into the corner. The window of second story is fixed and divided into three sections with fixed transoms atop each. The building was constructed for the use of Louisiana State Senator Edgar G. Mouton.

See also 626 South Buchanan Street.

132. 200 East Vermilion Street (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: ca. 1940, 1960
This one-story building has an irregular footprint and a flat roof. The building is clad in a mix of materials, including brick, clapboard siding, and concrete block. The westernmost section appears to be constructed of brick; two of the opening have arched tops. A small brick building sits at the southwestern portion of the property; it has a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The building has an asymmetrical appearance, large vehicular-size openings on the north elevation, and altered doors and windows.

133. 201 West Vermilion Street (contributing)
Date of Construction: 1922
The Poché Building is a modern moniker for this building at the corner of West Vermilion and South Buchanan streets. It is among the more ornamental in downtown Lafayette. Constructed of red brick, a recent renovation highlights the decorated cornices, window sills, and entrances through colored paints. Windows across the first and second stories are 4-over-4 sash. The building features a flat roof.

The building features dual facades – one facing north toward West Vermilion Street and another facing east toward South Buchanan. Each entrance is shaded by a large wooden balcony. A third entrance at the southeast corner of the building has been removed and bricked over.

From 1920 to 1948, this building served as a showroom for various automobile dealerships. It was used by other commercial interests until 1996 when renovated into office space.

The Poché Building was locally designed in 2000.

134. 201 East Vermilion Street (Parc Sans Souci) (non-contributing)
Date of Construction: ca. 2000
Parc Sans Souci is a modern park atop an area formerly populated with residences. The park is largely covered in concrete and brick but has many maturing trees. A large gazebo (150) is in the center of the park. In 2014, the city installed a large sign reading "LAFAYETTE" as a park focal point. The park also has a water play space for children. "Sans Souci" means "without care" in French and is the name of a large property that once was present in the area (see also 219 East Vermilion Street).
135. 205 West Vermilion Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1915
This one-story commercial building has been subdivided to accommodate two businesses. It is oriented north toward West Vermilion Street. The façade (north elevation) is unified by the red color of the bricks and a stretch of cornice decorated with dentils that extends the length of the flat roof. The western portion of the building is relatively plain, except the cornice, and features only two glass pedestrian doors, both replacements, and two windows, one large and one smaller. The upper façade of the eastern portion contains four shuttered windows above a flat metal awning. The awning shades a modern garage door and plate-glass storefront.

136. 210-212 East Vermilion Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** Ca. 1910
This one-story brick building is oriented towards the north and East Vermillion Street. The tan brick is largely laid in running bond, but the pattern is altered for decorative purposes at the parapet and the cornice. Large storefront windows mark the commercial use of this property; one may have been altered as it is missing the arched doorways found at the other bays. Narrow clerestory windows run the width of the building. The doors and windows may be later replacements, but they are in keeping with the historic character of the building. The building has a square footprint. In 1939, a medicine manufacturer operated at 210 East Vermillion Street. By 1949, the building was in use by as a printing shop for the *Tribune* and retains its distinctive neon sign.

The building is a local historic property.

137. 213 West Vermilion Street (non-contributing)
**Date of Construction:** ca. 2000
This modern commercial building occupies an area that once served as a parking lot for a local creamery. The design of the two-story building favors the modern "French Colonial" style with arched windows, French doors framed by shutters, and a smooth exterior cladding. The roof is flat.

138. 219 East Vermilion Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** 1880
Sans Souci has held various commercial interests since its construction including an inn, blueprint shop, a bookstore, and Lafayette's first post office (photo #17). The shotgun-style building has been modified since its construction to include large windows at each end of the façade (south elevation). The building was constructed of wood and is clad in narrow vertical planks. A small vent is set into the peak of the front gable roof at the façade. The building is one-story in height and rests on a pier foundation. The windows of the side elevation also have been modified each now includes a bay window (installed prior to 1968). Corrugated metal covers the roof. The main entrance consists of a partially-glazed, wooden door with two leaves. In 1939, 221 East Vermilion held a blueprint company and was a bookstore by 1943.

Sans Souci was locally designated in 2003.

139 and 140. 300 East Vermilion Street (contributing)
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1960
This mid-century modern building was the downtown Lafayette Fire Station (139) and now contains its administrative offices. It is oriented north although a parking lot is located at the rear (south elevation); another entrance is located along Lee Avenue. The building is rectilinear in character with an irregular footprint. The façade (north elevation) bears four large garage doors iconic of an American fire station. The doors are subdivided into 32 glass panes set in metal frames to allow views of the trucks from the street. The building

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7 Description of Sans Souci for local designation, 20 March 2003.
was constructed of brick and bears a shed roof at this elevation. A pedestrian entrance is located in a small brick addition to the west elevation.

The side (east and west elevations) feature bands of differently colored bricks framing metal transom-style windows. The uniformity and regimented spatial patterns are interrupted by three additional garage doors – one providing access to Lee Avenue and the other to the rear parking lot. Although the roof appears flat from the street, the cornice is slightly lipped to create a small slope at an otherwise flat roof. A one-story wing of dark brick holds several offices. This wing contains seven transom-style windows of three panes each.

The mid-century building replaced a fire station constructed ca. 1915 on the property.

A statue (140, non-contributing object) dedicated to the history and dedication of those who have served the Lafayette Fire Department is located to the east of the façade garage doors and in front of the office wing.

**Vine Street**

141. 109 Vine Street (non-contributing)

Date of Construction: 1934

Located at the rear of the Evangeline Hotel (300 Rue Jefferson), this building is one-story in height, has a stucco exterior, and a flat roof. The building has a curved awning and window configuration to give it a vaguely Art Noveau styling. The building has fixed, metal frame windows, but also has distinctive round window frames on two elevations. A modern metal door is located on the Buchanan elevation, along with multiple metal frame windows of varying sizes to give a stepped appearance. The original footprint of the Evangeline Hotel stopped at a rear alley; the bus station in the building now addressed 109 Vine Street was an independent building. In 1967, the State of Louisiana purchased the hotel to house state offices such as the Internal Revenue Office. The purchases necessitated an extensive remodel resulting in an addition to the rear of the property that extended across the alley and connected with the bus station. The new state offices, that included the building addressed 109 Vine Street, opened in 1969.

The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: *Architecture* as part of the Evangeline Hotel (302 Rue Jefferson). It is also a locally designated historic property. However, it has been determined non-contributing to the Lafayette Central Business District nomination due to the accumulation of changes to the building.

### 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
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<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.</td>
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<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history</td>
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**Criteria Considerations:**

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Lafayette Central Business District

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce; community planning and development; politics/government

**Period of Significance**: 1870 - 1970

**Significant Dates**: N/A

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):**

**Period of Significance (justification)**: The period of significance of 1870 – 1970 encompasses the post-Civil War development of Lafayette following the arrival of the railroad, evolution of the Lafayette Central Business District as a predominately commercial area, the sustained role as a governmental hub, and the significant commercial and governmental construction campaigns in downtown that extended into the twentieth century.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**: N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

From the small settlement of Vermilionville, Lafayette grew into an economic hub for the surrounding area by the late nineteenth century. As commercial, economic, and government ventures clustered in downtown Lafayette, the Lafayette Central Business District served multiple functions to the surrounding population. The spine of Jefferson Street linked the earlier settlement to the railroad. When that population exploded in the mid-twentieth century and development expanded in the surrounding unincorporated parish, downtown Lafayette struggled to compete with modern retail developments such as the Oil Center. Downtown Lafayette has witnessed continued revitalization efforts since the early 1950s, but has retained its historic character.

The Lafayette Central Business District Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Commerce / Trade for its function as the main commercial and retail center for Lafayette until the mid-1950s; Criterion A: Government / Politics for the collection of buildings associated with local and federal government; and Criterion A: Community Planning and Development for its role in the history of development of Lafayette.
Lafayette Central Business District

Lafayette Parish, Louisiana

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Community Planning and Development**

Portions of the district were part of planter Jean Mouton's original plan for Vermilionville, the forerunner to modern day Lafayette. Around 1820, he donated a parcel of property for the Catholic church, currently the site of St. John’s Cathedral in Lafayette. As the population grew and permanent settlement increased, he donated additional land, including a city square set aside for the courthouse. In 1836, the Louisiana State Legislature approved incorporation of Vermilionville, establishing the city limits and a town council.

The settlement grew during the early nineteenth century and witnessed the establishment of various institutions, including a bank, multiple churches, and educational facilities. The local government began construction on a series of roads that linked burgeoning Vermilionville with scattered rural populations in the surrounding areas. By 1870, the population had reached 800 people.

A significant factor in the late nineteenth century growth of Vermilionville was the arrival of the railroad. The first railroad line reached Vermilionville in March 1880. By May 1883, Vermilionville was part of the Southern Pacific rail line linking New Orleans and the West Coast, along with serving as the eastern terminus for two of Southern Pacific’s transcontinental lines. The arrival of the railroad encouraged the development of Lafayette into a commercial hub. Agricultural exports remained somewhat limited, as overland routes between far-flung rural farms and Lafayette were limited and smaller towns had their own railroad access. Railroad improvements, such as the expansion of the railroad yard in 1890, further established Lafayette as a burgeoning business center for southwest Louisiana and drawing development northeast towards the railroad. As the population grew and Vermilionville stretched to meet the new railroad line, Vermilionville rechristened itself "Lafayette," as befitted the parish seat of Lafayette Parish.

The early twentieth century witnessed changes to the central business district, most notably an expansion of Jefferson Street. In December 1903, business owners petitioned the City of Lafayette to widen by ten feet Jefferson Street between Vermilion Street and Lincoln Avenue (approximately the railroad tracks, Lincoln Avenue is now Jefferson Boulevard). Property owners on the west side agreed to donate the land while business owners in the area agreed to help offset the costs to the City via donations. In January 1904, the city entered into a contract to move back all buildings, fences, and other structures on the west side of the street to accommodate expanding Jefferson Street. Business owners farther south on Jefferson petitioned the City to continue the expansion to Lee Avenue. By August 1904, work had been largely completed, save sections of concrete walks waiting completion. This notable alteration to the streetscape influenced property owners to make their own improvements in response; in 1904, the First National Bank decided to build a new bank building “with a larger and more substantial structure of imposing design.”

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11 Dismukes, p. 14, 27.
12 Dismukes, p. 29.
13 Dismukes, p. 29.
14 Dismukes, p. 30. Vermilion could not adopt the name Lafayette prior to 1884 due to the name serving as a community outside New Orleans. Once New Orleans annexed its Lafayette, Vermilionville was free to use the name.
In addition, the Southern Pacific decided to build a new railroad depot (located at Rue Jefferson at the railroad track, outside the boundaries of the Lafayette Central Business District) in 1910, which necessitated closing Grant Street, known as Grant Avenue at the time, to provide enough land to accommodate the new construction. The city accommodated the railroad’s request and the new railroad depot opened in 1911.  

By the early twentieth century, Lafayette had become the site for the new Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette), implemented infrastructure improvements such as telephone systems, and continued to focus development efforts on the central business district. Downtown Lafayette witnessed the replacement of wooden sidewalks with concrete ones, installation of street signs, and implementation of a speed limit.  

Lafayette also established a water works system, volunteer fire company, electric power, and a sewerage system. In 1910, Lafayette had a population of 6,392 people.

In 1937, offshore oil production started in Louisiana. As production increasingly moved offshore and oil rigs sprang up along the Louisiana coast, Lafayette boomed and became a center for the petroleum industry. By 1950, the population had exploded to about 33,000 people, many housed in new suburban developments removed from downtown. Many of these new Lafayette citizens opted to shop at the newly developed Oil Center, threatening the commercial primacy of the central business area.

In 1950s, Lafayette retained New Orleans-based architect Charles Colbert to develop a master plan for the City. Colbert studied at the University of Texas, taught at Tulane University, and worked for the Orleans Parish School Board before hanging out his own shingle in 1952. Colbert created a sketch plan for Lafayette in 1953 before fully fleshing out his ideas in a master plan for Lafayette in 1955. The sketch plan noted the central business district contained the highest concentration of commercial use in Lafayette and should remain the major focal point of retail and business for the city. Colbert identified traffic congestion and parking as two of the major issues related to the continued primacy of downtown to the City. He recommended reconfiguring the intersection of Jefferson Street at the railroad to mitigate congestion exacerbated by the railroad; by changing the grade of Jefferson Street to sweep below the railroad, cars would no longer be backed up into the central business district.

In the final master plan, Colbert recognized the central business district worked when Lafayette was small, but could no longer accommodate a city of Lafayette’s population. Colbert recognized that little could be done to relocate the railroad or widen Jefferson Street, but recommended widening several of the other streets leading into the central business district as well as creating a bypass west of the city to alleviate traffic flow. These improvements were aided by the relocation of portions of the railroad support facilities away from their location adjacent to downtown in the late 1950s.

A study published in 1978 by a study committee of the American Institute of Architects continued to identify suburban development as the main cause for the post-World War II downward slide of downtown. This group recommended creating a special zoning overlay to protect the central business district and encourage development as well as improving the general streetscapes of downtown by installing new sidewalks and

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20 Dismukes, p. 41.
21 Dismukes, p. 35, 37.
22 Dismukes, p. 54.
24 Colbert, Sketch Plan, p. 54.
25 Colbert, Sketch Plan, p. 87-88.
27 Mamalakis, p. 138.
streetlights as well as removing overhead electrical wires. Without these improvements, the downtown was likely to become composed of offices utilized solely in the daytime.28

**Criterion A: Commerce / Trade**

A snapshot of Lafayette as depicted on the 1892 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company's maps shows a downtown still largely populated by wooden buildings. Commercial and retail enterprises include a bakery, several general stores, grocers, warehouses, photo studio, jeweler, and a combination livery and undertaker. A handful of brick buildings are evident, including the jail, a bank, and a furniture warehouse. The buildings are mostly one story tall, arranged neatly along the blocks generous spaces in between suggesting several lots remained undeveloped. Extant wooden frame construction for the central business district includes 121 West Vermilion Street (the former Lafayette Hardware Store) and 300 East Vermilion Street (the current Sans Souci gallery). The Lafayette Hardware Store building was constructed circa 1890; the Italianate building retains its false front façade, architectural details, and elaborate storefront windows. The modest frame building that now houses the Sans Souci gallery has served various functions in its history, including the post office, shoe repair shop, saddle shop, and a bookstore, but still retains its historic appearance.29

Substantial growth in the central business district in the early twentieth century. The commercialization of Pierce Street, now Rue Jefferson, accelerated rapidly between 1903 and 1921. In 1903, the 17 buildings of City Square 66 fronting Pierce between Vine and Congress streets included nine residences, a livery, a grocery, a drug store, a printer, and four stores. By 1906, the number of residences had fallen to six and to only two by 1921, although an additional dwelling was co-located with a commercial storefront. New businesses in 1906 including a grocery, a laundry, and a warehouse. Across the street, storefronts included a tailor, a drug store, and a jeweler.

In the early twentieth century, liveries and horse stables were common in downtown Lafayette. Notable examples include Jean Vignebox's livery and undertaking enterprise on North Main Street between Madison and Lafayette streets (opposite the courthouse) and the livery at the intersection of Vine and Lincoln (now Jefferson). Both were converted into auto garages, sales, and repair locations. A similar pattern was seen in the use of the southern portion of City Square 52 along West Main Street between South Buchanan and Jefferson streets.

Banking interests in downtown Lafayette were established in 1895 when the First National Bank, organized from the ashes of the People's State Bank, constructed a new building at the corner of Jefferson and Vermilion Streets.30 The Bank of Lafayette built on Main Street in 1898, before decamping for its distinctive new bank building at the corner of Jefferson and Congress Streets in 1905. The extant building façade features a unique entrance with a domed pavilion and Tuscan columns.31 The city of Lafayette took over the bank's Main Street location (217 West Main Street), creating the first City Hall in 1906.32

In 1904, the Lafayette Improvement Association was organized with the intent of purchasing and selling property, as well as developing its parcels with hotels, entertainment facilities, and other businesses.33 The group invested $100,000 in development efforts, including the construction of the Gordon Hotel and the Jefferson Theater.34 The Gordon Hotel was one of the first efforts to build a modern hotel in Lafayette, suggesting Lafayette had reached sufficient size and reputation to warrant the construction of a building of this size. The 4-story building was designed by New Orleans-based architecture firm Favrot & Livaudais and local

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30 Dismukes, p. 33.
33 Mamalakis, p. 68.
34 Dismukes, p. 39.
architect George Knapp. The hotel functioned as more than just a place for visitors to Lafayette; it also hosted conventions, business meetings, and suffragette meetings.36

Jefferson also was home to Lafayette's entertainment district. In the 1890s, the wood-framed general store also held an opera house. By 1903, the buildings had been replaced with a proper theater. The stage hosted musicals and minstrel shows for residents as well as guests of the adjacent Gordon Hotel. Later known as the Azalea Theater, the brick building features an arched metal canopy above the recessed entry. A large movie theater was constructed next to the opera house in the 1930s and the opera house was converted to show films. The former opera house was demolished in the late twentieth century and now is a parking lot.

In 1910, the Southern Pacific touted the city in a publication. Published in an effort to increase Lafayette's business prospects, and, therefore, its own traffic into the City, the guide touted Lafayette as the ideal location for businesses to locate. The booklet noted the city had changed significantly in the last ten years, losing the “narrow, crooked streets” and “ramshackle frame buildings” for “wided, straightened and shelled streets” and “forty new stone and brick business buildings.” The guide noted the fine new waterworks system, “two handsome bank buildings,” and streetlights.36 Lafayette also conceded to the rise of the automobile by paving streets in the central business district with gravel, followed a few years later with brick-paved streets.37

One of the largest buildings in downtown Lafayette is the Lafayette Science Museum, formerly Heymann's Department Store (433 Rue Jefferson). Maurice Heymann purchased a general store downtown in 1916 and expanded his empire throughout the 1920s, operating a three-story brick department store at the corner of Jefferson and Vermilion streets with a grocery store nearby at the intersection of Polk and East Congress streets (the current Children's Museum of Acadiana, located just outside the district at 201 East Congress Street). Heymann's competed with Abdalla's, another large department store on Jefferson near the intersection with Garfield Street (412 Jefferson Street).

By 1925, Lafayette had a population of 10,000 people and continued to serve as the commercial and economic hub for the region.38 Development in the central business district continued to boom in this period, including the construction of the 6-story Evangeline Hotel (300 Rue Jefferson) and the renovation and expansion of the Gordon Hotel (100 East Vermilion Street) to its current size and appearance.39 When the Evangeline Hotel opened in 1928, it was hailed as a sign Lafayette had reached “a very important milestone along the highway of modern progress and development.”40 The hotel offered 107 guest rooms furnished with mahogany furniture, a coffee shop, ball room, dining room, and “easy access” to the railway station.41

The Great Depression did not leave downtown Lafayette unscathed. The Bank of Lafayette did not survive; its hallmark building on Jefferson Street (500 Rue Jefferson) eventually came into the hands of the Guaranty Bank & Trust Company in 1937.42 However, downtown Lafayette witnessed few business closures during the Depression. Overall improvements to rural life during the New Deal brought prosperity to the area and the central business district of Lafayette continued serve as the main commercial and retail hub for the area.43 The City did receive Works Progress Administration funds for the construction of a replacement City Hall; the new building was constructed at the intersection of Jefferson Street and Lee Avenue. The Main Street building

35 Mamalakis, p. 69.
37 Dismukes, p. 42.
38 Dismukes, p. 45.
39 Mamalakis, p. 69.
41 Ibid.
42 Mamalakis, p. 132.
43 Dismukes, p. 52.
continued to be held in municipal hands and used for various public services, such as housing the library and planning commission.\textsuperscript{44}

Downtown Lafayette also is the historic home of the city's professionals, such as architects and attorneys. The two architecture firms of Lafayette, one on East Main Street near the courthouse and the other in the 500 block of Jefferson, and all 25 law firms were downtown in 1939. Half of the architects in the city in 1949 and all but one of the 34 lawyers were based downtown. Of the 11 architecture firms in Lafayette in 1959, seven were located downtown. All but one of the nine law firms also were located in the district.

The 1940s and 1950s witnessed the implementation of several efforts to draw attention, and visitors, to Lafayette, such as the Azalea Trail and a Christmas parade in downtown sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.\textsuperscript{45}

Banking continued to be an important driver for the central business district into the mid-twentieth century. In 1965, the Elks Home, located at the corner of West Congress and Buchanan Streets, was demolished to make way for a new bank.\textsuperscript{46} Guaranty Bank and Trust Company retained architects Harold J. Lagroue, Hal Perkins, and David Perkins to design its new bank. The design featured a modern appearance, extensive parking, and television-enabled drive-in banking.\textsuperscript{47} When the bank opened in 1970, it was only three stories; the initial design and construction had accommodated future expansion; the upper block of nine stories was added in 1978 and utilized the original design.\textsuperscript{48} The construction of the Guaranty Bank (now IberiaBank, 200 West Congress Street) spurred new construction for other banks in the area, including the construction of the First National Bank Towers (now Chase Bank Building, 600 Rue Jefferson) in 1974.\textsuperscript{49}

By the 1960s, city planning efforts recognized that while government and financial services remained active in the central business district, retail had contracted. Once again, parking was viewed as part of the issue as downtown could not compete with “spacious parking areas” of the newer shopping centers.\textsuperscript{50} The study identified 5,043 parking spots in the central business district; the majority of those spaces (2,637 spaces or 52.3 percent) were in off-street facilities geared towards the long-term user.\textsuperscript{51} To alleviate these parking pressures, the city built several new parking garages, many of them funded through federal grants. Businesses subsequently advertised their proximity to the new parking garages, particularly the Quik-Park at the corner of Jefferson and Vermilion Streets (later converted to Jefferson Towers, 556 Rue Jefferson).

\textit{Criterion A: Government}

The buildings of the district express the long-standing role of the area as the governmental center of Lafayette. Government buildings at the city, parish, and federal level are scattered throughout the district, including several that were either not constructed for a governmental purpose but were used at some point in their history to accommodate governmental functions or former government buildings that have been transitioned to new uses.

Jean Mouton set aside a courthouse square in his 1820 plan for his new development of Vermilionville for a courthouse, one of the earliest government buildings in the burgeoning settlement that would become Lafayette. When Lafayette Parish was created out of parts of St. Martin Parish in 1823, this square was

\textsuperscript{44} Old Lafayette City Hall NRHP nomination, National Register #75000851
\textsuperscript{47} “Guaranty Planning $1.5 Million Bank,” \textit{The Daily Advertiser} (Lafayette, Louisiana), 27 June 1967, p. 1
\textsuperscript{51} Ibid., p. 3.5.
designated for the site of the new Lafayette Parish Courthouse. The fourth courthouse, constructed in 1928, was determined to be outmoded and too small in 1964; planning studies commissioned by Lafayette Parish determined renovation of the existing facility would cost as much as a new building. In December 1964, Lafayette voters approved a $2.5 million bond for the construction of a new courthouse. Initial plans were delayed, but by late 1965, parish offices were relocated out of the building into various facilities to accommodate demolition and construction. In January 1968, the $3 million, seven-story building was almost ready for occupation and ceremonial transfer of the keys was held. Relocating everyone back into the new building took about six weeks and the new facility was in operation by February 1968. The new building contained not only the parish courthouse, but also the parish jail.

In 1906, the City of Lafayette purchased the Bank of Lafayette building located across West Main Street from the parish courthouse to serve as the first City Hall for Lafayette (NR #75000851). In 1908, a parish prison was constructed behind the City Hall. By 1939, the extant City Hall no longer suited Lafayette’s needs and a new building was constructed with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds. The new building, constructed at the wedge of land formed at the intersection of Lee Avenue and Jefferson Street, embraced the popular Art Deco architectural style common for other government buildings in Louisiana in the period, such as the State Capitol building in Baton Rouge. The former City Hall continued to be used for government and associated uses, including housing the library and the offices of the Planning Commission. In 1980, the City of Lafayette moved out of the WPA-funded building into a renovated former Sears building on West University Avenue; this building remains the City Hall.

Federal government presence in Lafayette grew out of the post office operated at the early settlement on Pinhook Landing in 1817. When Vermilionville was firmly established as the parish seat, the Pinhook post office was abandoned. Later, a post office was constructed on the corner of Jefferson and Vermilion, at the site of the current Jefferson Towers. In 1945, the City of Lafayette and the federal government swapped parcels; the city obtained the Jefferson Street site while the federal government obtained the property behind the City Hall on the former site of Southside School; the federal government was allowed to retain the site until the new post office was constructed. In March 1954, funding for a new post office was tentatively approved; the new building was anticipated to cost about $1 million. Negotiations between the city and the federal government ebbed and flowed regarding combining the new post office with a new federal building, with a possible option to include a federal courthouse. Congress approved the project in July 1955. By 1956, plans were underway for the new building. Issues with funding delayed the building, described by The Daily Advertiser as a “design in which brick, glass and ceramic tile are united in contemporary design.” Plans called for the post office on

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53 Ibid.
58 National Register of Historic Places, Old Lafayette City Hall, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, National Register #75000851.
59 Old Lafayette City Hall, NR #75000851.
60 Kathleen Thames, “New City Hall Near Completion,” The Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, Louisiana), 3 January 1980, p. 1; the University Avenue building is outside the Le Centre Historic District.
61 “History of Development of Downtown Lafayette.”
the first floor with the upper floors for local offices of the Veterans Administration, Treasury, Defense, and other federal agencies; offices for these agencies had previously been scattered throughout Lafayette.\(^{67}\)

The new building opened in June 1960; plans were already underway to expand the building to accommodate federal court room, as Lafayette was awaiting the announcement it was to become a seat of a federal district court (NR\#100004510). In early 1965, new construction at the rear of the building accommodated a new courtroom, offices, law library, and detention cells for the Federal District Court. The alterations included adding an aluminum screen on the Main Street elevation of the building.\(^{68}\) The federal government moved into a new federal courthouse in 1999 at the intersection of Lafayette and West Vermilion Streets.\(^{69}\) The City of Lafayette purchased the old federal courthouse, located at the intersection of Jefferson and Main Streets, from the federal government.\(^{70}\)

Government involvement in the central business district was not limited to new construction. In 1965, the State of Louisiana purchased the Evangeline Hotel with the intent of converting it to an office building.\(^{71}\) The State made a number of changes to the building, including adding a Mansard roof to a portion of the building and subdividing the lobby.\(^{72}\)

Additional government-funded construction in Lafayette involved several parking garages. In 1960, the city decided to construct a 13-story parking garage at the site of the old post office on Jefferson Street.\(^{73}\) Featuring 260 spots and blessed by at least two reverends, the garage opened in 1962.\(^{74}\) Owned by the Lafayette Building Corporation, the garage fell into disuse by 1973.\(^{75}\) In 1980, plans were introduced to convert the parking garage at the corner of Jefferson and Vermilion into an office building by using Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding.\(^{76}\) As part of the funding plan, the City would use the part of the grant to construct a new parking garage behind the Parc de Lafayette on Jefferson Street.\(^{77}\) In 1983, the conversion project was completed.\(^{78}\) In 1982, plans were announced for a new parking complex at Vermilion and Polk Streets. Partially funded by a grant from HUD, the Parc-Auto Du Centre-Ville was envisioned as a five to seven story garage for housing 700 cars.\(^{79}\) The new parking garage opened in 1983 to great fanfare.\(^{80}\) Recently, the parish intended to sell the garage to the city, but the deal fell through when the garage was found to be unsafe; the garage is currently closed.\(^{81}\)

The continued presence and investment by government entities at the local, state, and federal level demonstrates the central business district’s importance as a hub for the local population. The buildings of the adjacent Downtown Lafayette Civic Complex historic district further exhibit the significance of the role of government in the continued development and history of this portion of Lafayette. The government offices, both

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\(^{67}\) Ibid.


\(^{69}\) Laura Ayo, “New federal courthouse to open next month,” The Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, Louisiana), 26 March 1999, p. 4; the courthouse building is outside the Le Centre Historic District boundaries.


\(^{72}\) National Register of Historic Places, Evangeline Hotel, Lafayette, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, National Register #94000235.

\(^{73}\) “Parking Officials,” The Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, Louisiana), 27 June 1960, p. 15.


\(^{76}\) “Parking Garage, Offices Planned for Downtown,” The Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, Louisiana), 24 September 1980, p. 3.

\(^{77}\) “Hotel Proposed at Old Garage,” The Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, Louisiana), 22 June 1981, p. 3.


in the central business district and the civic complex, helped support the law offices, shops, and restaurants in of the historic district.

Conclusion

The Lafayette Central Business District reflects the historic themes of commerce, community development, and government that influenced the development of this portion of Lafayette. The collection of low-rise modest brick buildings interspersed with high-style bank buildings and hotels illustrate the rise of the banking industry and prominence of Lafayette, but also the mix of small businesses the provided goods and services not only to Lafayette, but also to the surrounding area. Lafayette recognized the importance of the district though continuous improvement measures, particularly following the rise of the automobile in the twentieth century, and constant attention to approaches to ensure the district remained a primary destination for visitors and businesses. The continuous governmental presence, reflected in the buildings constructed or used by agencies at the local, state, and federal levels, further placed the central business district in a prominent position for Lafayette citizens. The Lafayette Central Business District Historic District represents the commercial, government, and developmental hub of Lafayette.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, Louisiana.


The Lafayette Advertiser, Lafayette, Louisiana.


Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record 

Lafayette Central Business District, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # ___________

**Primary location of additional data:**
- ___ State Historic Preservation Office
- ____ Other State agency
- ____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- ____ University
- ____ Other

Name of repository: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____________

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** approximately 70 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: __________

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 30.220533N  Longitude: 92.020761W
2. Latitude: 30.220531N  Longitude: 92.019256W
3. Latitude: 30.333900N  Longitude: 92.017289W
4. Latitude: 30.222900N  Longitude: 92.017711W
5. Latitude: 30.223725N  Longitude: 92.017731W
7. Latitude: 30.223494N  Longitude: 92.016917W
8. Latitude: 30.224039N  Longitude: 92.016567W
9. Latitude: 30.224381N  Longitude: 92.017119W
10. Latitude: 30.225236N  Longitude: 92.017714W
11. Latitude: 30.227014N  Longitude: 92.015694W
12. Latitude: 30.220347N  Longitude: 92.015694W
13. Latitude: 30.225647N  Longitude: 92.014869W
14. Latitude: 30.227314N  Longitude: 92.015786W
15. Latitude: 30.227772N  Longitude: 92.014792W
16. Latitude: 30.229419N  Longitude: 92.015667W
17. Latitude: 30.228997N  Longitude: 92.016711W
18. Latitude: 30.228191N  Longitude: 92.016282W
19. Latitude: 30.227314N  Longitude: 92.017358W
20. Latitude: 30.227294N  Longitude: 92.018478W
21. Latitude: 30.225311N  Longitude: 92.020803W

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Lafayette Central Business District
Lafayette Parish, Louisiana
Name of Property

See attached map for detailed boundaries, but the boundaries are approximately the railroad to Lee Avenue to South Buchanan Street to West Convent Street to Lafayette Street to Rue Bibliotheque to West Second Street to West Third Street.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
These boundaries encompass the historic commercial and governmental core of Lafayette, following the introduction of the railroad and subsequent growth of the city. Beyond these borders, development is largely low rise, small scale residential buildings following different street patterns and eras of development.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Lindsay S. Hannah / Partner and Kelly Sellers Wittie / Partner
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city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70118
e-mail: lindsay@row10hps.com
telephone: 504.266.2098
date: April 2020

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
  Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**
Name of Property: Lafayette Central Business District Historic District
City or Vicinity: Lafayette
County: Lafayette State: LA
Photographer: Kelly Sellers Wittie
Date Photographed: April 15-16, 2019
Lafayette Central Business District

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 24: 113 Grant Street (currently Grant Street Dance Hall). Camera pointed northeast.
Photo 2 of 24: 300 Rue Jefferson (former Evangeline Hotel). Camera pointed west.
Photo 4 of 24: 108 West Congress Street. Camera pointed northeast.
Photo 5 of 24: 200 West Congress (currently IberiaBank). Camera pointed southwest.
Photo 8 of 24: 121 West Vermilion Street (former Lafayette Hardware). Camera pointed southeast.
Photo 10 of 24: 809 South Buchanan Street. Camera pointed southeast.
Photo 11 of 24: 201 West Convent Street. Camera pointed southwest.
Photo 12 of 24: 217 West Main Street (former Lafayette City Hall). Camera pointed south.
Photo 13 of 24: 800 South Buchanan Street, (current Lafayette Parish Courthouse). Camera pointed west.
Photo 14 of 24: 200 West Vermilion Street. Camera pointed northwest.
Photo 15 of 24: 100 Central Street (former Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph). Camera pointed northwest.
Photo 16 of 24: 735 Rue Jefferson (former City Hall). Camera pointed northwest.
Photo 17 of 24: 300 East Vermilion Street (Sans Souci). Camera pointed northwest.
Photo 18 of 24: View southwest along Rue Jefferson, between Congress and Vermilion Streets. Camera pointed southwest.
Photo 19 of 24: East side of 500 block of Rue Jefferson. Camera pointed southeast.
Photo 20 of 24: West side of 500 block of Rue Jefferson with Chase Tower in background. Camera pointed southwest.
Photo 21 of 24: South side of West Vermilion Street from intersection with Rue Jefferson. Camera pointed southwest.
Photo 22 of 24: View of 700 block of South Buchanan Street with parish courthouse in background. Camera pointed southwest.
Photo 23 of 24: View west along West Main Street towards parish courthouse. Camera pointed west.
Lafayette Central Business District

Lafayette Parish,
Louisiana

Name of Property

County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Lafayette Central Business District Historic District
Lafayette, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana
Lafayette Central Business District Historic District Photo Map
Photo 10 of 24, Lafayette Central Business District
Lafayette, Louisiana
Photo 19 of 24, Lafayette Central Business District
Lafayette, Louisiana