Name of Proposed Cultural District: St. Francisville Downtown Cultural District

Location of Cultural District (City and Parish): St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Local Governing Authority Contact - The Local Governing Authority (LGA) applying for certification of a Cultural District is the municipality OR the parish OR the consolidated government in which the Cultural District is located. If the district is located partly in a municipality, then, and only then, name the governing authorities of both the municipality and the parish.

1. Contact for Municipal Governing Authority

Name: Billy D'Aquilla
Title: Mayor
Agency: Town of St. Francisville
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 400
City: St. Francisville
State: LA  Zip Code: 70775
Phone: 225-635-3688
Fax: 225-635-6984
Email Address: townofsfi@bellsouth.net

2. Contact for Parish Governing Authority:

Name:
Title:
Agency:
Mailing Address:
City:
State: LA  Zip Code:
Phone:
Fax:
Email Address:

B. Designated Cultural District Liaison - Name of the contact person designated to act on behalf of the Local Governing Authority (if different than above)

Name: Lauric Walsh
Title: Main Street Manager
Agency: St. Francisville Main Street
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 400
City: St. Francisville
State: LA  Zip Code: 70775
Phone: 225-635-3873
Fax: 225-635-2873
Email Address: lauriemainst@bellsouth.net
II. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

A. Boundary - Provide a written description of the proposed Cultural District using start and end points, using street names and directions that fully describe the designated geographic area. Use the centerline of visible physical features whenever possible, or specify if the boundary is on a non-visible feature or property line. Fit description in space provided. If it will not fit in the space provided attach a separate document.

Begin at the intersection of Commerce Street & Burnett Road, then east along the centerline of Burnett Road to the eastern property line of the apartment complex; the north to a point 300 feet from Burnett Road; then east approximately 1,000 feet to the property line that delineates zoning categories on the Official Zoning Map, then south to La. Highway 3057 (Commerce Street.) and continue south to the municipal boundary; then west to Gaspers Creek; then northwest to the centerline of Weevil Street; then northwest to the centerline of Pecan Grove Street; then south to the property line that is parallel to Commerce Street; then north to a point 340 feet, south of the centerline of Princeville Road; then west to the municipal boundary; then southeast to the property line that appears to be an extension of Burnett Road; then east to the intersection of Commerce Street and Burnett Road (point of beginning).

B. District Information
Is all or part of the proposed district included in any other district, such as a Main Street District, Downtown Development District, Historic District, etc.?

- [ ] No
- [ ] Yes - Please name it/them:
  
  St. Francisville Main Street/Historic District

C. Feature Data - Provide estimates, as accurate as possible, of the following features in the proposed Cultural District using geographic systems, municipal data, Census data, surveys, and general knowledge.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Louisiana Senate District number</td>
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<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Louisiana Representative District number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>City Council District number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Parish Council/Police Jury District number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic area (in acres or square miles)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of buildings</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate age of the majority of buildings</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of commercial buildings</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of residential buildings</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of occupied buildings</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of vacant buildings</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of businesses</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicate the percent of businesses that fall into each of these categories:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Professional and Finance- architect, lawyer, bank, CPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Service providers- printers, salons, cleaners, service stations, fitness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Retail- grocery, clothing, gift, office, stationery, drug, auto supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Restaurants- bars, clubs, fast food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Entertainment- music venues, performance spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Arts/Cultural- historic sites, museums, galleries, studio space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Non-Profit Bed and Breakfasts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other (Explain):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
St. Francisville Downtown Cultural District

D. Maps - Please provide legible maps, preferably 8½ by 11, but not larger than 11 by 17 inches. Maps may be in color or black and white. **Label maps Attachment II. D.**

- **Required:** A map precisely outlining the boundaries of the proposed Cultural District, showing boundary and major street names, a north arrow, with legible labels
- **Optional:** Provide map(s) showing the location of cultural, art, educational, and tourist assets or facilities, or additional information pertinent to the proposed Cultural District

Possible resources for maps and other data requested in the application:
- Municipal and/or parish planning office
- Google Earth- http://earth.google.com/
- Google SketchUp- http://www.sketchup.com/
- College or university geography department
- Louisiana Census Data Center- http://www.census.gov/sdcd/www/lsadc.html

E. Photographs - Provide five to ten (10) photographs representative of the district. Please number photographs and caption the photo content. Optional: A map showing the numbered location of the photographs provided. **Label photographs Attachment II. E.**

F. Cultural Assets Inventory - List existing cultural assets such as a museum, art institution, art and entertainment businesses, arts/cultural organization, artists, an area with arts and cultural activities or cultural or artisan production, year-round or seasonal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Category (choose from list)</th>
<th>List Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts for All</td>
<td>Arts/Cultural organization</td>
<td>Architectural site/event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas in the Country</td>
<td>Festival</td>
<td>Arts market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Leaf</td>
<td>Arts market</td>
<td>Arts/Cultural business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francisville Transitory Theatre</td>
<td>Theater company/event</td>
<td>Culinary enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Linen Night</td>
<td>Music venue/event</td>
<td>Dance company/event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francisville Arts &amp; Antiques</td>
<td>Arts/Cultural business</td>
<td>Educational institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backwoods Gallery</td>
<td>Gallery</td>
<td>Farmers market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrington Gallery</td>
<td>Gallery</td>
<td>Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdman Cafe</td>
<td>Arts market</td>
<td>Film/Video/Media venue/event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Feliciana Parish Historical Society Museum</td>
<td>Museum</td>
<td>Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker Memorial Park</td>
<td>Park/Recreation site/facility</td>
<td>Heritage center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Episcopal Church &amp; Cemetary</td>
<td>Historic site</td>
<td>Historic site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church</td>
<td>Historic site</td>
<td>Literary institute/event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Historic site</td>
<td>Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julius Freyhan School</td>
<td>Historic site</td>
<td>Music venue/event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Market Hall</td>
<td>Performing arts venue/event</td>
<td>Park/Recreation site/facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration of Readers &amp; Writers</td>
<td>Literary institute/event</td>
<td>Performing arts venue/event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audubon Pilgrimage</td>
<td>Architectural site/event</td>
<td>Symphony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Select from List-</td>
<td>Theater company/event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Provide concise narratives to address what the Cultural District will do with regard to the achievement of the objectives suggested in each of the three areas of development listed below. Each narrative is limited to 500 words.

A. Artistic/Cultural Product - Promote the arts and support artists; Encourage creativity and cultural activities; Attract artists and cultural industry workers; Potential for artists, housing, studio, and performance space (rental or purchase)

Each of our events has an artistic component. Our Audubon Pilgrimage promotes Vintage Dancing with the costumed children Sweetmaids and the Maypole; Yellow Leaf Festival is specifically designed for local and visiting artists of all mediums to sell their wares, there is an artist in residence, and with music during the two days; White Linen Night features stores staying open for evening shopping. Each store has either an artist, band or food offering; and Christmas in the Country features choirs, gospel groups, artists along Ferdinand St., the BR Symphony in Grace Church, and the St. Francisville Transitory Theatre production. Each of our events is promoted on www.sfestival.com, stfrancisville.us and stfrancisville.net. Main Street and the West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission combine funds to promote St. Francisville, each ad run lists the upcoming events. We post events on Culture Candy, NPR, Zevs, Friends of St. Francisville Blog, run ads in Country Roads, Louisiana Life, Preservation in Print and various other mediums. We are very proud of our local talent and take advantage of every chance to advertise them.

St. Francisville has an artist organization called ARTS FOR ALL, whose mission is to promote arts through events and education. The Arts for All puts on an Art Walk encouraging local artists of all ages to hang their work along the sidewalk. Children participate by making decorative magnets out of bottle caps, and even nationally recognized artists such as Murrell Butler. Nine Oaks Design provides art classes for children and adults. The St. Francisville Transitory Theatre group is composed of young and older thespians who do every part of the production, lights, stage building and performing. One of our local stores St. Francisville Arts and Antiques, is a co-op of local artists who work and hang in the gallery. We have a vibrant Main Street Program that coordinates or assists in coordinating these events. This office is the catalyst to getting promotions out, inclusion, and development of new activities for the arts. We seek assistance from our local art and music teachers when we are working on a project or new event.

In our Historic District boundaries we have an array of choices for space. Old Market Hall on Royal Street has been used for art shows, cooking demonstrations, historic seminars, St. Francisville Transitory Theatre for plays, antique show and sale, and book signings. St. Francisville Arts and Antiques is a local Co-op for artists of all mediums and antique sales. The Birdman Cafe does a third Saturday Arts Market on the outside cafe area. Parker Memorial Park, is used for large events, eg: Vibes in the Ville a local music festival; Yellow Leaf, a fall art and music festival; Christmas in the Country, for music and children’s games and arts area. The Julius Freyhan School, a 1907 brick public high school, is downtown. Once renovated this building will house a Jewish and Education Museum with the upper floor (the original auditorium) to be used for Community Events. Much of our proposed boundaries of the Cultural District are both residential and commercial, offering a wide choice of housing in a walkable community.

B. Community Development - Engage residents; Provide a sense of community; Serve as a gathering place; Strengthening community partnerships; Develop a positive image for the community

The town of St. Francisville is the only incorporated municipality in West Feliciana Parish, and its Historic Main Street District is vital to our daily lives. All of our events are hosted or headquartered downtown within our Main Street Historic District which is the same area we are proposing for the Cultural District. The residents are very proud of the beauty, history and sense of place we have. Our private and professional lives unfold downtown where we have our courthouse, town hall, bank, post office, restaurants, shops, doctors, lawyers, churches and schools. We live, work, and play downtown, and we want others to enjoy our wonders. On the third weekend in March annually, the Historical Society hosts the Audubon Pilgrimage. This three day event brings out the entire community, with the young girls dancing as a Sweet Maid or the Maypole, the young work out at the Rural Homestead learning to make shake shingles or blacksmithing; men and ladies are dressed in 1820's costumes, cooking; giving a graveside history; selling tickets, parking cars and everything in between. On Saturday night of the weekend at the Soiree, workers, locals and visitors all dance under the stars next to the Courthouse. We volunteer and sit on committees for everything from the PTL, Chamber, Hospital Board, Historic District Commission and Main Street. We work together to promote the community events through the internet, stuffing bank statements with flyers, sending home flyers through the school board to all school children. We help each other succeed because we know that one person's success is everyone's success. St. Francisville is a place where everybody waves when you drive down the street, stop if you are walking to ask if you want a ride, or talk if you are truly out for a walk. They pick up your kids from day care if you are running late and drop them off for you or keep them until you get there, a place where you can call the mayor at home on a Saturday if you need assistance. A place of Simple Pleasures and Unique Treasures.
St Francisville Downtown Cultural District

C. Economic Development - Capitalize on cultural, economic and social assets; Revitalize a neighborhood or area; Enhance property values; Stimulate the economy; Draw tourists

St. Francisville and West Feliciana Parish, located in the rolling Tunica Hills, is a playground for tourists both domestic and international. We have seven plantation homes open daily, five State Historic Sites, Cat Island NWR, Tunica Hills WMA, a ferry across the Mississippi River, and a historic downtown that dates back to 1807. We have history, the arts, music, biking, hiking, shopping, dining and overnighting in some of the best and diverse bed and breakfasts. Our tourist commission advertises nationally and locally drawing tourists from far and near. Our Main Street program enhances this effort with the Co-Op ad program where all tourist businesses are invited to participate. We have blogs, websites, online monthly travel articles and we promote each other if we do not have what they are looking for. We put on events for every palette -Audubon Pilgrimage, Audubon Country Birdfest, Day the War Stopped, Main Streets Poppin, Hummingbird Celebration, Angola Rodeo, Southern Garden Symposium, White Linen Night, Yellow Leaf, Camellias in the Country, Christmas in the Country, Library Tour of Homes, Celebration of Readers and Writers. All of this enhances the tourism industry and brings in new dollars to the community.

Since becoming a Main Street community in 1995 our Historical District has thrived we have received over $110,000.00 in grants, with public reinvestment of $1 million dollars and over $4 million in private reinvestment, we are very proud of this. Our Historic District Commission meets once a month, they are charged with approving any exterior changes made to a building located in the Historic District. This has enhanced and protected the property values in our Historic District which is the same proposed boundaries for the Cultural District. We are lucky to have a large residential influence in our Historic District. St. Francisville welcomes over 25,000 tourists annually, which adds over $500,000.00 in additional tax dollars.

We are always promoting "Shop Locally with shopping events our upcoming Main Streets Poppin and in the plans our Third Saturday Shop Hop'.

One of our largest individual restoration projects is the Julius Freyhan School. This brick public school building is seeking funding for the restoration of the three story school to become a Jewish museum and a museum on the education in West Feliciana Parish, and in the original auditorium a stage and commercial kitchen will be capable of hosting community events, conferences, weddings, theatre, arts shows etc. The ground floor will host two Exhibit Rooms and a Center for the Arts. On the site that overlooks the Mississippi River down the bluff, is a proposed open amphitheatre. The adjacent Temple Sinai will be renovated as well and the entire renovated project will increase our ability to attract new meetings and business to the area.

IV. OUTREACH

A. Communication - Provide a concise narrative that describes how the Applicant will manage communication within the Cultural District, addressing the items listed below. - Communication to residents, businesses and organizations within the Cultural District; Provide information about State Historic Tax Credits to property owners; Provide information about sales tax exemption of original works of art to vendors

We use various means of communicating within the Historic District. We run an article in the local paper, the St. Francisville Democrat when all businesses and residents need to be notified. We will mail a letter to only the Historic District residents and businesses. The Main Street Merchants will send out an email, or post on the agenda for the Merchants' meeting. We do post things on websites, in the Chamber of Commerce enews letter, on blogs and facebook. For any meetings or events, we make posters or flyers, and hang on restaurant bulletin boards. Our newest communication is an information kiosk that we have built next to the town hall. This four sided kiosk will have local and tourist information. In the past we have set up informational seminars for the public to attend, such as Allison Sanders speaking about tax credits, Valerie Gaumont speaking on Main Street and Historic Design components. We advertised these meetings in the paper and through email and we set up individual on-site appointments one afternoon. We have also found that talking directly, either by phone or face-to-face is the best means of communication and we do this quite frequently.

The Main Street office is open daily from 10am-4pm in the Historical Society Museum where we have brochures and information available about Historic Tax Credits. Most people have my cell phone number and know where the Inn is so they step by. We will also plan to have an informational meeting to educate vendors, event planners, school board (our tax collector) and the town officials on the details of how the tax exemption works on original works of art to vendors.

We are in the process of rebuilding our Town of St. Francisville website which presently has a Main Street section but we will also add a Cultural District Section with all information on the website as well.
St Francisville Downtown Cultural District

B. Promotion - Provide a concise narrative that describes how the Applicant will manage promotion of the Cultural District, addressing the items listed: Promote the businesses, events, and programs of the Cultural District to the public; Provide for networking opportunities among residents; Provide opportunities for planning and promoting district wide events.

The St. Francisville Cultural District opportunities and events will be promoted in the same manner as we promote our present Main Street activities. We will co-op ads with the West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission in weekly and monthly magazines both within the state and in the surrounding states. We will continue to the Merchants Co-Op Ad program that has an upcoming events listing at the bottom. We will continue to put on special promotions like the Art Walk, White Linen Night, Yellow Leaf etc. We will continue to update the festival and events site www.stfrancisvillefestivals.com along with placing activities on the tourist commission calendar, send to events site, cultural candy, npr and to magazine calendar of events. The Advocate always helps out with the Fun Section, James Minton in his looking North column and Cynthia Campbell with the travel section. Locally we send all press releases to the St. Francisville Democrat, the Chamber Enews letter, Friends of St. Francisville blog, we have posters made for all shop, restaurant, grocery stores and other businesses to hang in their windows and we create a flyer that the school board copies and distributes to all the teachers to send home with the kids. We also deliver flyers to all the day care centers in town. Our residents are invited to all informational meetings, they will be invited to all informational meetings concerning the new aspects that pertain to the Cultural District. We have formed a new promotions board, this board has two merchants, our local graphic designer, the director of tourism, a representative from the Arts for All and a representative from the St. Francisville Area Foundation organization, this boards responsibility is to plan and promote all existing events and plan any new events.

V. GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A. Evidence of Government Support - Provide a copy of the signed resolution or ordinance from the Local Governing Authority indicating support for the application to become a Cultural District and acknowledging the local sales tax exemption on sales of original works of visual art. Label Resolution or Ordinance Attachment V. A.

B. Evidence of Community Support - Provide letters of support from a range of community stakeholders, and/or describe support from businesses, residents, arts/cultural/civic organizations. Presentation of the proposed application at community forums is encouraged. Label Community Support Attachment V. B.

Continued next page
St Francisville Downtown Cultural District

VI. CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

As the duly authorized representative acting on behalf of the Applicant, I agree to provide the following to the Office of Cultural Development as described and on the timeline outlined in the Cultural District Guidelines:

- **LBW** Business Inventory within 60 days of certification and annual updates on December 1 of each year after a full year of certification

- **LBW** Annual Report by January 31 of each year after a full year of certification

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further certify that the local governing authority with jurisdiction over the proposed cultural district fully endorsed and authorized the application with the understanding that local and state sales tax will be exempt on the sales of original works of art within the boundary of the district.

Name of Applicant: Laurie Walsh

[Signature]

Signature of Applicant

Date: June 4, 2009

Deadlines are July 1 and December 1, 2009, 4:30 pm
Print and send or deliver this completed, signed application, 4 copies, and required attachments to:

**Mailing Address:**
Cultural Districts
Attn: Gaye Hamilton
Office of Cultural Development
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Delivery Address:**
Cultural Districts
Attn: Gaye Hamilton
Office of Cultural Development
1051 N. 3rd Street - Room 318
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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Louisiana Cultural Districts
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
PARKER MEMORIAL PARK - EVENT VENUE

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY, ART WALK & YELLOW LEAF

1)

2)

GRAACE EPISopal CHURCH VENUE FOR
PR SYMPHONY AUDUPON PILGRIMAGE GRAVESIDE HISTORIES
DAY THE WAR STOPPED REENACTMENT
BIRDMAN COFFEE & BOOKS - VENUE LOCAL MUSICIANS & ARTS MARKET

3) 

MAGNOLIA CAFE - LOCAL MUSIC EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

4)
OLD MARKET HALL - VENUE FOR ART SHOWS
BOOK SIGNINGS
THEATRE

ST FRANCIS ART & ANTIQUES
LOCAL COOP GALLERY FOR ARTISTS
GRAND MOTHERS BUTTONS - LOCAL STORE
HANDMADE BUTTON JEWELRY

JULIUS FREYHAN SCHOOL - ONCE RENOVATED
WILL HOST JEWISH EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM,
AUDITORIUM FOR ART SHOWS, THEATRE, WEDDINGS
& COMMUNITY GATHERINGS
YELLOU LEAF FESTIVAL VENDOR IN PARKER PARK

(9)

(10)

P'JAYOU SARA MARKET VENUE FOR THEATRE & ANTIQUE AUCTIONS
St. Francisville, Louisiana
The second-oldest incorporated town in Louisiana began as a burial ground. Spanish Capuchin monks established a church in the 1730's across the Mississippi River in Pointe Coupee Parish, where raging floodwaters often made burial impossible. Soon they began crossing the river to the dry highland bluffs to bury their dead. The settlement thatstraggled up around their graveyard took its name from their order's gentle patron, St. Francis.

Late in the 18th century, the King of Spain issued land grants to Anglo-American settlers, men and women from the eastern seaboard looking for riches and a second chance in Spanish West Florida. By 1785, their number led to the creation of the District of Nuevo Feliciana. St. Francisville was dignified by charter and plot plan when it was developed around 1807 by John H. Johnson, whose marking of streets and squares on the narrow loessal (windblown glacial soil) ridge prompts the description "a town two miles long and two yards wide."

Below the bluffs of St. Francisville a different sort of town grew. Bayou Sara took its name from the creek that gave flatboaters on the river a safe anchorage in colonial days. Steamboats and King Cotton made it the largest port between New Orleans and Natchez by 1850. Its rowdy richness fell before the fire, Civil War, flood, the railroad, and the battle weevil. It began and ends a boat landing.

St. Francisville survives and reflects the growth and character of the surrounding plantation country. An oft-quoted figure places two thirds of the known American millionaires in the ante-bellum decade on the plantation of the Great River Road from New Orleans to Natchez. St. Francisville and West Feliciana were home to many of them. A stroll through the town's National Register Historic District of 146 structures awakens a sense of that grand history and also the simpler small town life that came before and after it.

A visit to St. Francisville begins at the Museum of the WEST FELICIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (1) where exhibits interpret local history and tourist information, brochures, and guidebooks are available 9am-5pm daily except holidays, Sunday 9:30am-5pm. Telephone 225-635-4224. A walking or driving tour of a mile long loop is suggested. Most structures have green Bicentennial markers; private homes are often opened for the annual Audubon Pilgrimage the third weekend in March.

From the museum on Ferdinand Street go approximately one block west to a left turn onto Royal Street. WHITE'S COTTAGE (2) is a 1903 urban adaptation of that emblem of Upland South culture known as the dog-trot or pen and passage house-two "pens" or rooms divided by an open passage or "dog-trot". AUDUBON MARKET HALL (3) was built in 1819 as an open-air public market with magistrate's office upstairs. Notice the arches at each end for the passage of wagons. Enclosed in 1868, the hall has served as Masonic Lodge, theater, library, and from 1974-78, as town hall. Recently returned to its historic state, it is maintained by the Historical Society.
Across the street and on the corner is SEABROOK (4). Built c1817 by a Baltimore merchant along Anglo-Creole lines, the house is named for later owner Henry Seabrook, a master plasterer responsible for its Federal-style interior decorations, as well as those in other parish landmarks.

Down Royal Street to the left is the ROBB HOUSE (5) built in 1895 by pharmacist F.M. Mumford as a gable-front commercial building with living quarters above. Next door is the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (6). Methodism arrived here in 1803 with fiery missionary Lorenzo Dow; an imposing church was built in Bayou Sara in 1844. The present church was built in 1899 and includes the bell tower from the old church.

Across Fidelity Street is VIRGINIA (7). This magnificent Greek Revival town house began humbly in 1817 as a one-room store. Expanded in 1826 to a storey-and-a-half cottage, it reached its present size in 1855 when Massachusetts—born lawyer L.D. Brewer added the two-story section with elaborate cast iron balconies. Brewer enjoyed his home for only four years before boarding the ill-fated steamboat Princess at Bayou Sara. Bound for New Orleans and delayed by fog, overloaded boilers exploded with great loss of life, including Brewer's.

Across Royal Street from Virginia is the GOLSAN HOUSE (8). Joseph L. Golsan came here in 1877, a young Alabama lawyer eager to enter Post Reconstruction politics. He married the great-grandniece of Lucy Audubon, never lost an election, and built this charming Queen Anne cottage in 1885.

The ROMANESQUE BANK BUILDING (9) built in 1905 anchors one corner of Royal and Prosperity Streets. On the other corner is an unassuming STUCCO STRUCTURE (10) which in its original state was one of the finest brick buildings in town. Built as the leading mercantile counting house in 1809, it served as the first court house of West Feliciana Parish in 1824 and later as the branch of the Bank of Louisiana.

Now turn right on Prosperity Street. The GREEK REVIVAL LAW OFFICE (11) was built by a lawyer from New York state in 1842 and has been devoted to the practice of law ever since. The COURT HOUSE (12) was built in 1903 to replace the 1852 structure damaged when the town was shelled by Federal gunboats during the Siege of Port Hudson in 1863. The demolition of the classic slate-covered brick structure proved so unpopular that those responsible refused to have their names displayed on the cornerstone, which remains blank. The temple-like well house from the earlier building remains in the rear.

Return to Royal Street and walk past the double-galleried house with the fishscale Queen Anne gable toward PROPINQUITY (13). One of St Francisville's oldest brick buildings, Propinquity was built of some 200,000 bricks in 1809 as the store of John Mills with cellar underneath and dwelling house above. Lucy Audubon was carried on the account ledger during the years she taught plantation misses as a means of earning the money which allowed her husband to publish his Birds of America. In 1966 the building was restored as a private residence directly across the street is the BARROW HOUSE (14) with cast iron railed balconies hard on the bayouette and sloping rear roof. Built as a storey-cum-dwelling, there is no central hall; french doors gain access. The single-storey addition was once a separate house. J. Hunter Collins, law partner of L.D. Brewer of Virginia, noted in this ledger the $260 cost of moving the cottage and $224.38 for the ironwork. Like Brewer, he could not choose between two admired patterns. As at Virginia, the upper and lower balcony rails differ.

Off Royal Street, behind Propinquity, at the end of Johnson Street is the office of the ST. FRANCISVILLE DEMOCRAT (15). The town has had a weekly newspaper since the third newspaper in the Louisiana Territory, The Time Piece, was established in 1811. The Democrat was begun in 1893 in opposition to the Louisiana lottery and moved into its present office in 1908. Today the front room contains a computer for generating news stories, but the back portion remains the printing shop of the late Horse and Buggy Printer, Elzie Robinson. Old presses and paper folding machines and even the pig iron smelter for casting hand-set type remain.

THE PRINTER'S COTTAGE (16) is the small restored post and beam house to the right of the Democrat office. The legend persists that bodies about to be buried in the Old Spanish graveyard were housed in it. Its heavy corner posts and load-bearing outer walls allowed many interior changes over the years, but the original study construction is apparent in the attic as is damage from Civil War bombardment.

PROSPECT (17), built before 1807, is constructed of bousillage (heavy timbers filled in with a mixture of mud and moss) after the manner of the Creole House elsewhere in Louisiana. The full cellar, however, is of eastern seaboard derivation. An early classical well house remains in back.

HILL CROFT (18), a grand Neoclassical townhouse, was built in 1905 for Judge Samuel McCutcheon Lawson as a gift from his wife's brother, a wealthy South Louisiana sugar planter.

Cross Ferdinan Street and walk up the steep hill to OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (19). Built from plans drawn by Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard in 1871, the church was completed in 1893. The interior columns are of hand hewn heart pine and the altar was hand-crafted in Natchez. From the Catholic Hill can be seen the part of town known as The Foot of the Hill, with its small pedestrian park commemorating the West Feliciana Rail Road, 28 miles of track first talked of in 1828 and completed after arduous labor in 1842, the first standard gauge track in the nation. Beyond the park was the town of Bayou Sara.

Continue east on Ferdinan Street to GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH (20). Organized March 15, 1827, Grace Church is the second oldest Episcopal Church in Louisiana. The present Gothic structure was built 1858-1860, its cornerstone laid by Leonidas Polk, the Fighting Bishop of the Confederacy. Grace Church's beauty owes much to the restraint of its builder, local master carpenter C.N. Gibbons. Severely damaged by shelling during the Civil War, Grace Church nevertheless saw the burial by its rector of Federal gunboat captain John E. Hart. A Mason, Hart had desired a Masonic burial, and fighting stopped for a day while Confederate and Union Masons honored a brother's request. The Reverend D.S. Lewis read the Episcopal burial service as Commander Hart was laid to rest in the time-honored Masonic Plot.

A country block eastward on Ferdinand Street is the WIDOW ROSS'S HOUSE (21). Dora Ross was a frugal German hausfrau who had outlived two husbands by the time of the Civil War. She set a good table and served many gunboat officers, oblivious of the ire of her Confederate neighbors. It is said that Admiral Dewey, then a midshipman, often dined at her board.

Return now to the Museum, noting the 1883 Greek Revival lodge of a BLACK BURIAL SOCIETY (22) Nearly opposite. You may either conclude your tour here or continue up Ferdinand Street to THE BRASSEUX HOUSE (23), a late 19th—century home; TRINITY (24), built in 1901; and EVERGREENZINE (25), the Descriptive Yiddish name chosen by a German merchant for his 1885 Home. These and other frame structures, from early W.C. COTTAGE (26) of hewn logs covered by clapboards to such Victorian excesses as THE ST. FRANCISVILLE INN (27), establish the architectural character of a Southern market town, where residences co-exist with step-front commercial buildings.
ORDINANCE 2009-3

AN ORDINANCE IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE CREATION OF THE ST. FRANCISVILLE CULTURAL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, Act 298 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorizes Local Governing Authorities to create Cultural Districts as a mechanism for community revitalization through the creation of hubs of cultural activity; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development is authorized to develop standard criteria for cultural districts and to determine whether or not a proposed Cultural District meets those criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development has promulgated administrative rules which set forth the procedure for Local Governing Authorities to submit applications to designate and certify a specified geographic area as a Cultural District; and

WHEREAS, the geographic area within the Town of St. Francisville, Parish of West Feliciana Parish, may meet the criteria for the creation of a Cultural District which area is generally comprised of the territory within the following boundaries:

The boundaries will be the same as our Historic District: begin at the intersection of Commerce Street and Burnett Road, then east along the centerline of Burnett Road to the eastern property line of the apartment complex; then north to a point 300 feet from Burnett Road; then east approximately 1,000 feet to the property line that delineates zoning categories on the Official Zoning Map, then south to La Hwy 3057 (Commerce Street) and continue south to the municipal boundary; then west to Gaspers Creek; then northwest to the centerline of Weevil Street; then northwest to the centerline of Pecan Grove Street; then south to the property line that is parallel to Commerce Street; then north to a point 340 feet south of the centerline of Princeville Road; then west to the municipal boundary; then west, north, west, north, and east along the municipal boundary to the corner of the municipal boundary; then southeast to the property line that appears to be an extension of Burnett Road; then east to the intersection of Commerce Street and Burnett Road (point of beginning).

WHEREAS, within the boundaries of a state-certified Cultural District, several tax incentives may be available including (1) a sales tax exemption on the sale of certain original works of art, (2) individual income tax credits for eligible expenses incurred during the rehabilitation of certain owner-occupied residential or owner-occupied mixed use structures, and (3) income and corporate franchise tax credits for eligible expenses incurred during the rehabilitation of certain historic structures; and

WHEREAS, only a Local Governing Authority is authorized to submit an application for the designation and certification of a Cultural District; and

WHEREAS, a "Local Governing Authority: is defined by LAC 25: 1 1101 as "the governing authority of the municipality.

WHEREAS, THE ST. FRANCISVILLE CULTURAL DISTRICT is located entirely within the municipality of the TOWN OF ST. FRANCISVILLE and therefore the TOWN OF ST. FRANCISVILLE would be the proper entity to submit an application for the certification and designation of the above described geographic area as a Cultural District.

Now therefore, be it ordained that the TOWN OF ST. FRANCISVILLE does hereby:

1) Support and endorse the submission of an application to the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development to designate the ST. FRANCISVILLE CULTURAL DISTRICT as a state-certified Cultural District; and
2) Delegate its authority to submit said application and all supporting documents, reports, and other forms required for the creation, administration, and reporting to ST. FRANCISVILLE MAIN STREET.

3) Direct all city employees to support and cooperate with efforts to compile necessary information and data required for the application and all subsequent reporting necessary for the administration of the Cultural District.

4) Request all affected citizens and businesses to support and promote activities consistent with the purposes of the Cultural District.

5) Authorize the Mayor to sign any and all documents required for the creation and administration of the ST. FRANCISVILLE CULTURAL DISTRICT.

Upon being submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: James Davis
      James R. Leake
      Robert P. Leake
      Oscar Robertson, Jr.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Abby Temple

ADOPTED ON THIS 12th DAY of May, 2009

ATTEST:

Diane Tygres, Town Clerk

William H. D'Aquilla, Mayor
CERTIFICATE

I, Diane Tygres, Clerk of the Town of St. Francisville, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of St. Francisville at its regular meeting held on the 12th day of May, 2009 at which meeting a quorum of the members of the Board of Aldermen were present and that the above is a true and correct copy of said Ordinance.

Diane Tygres, Town Clerk
May 20, 2009
West Feliciana
Historical Society

June 1, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of the West Feliciana Historical Society Board of Directors, I am writing a letter of support in making our St. Francisville downtown Historical District a Cultural District. There is much heritage in this area of St. Francisville—old homes, West Feliciana Historical Society Museum, Audubon Library, gift shops (all housed in old structures), a downtown park and rest area, old law offices, three historical churches, and Audubon Market Hall where the cultural arts are promoted through speakers, art exhibits, drama productions, and, during the Audubon Pilgrimage, an antique show and sale has been housed there as well as various other cultural exhibits.

The West Feliciana Historical Society was founded in 1969 to foster an awareness of local history and an appreciation of our past. Accomplishments of the society include the restoration of a late 19th century hardware store for use as its own headquarters and an interactive museum of local history. The Society gives aid and encouragement in placing meritorious parish structures on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Historic District of Royal Street and the Ferdinand Street District. The Historical Society has a 99-year lease on Audubon Market Hall and was instrumental in the restoration of the building and is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance. The annual Audubon Pilgrimage is the primary source of operational income for the Society.

As you can see from our accomplishments and purpose, our activities and endeavors coincide directly with those of a Cultural District. The Audubon Pilgrimage helps to develop a sense of community; volunteers orchestrate this parish wide event each year with much pride and ownership. The Historical Society Museum as well as the Audubon Market Hall offers a place to gather, share our heritage, sponsor exhibits, support the arts, and helps draw visitors to our town and parish.
The West Feliciana Historical Society supports these efforts to establish a Cultural District and wants to help meet the necessary objectives.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dorothy Temple
President, West Feliciana Historical Society
June 2, 2009

Gaye Hamilton
Louisiana Cultural Districts
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Gaye:

I was just thrilled when I heard St. Francisville was applying to be recognized as a Louisiana Cultural District. As you know, I've had a store in the St. Francisville historic district since 1995, and a jewelry crafting business since 1985. We were helped early on in restoring our 1905 bank building by two Main Street renovation grants (we even won a Louisiana Preservation Alliance award for that work). I feel strongly that the tax credits for historic renovation provided by a Cultural District will encourage other businesses similar to ours to locate in St. Francisville and convert other (many now empty) historic structures into shops and galleries. And the timing couldn't be better—St. Francisville merchants soon will face the challenge of the rerouting of east/west traffic from the ferry landing in town to the new Mississippi River bridge several miles south of town. We will need this help even more then!

As a merchant, I can also say that I will be encouraged to offer many more higher-end, one-of-a-kind pieces of art (both made by us and purchased from other artists) when we can sell those tax free. St. Francisville has long been a haven for artistic souls, and this feature of the Cultural District will definitely make it easier for us to market their works.

I really enjoyed seeing you briefly at the legislative hearings last month. Please call me at 225-635-4107 or email me at susan@grandmothersbuttons.com if you have any questions about St. Francisville merchants!

Best regards,

Susan Davis
June 3, 2009

Office of Cultural Development
Gaye Hamilton- Director
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA  70804

RE: St. Francisville- Cultural District

Dear Ms Hamilton:

The Greater St. Francisville Chamber of Commerce has been informed that the Town of St. Francisville has made a request to the Office of Cultural Development to become recognized as a “cultural district”.

The Chamber of Commerce is an organization that is dedicated to promoting a positive business climate, enhancing our quality of life and contributing to the growth and prosperity of our members, we strongly encourage the arts in the community. This recognition would enhance the ‘Historical District’ to become a ‘Cultural District’ that would support the numerous and talented local artists and local musicians in the parish, who support and are part of many of the businesses that are members of the chamber.

Your consideration and strong support for this opportunity for St. Francisville to become a ‘Cultural District’ would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Linda Osterberger
Executive Director
June 1, 2009

Cultural Districts
Attn: Gaye Hamilton
Office of Cultural Development
PO Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Town of St. Francisville

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

This letter is in support of the naming of St. Francisville as one of the newest members of Louisiana’s Cultural Districts. With a history that dates back over 200 hundred years, its Historic District and Main Street Program have become a Mecca for artists of all mediums.

Many of our special events offer venues for our local artisans to share their trade and their art pieces to the visiting public. Local musicians are employed to perform for these events, and the citizens of our town as well as our visitors enjoy the concerts. The future Julius Freyhan Cultural Center is located in the heart of the Historic District and promises to offer a unique experience showcasing the contributions Jewish immigrants have made to Louisiana.

It is our hope that the Town of St. Francisville will be added to the Cultural Districts already existing and will show the rest of the country the beauty and hometown feel of Louisiana’s Hill Country!

Sincerely,

Kitty Martin, Executive Director
West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission
May 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Directors of the Julius Freyhan Foundation enthusiastically support the designation of the Historic District in St. Francisville to a Cultural District. This designation will serve to enhance the development of the planned community center for the performing arts as well as open up more possibilities for tourism and economic development.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Nancy Vinci
President
Arts For All
P. O. Box 1504
St. Francisville, Louisiana

To whom it may concern:

Arts For All is our local art organization. We promote local artists, musicians and writers by providing venues for them to show or perform their work. Some of these events sponsored by Arts For All are: The Yellow Leaf Arts Festival held in October each year; ‘vibes in the ‘ville music events in Parker Park; community art days; art activities for children; art exhibits; music concerts; poetry readings; author talks. We also produce a series of articles called “Artview” for the local newspaper highlighting local artists. The local theatre group, The St. Francisville Transitory Theatre, has called on us to help with several of their productions and we have helped to support them financially and with advertising and selling tickets.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lynn Wood, Arts For All board member
September 21, 2009

Laurie Walsh
PO Box 400
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Dear Laurie,

I am pleased to announce the certification of six new Cultural Districts in Louisiana. These six in addition to the thirty-nine already certified represent to every corner of the state, truly making it a statewide program that touches communities of every size from very small rural towns to urban centers.

Congratulations! Your application for the St. Francisville Downtown Cultural District was approved by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism with certification effective on September 10, 2009. You are to be commended for being part of this landmark program. With this designation your Cultural District now has the ability to apply for state historic tax credits for revitalization projects and to conduct sales of original art exempt from state and local tax. By incentivizing cultural activity in these ways we expect Cultural Districts throughout the state to benefit from increased commerce, improved occupancy, a greater sense of community identity, and more artistic and cultural production.

Our staff will work with you in the coming weeks to establish your Cultural District and implement procedures to capitalize on the new incentives. Please contact Gaye Hamilton if you have questions at 225-342-8161.

You have my enthusiastic support and encouragement as you make the Cultural District program a reality.

Sincerely,

Scott Hutcheson
Assistant Secretary
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization / Business</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurie Walsh</td>
<td>SF Main Street</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Laurie.mainst@bellsouth.net">Laurie.mainst@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>635-3873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen &quot;Ruthie&quot; Davis</td>
<td>WFEL Sales Tax Office</td>
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<td>635-3891 ext 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Wood</td>
<td>Birdman Coffee &amp; Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamie Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herschel Harrington</td>
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<td>635-4214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Williams</td>
<td>WFEL Historical Society</td>
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<td>635-6330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Stowell</td>
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<td>721-1736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Davis</td>
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<td>635-4107</td>
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**Date:** 10/19/00  
**Event:** CD Meeting St. Franciscus