

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Hope Lodge #145 (1916) is a two-story brick commercial vernacular structure located in the old Lafayette central business district. Despite a few changes since construction, the building retains the features which contribute to its significance.

The lodge has a five-bay facade with a pair of entrances, each of which is set in its own forward projecting pavilion. The exterior is constructed of multicolored tapestry brick. While the rear is plain, the front and side elevations are ornamented as follows. The main brick surface is deep red, with the shallow arch doors, the windows, the modillion cornice, the quoining, the water table, and the parapet details picked out in buff brick.

The building has a large meeting room upstairs and down. The northern entrance leads to a stair hall which contains the lodge's only interior stair. The interiors are large but plainly detailed, featuring grooved wainscoting, horizontally paneled doors, and a few lowered ceilings.

Since construction, the following changes have been made:

- (1) A few of the ceilings have been lowered.
- (2) A small, single story kitchen wing has been added to the rear.
- (3) A fire escape has been installed on the east side of the building.
- (4) Some of the windows on the side elevations have been bricked in.

Assessment of Integrity:

Despite the above relatively minor alterations, the building retains its architectural integrity. Hope Lodge is significant for its exterior articulation, which, of course, remains almost completely intact.

Specific dates	1916
Builder/Architect	Builder: Hope Lodge #145 Architect: G. B. Knapp

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
Criterion C

Hope Lodge #145 is locally significant in the area of architecture as an architectural landmark in the Lafayette central business district.

Virtually all of the 50+ year old structures in Lafayette's central business district date from between 1900 and 1930. They are about fifty in number, and are largely nondescript and much altered. Hope Lodge #145 stands out as one of half a dozen architectural landmarks within this context (as identified by the staff of the State Historic Preservation Office). Its multicolored brick treatment makes it one of the four most ornamented period buildings in the central business district. In addition, it has a relatively pretentious facade articulation consisting of two end pavilions, three central bays, a cornice, and a parapet. This is exceeded in pretension by only two other structures in the central business district. Finally, Hope Lodge #145 is one of the central business district's least altered historic buildings.

History:

Hope Lodge #145 was chartered on February 10, 1857, although the organization's first "official" meeting was held as early as June 29, 1856. On August 15, 1857, former Governor Alexandre Mouton, a Hope Lodge member, donated the site on which the lodge built its first home and on which the present building is located. In 1916, because of the organization's growing membership, the first lodge was demolished and the present one constructed.

Major Bibliographical References

Lafayette Courthouse Archives

Souvenir Program, One Hundredth Anniversary, Hope Lodge No. 145, F. & A. M., 1857-1957.

Mouton, Richard C. "The Growth of Hope Lodge #145 F&AM, 1856-1860." Unpublished paper, dated April 28, 1977.