

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Downtown Rayville

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**Street & number: roughly bounded by W Rosa St, Louisiana St, Bradley St, and S Eugene St.City or town: Rayville State: LA County: Richland ParishNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:     national      statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A      B X C      D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Carrie Broussard, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government



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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

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☒

Public – Federal

☒



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**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District ☒

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing 218	Noncontributing 51	buildings
1	0	sites
		structures
		objects
		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / single dwellings

COMMERCE / TRADE

RELIGION / religious facility

FUNERARY / church cemetery

GOVERNMENT / parish courthouse

EDUCATION / school, library

RECREATION AND CULTURE / theater

TRANSPORTATION / rail area

SOCIAL / civic



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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / single dwellings

COMMERCE/TRADE

RELIGION / religious facility

FUNERARY / church cemetery

GOVERNMENT / parish courthouse

EDUCATION / school, library

RECREATION AND CULTURE / theater

TRANSPORTATION / railroad

SOCIAL / civic

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

OTHER: Mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

WOOD

BRICK

STUCCO

CONCRETE

GLASS

VINYL

ASBESTOS



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### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Rayville Historic District is located in Richland Parish in far northwest Louisiana. Rayville is a town of approximately 2,000 people, and it is the largest town and parish seat of rural Richland Parish. The district is approximately 1561 acres with a commercial area towards the north and a residential area towards the south. The commercial area includes 1-story and 2-story late 18<sup>th</sup> century, early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Mid Century Modern commercial buildings, which support businesses behind traditional storefronts. The residential area includes a mix of early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century single family houses in a variety of styles, and these houses represent Rayville's most prosperous time. There is a high level of integrity and percentage of contributing structures within both the commercial and residential areas. The district also includes the Rhymes Memorial Library, which was the first public parish library in the State of Louisiana and an individual listing on the National Register.

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### Narrative Description

#### *Resources*

Contributing elements within the Rayville Historic District include 218 buildings, 1 site, and 3 individually listed buildings. There are 51 non-contributing or ineligible buildings. This equates to about 78% contributing elements and 22% non-contributing elements. Most of the non-contributing elements are small, single-level commercial buildings located near the (north) commercial area of the district that were built outside of the period of significance

#### *Description Statement*

Rayville was founded in 1868 from a small settlement called Little Creek that was surrounded by rich farmlands. Rayville was a commercial hub for trading and transporting agricultural goods from around Richland Parish, and the commercial area within the historic district includes great examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular, late Victorian, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial structures. The residential area within the historic district includes a variety of late Victorian and early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century American house styles with integrity. The Period of Significance for Rayville is 1868 through 1968. The majority of Rayville's extant historic structures date to 1892 – 1968. Rayville's earliest buildings within the district boundaries were built of wood as early as 1860, and the second courthouse from 1871-1873 was built of brick.<sup>1</sup> According to local historians, the 1890 fire in downtown Rayville burned half of the structures, and then there was

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.



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another fire in 1891.<sup>2</sup> Since the fires did not burn everything, and since Rayville had access to brick by 1871 at the latest, it is likely that there were brick buildings in downtown Rayville in the 1860s and 1870s that remain extant, possibly obscured by modern awnings or other changes. Rayville's documented growth and rail boom after the Civil War would also relate to a surge in Reconstruction buildings around 1865-1875. Unfortunately, the Richland Parish courthouse / assessor no longer has documents related to its earliest structures. Therefore, the Period of Significance should begin with Rayville's founding in 1868.

Rayville includes a relatively dense commercial area to the north and a larger, less dense residential area to the south. The historic district is approximately 1561 acres, and includes a variety of building types common to Louisiana towns: several churches, educational buildings, government buildings, a library, civic buildings, and a cemetery to name a few. The district is shaped like an irregular rectangle that is centered along the prominent Julia Street, which runs north-south. The district directly abuts farmland on its western boundary, and a mix of low-density residential and small-scale commercial buildings abut the other boundaries.

The boundary is drawn in the attached map. The district boundaries take into account the bordering farmland to the west as well as the density and integrity of historic resources through the Period of Significance, or 1868-1969. There are no current local historic districts or state cultural districts in Rayville. The main streets are Julia Street and Louisa Street, which run north-south, and Benedette Street, Harrison Street, and the railroad tracks, which run east-west at the north end of the district. Natural topographic features include the Little Creek along the western boundary, which separates the district from the bordering farmland. Visual changes in the district include the gradual transition of commercial buildings into residential buildings, particularly along Julia Street and Louisa Street. There are no major highways or other, non-historic visual barriers within the district; the historic railroad tracks are a visual barrier, but also part of the Period of Significance. Only the smattering of non-contributing, small scale commercial buildings that were built outside of the period of significance signal inappropriate development or create visual intrusions, but these structures are few-and-far-between compared to the density of contributing structures.

Rayville is laid out in a grid, with east-west streets paralleling the railroad. The commercial area has few mature trees or landscaping features, except for the large green lawns surrounding the parish courthouse and Civic Center. Sidewalks are a combination of brick and concrete, and the district includes the historic railroad tracks near S Benedette and Harrison Streets. Live Oaks and other large trees become more numerous south of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and the large lots of the residential area make this part of the Rayville district feel very green. There is a large canopy of mature oak trees that defines the residential Ineichen Street. Physical features of note also include the cast iron lamp posts along parts of Benedette, Harrison, Julia, and Louisa Street; the lampposts help provide a sense of place within the district boundaries and reconfirm these streets as historic, main thoroughfares (PHOTO 06). A historical marker honoring country music legend and Rayville native, Gene Stewart, exists near 708 Julia Street, and this marker is part of the Northeast Louisiana Music Trail. (Country music legend Tim McGraw is also a Rayville

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



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native, but does not have a marker). There is a small park with a gazebo next to the Civic Center, and there are other places for public and private gatherings within the district including the Rayville Civic Center, the Rhymes Memorial Library, and several churches of Christian denomination.

*Commercial Area Description*

The commercial area extends east-west for about 4 blocks along S. Benedette Street and Harrison St. It then extends north-south via Julia and Louisa Streets for about 5 blocks until it reaches Francis Street at the south end, at which point the district becomes more residential. Aside from a handful local landmark buildings, the majority of commercial buildings include one and two-level late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings that directly abut the sidewalk (PHOTO 03). Most of the commercial buildings are vernacular brick structures with glass and metal storefront windows at the pedestrian level. Many of these buildings, particularly along Benedette and Louisa Street, have party walls and detailed brick work at the cornices. Metal, vinyl, and canvas awnings from the period of significance have been introduced at some commercial storefronts, and several commercial buildings still include historic, painted signage. The oldest, most impressive commercial building is located at the prominent corner of Benedette and Louisa Street (PHOTO 04); it is a three-level brick building with stepped brick corbels at the cornice. The building includes arched window openings and a change in brick material that suggests the third level is/was an addition. This building was historically a cotton gin with the telephone exchange at the third level. Another impressive building is the large, International Style bank building on S Louisa St; this building incorporates pilasters between large, unbroken swaths of white stucco, creating a monumental effect (PHOTO 05). While most of the individual buildings within the district's commercial area do not showcase a high level of individual architectural value, the collection of these buildings and their density creates a sense of place and a high level of integrity for the district. From the prominent three-level masonry building to the International Style bank, the architecture clearly states that Rayville experienced a heyday of commerce between the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Local Landmark Commercial Buildings*

Local landmark buildings within the commercial area include three buildings that are individually listed on the National Register: the Rhymes Memorial Library (PHOTO 08), St. David's Episcopal Church, and the old Rayville High School (PHOTO 07). Other local landmark commercial buildings include the Art Deco Richland Parish Courthouse (PHOTO 02), the International Style Rayville Civic Center (PHOTO 11), the Art Moderne Joy Theater (PHOTO 01), and the Neoclassical Revival First Baptist Church (PHOTO 19). These buildings span the late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and represent a variety of architectural styles and building types congruent with that time period. The size and level of integrity of these buildings also showcase the civic values that have historically proved important to the Rayville community including education, civics, and religion. These buildings all maintain moderate to high levels of architectural integrity; only the highschool has lost its historic use, and it now functions as a community center, and the theater is in poor condition but remains unmodified.



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### *Residential Area Description*

The residential area exists primarily south of Francis St, and it is larger than the commercial area to the north. The residential area includes a variety of late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles. Most of the houses are 1 level in height with a raised crawl space measuring about 18” – 32” above grade. There are some noteworthy 2-level examples in the district as well. Materials and elements include wood clapboard siding, brick, vinyl siding, porches, wood windows, and some rusticated CMU from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Large front porches are common, and there are examples of both screened and unscreened types with a variety of columns. The highest density of historic architectural styles includes vernacular cottages from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (PHOTO 16), Craftsman cottages from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (PHOTO 15), and Ranch houses from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (PHOTO 25). Other popular styles include 1920s-1930s Revival styles like the Colonial Revival at 212 Rhymes, and Minimal Traditional cottages like the example at 1605 Louisa (PHOTO 26). Almost all residences are single family, although there are a few examples of early 20<sup>th</sup> century doubles or duplexes such as 509 Francis (PHOTO 13). Most residences are situated on relatively spacious lots with an ample front setback. The residential area maintains a strong level of integrity, as most of the residences have received few architectural modifications; the most popular modification is/was the addition of an attached carport or garage (PHOTO 17). As with the commercial area, there are only a handful of residential buildings that have individual architectural merit, but the collection of residential buildings showcases a variety of American house types and styles, and this collection visually reflects Rayville’s commercial success during the period of significance.

### *Local landmark Residences*

Local landmark residences include the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Queen Anne Free Classic house at 833 Julia, and this house includes a notable curved, wraparound porch (PHOTO 10). The large Spanish Eclectic house from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century at 1100 Julia is the most prominent historic residence within the district; this residence sits on a larger corner lot with a stepped façade, white stucco, and a clay tile roof (PHOTO 14). Another high style Spanish Eclectic residence exists at 911 Julia, which is a 2-story brick example with a corbeled cornice. Fine Revivalist styles can be found at 1505 Julia (PHOTO 23) and 1410 Julia (PHOTO 22), and an excellent example of the Craftsman style exists at 828 Julia (PHOTO 09). The residence at 517 Ineichen showcases the Ranch style, with a massive fireplace slicing through the front façade (PHOTO 20). These local landmark residences are spread out within the district and date between the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their locations and date ranges reveal how Rayville experienced growth and commerce during this time, and support a period of significance ranging from Rayville’s founding in 1868 to the beginning of its commercial decline after 1969.

There was another mid 19<sup>th</sup> century residential local landmark of note in Rayville that was recently lost. The Balfour House (411 N Louisa) from circa 1860 sat within the district boundaries just north of the railroad tracks, but it was unfortunately demolished in summer 2023 for unknown causes (FIGURE 01).<sup>3</sup> The Balfour House included a circular bay window at the

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<sup>3</sup> Cahill, Bernadette. “Requiem for the Balfour House,” *Richland Today*, June 2023. Available URL: <https://www.richlandtoday.com/news/requiem-historic-balfour>



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front elevation and gingerbread molding above the front porch. The loss of the Balfour House is unfortunate, for it was considered one of Rayville's earliest extant residences. The loss of the Balfour House pushes the Period of Significance to a start date of 1868, which was the town's founding.

### *Topography*

Rayville is located near Beouf River, which is a small, circuitous river that is located about 2 miles from the northern district boundary, and also about 2 miles from the western district boundary. Smaller creeks and tributaries historically provided water sources for the area, and the Little Creek runs through Rayville and provides the natural boundary for the western edge of the district. Rayville is also located about 37 miles from the Mississippi River, and it was the Mississippi's Great Flood of 1927 that greatly impacted Rayville's people and buildings. The flood convinced many small farmers to abandon their rural buildings and build within the town limits of Rayville, and we see a large collection of early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century American house styles built in the residential area that represent this response.

The town of Rayville is generally flat, although there are some low hills that surround the town. The town is also relatively green and lush, with mature trees dotted throughout the residential area, particularly near the western boundary.

### *Integrity of District*

The Rayville historic district maintains integrity for Criterion C in the area of significance of architecture and Criterion A for commerce. The variety of architectural styles represent the most popular styles of late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century America, and the few modifications of these styles via front porches and raised foundations represent the Louisiana vernacular building traditions. While several buildings are in need of repair, few buildings have been significantly altered since their original construction, and some of the alterations occurred within the Period of Significance of 1868-1969. Garages or carports have been added, wood clapboards have been replaced with vinyl siding at some residences, and awnings have been added or modified at the commercial buildings, but the historic size, scale, and fenestration patterns of most structures remain intact.

Where new construction has been introduced within the historic district, it has generally been successful, specifically within the residential area and at the religious structures. The residence at 506 Smith (which fronts Ineichen) is new construction, but it is a single-level building that incorporates brick, a front porch with columns, and a traditional setback, and it therefore fits into the historic landscape despite the fact that it is much larger in footprint than most historic residences (PHOTO 21). The district includes several religious buildings or churches of various Christian denominations. Most of the religious buildings are red brick, Gothic Revival structures of various sizes. The Gothic Revival style is generally considered a "Christian architectural style," and its traditional application to churches, both new and old, helps the newer structures blend into the district and support its integrity.

The new, single-level commercial structures that were built circa 1969-2024 and which are scattered throughout the district create some visual intrusions, but their size and scale is generally compatible with the district, and in a few more successful cases, there is effort to blend



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in with the district (PHOTO 12). In total, there is about a 15%-20% rate of non-contributing structures within the district, which gives an 80-85% rate of contributing structures. This rate of contributing structures along with their integrity supports the case for the Rayville historic district on the National Register.

*Inventory Description*

See Inventory Table below.



Resource Number	Resource ID	Street address	National Register Status	Type of Resource	Construction Date	Form	Style
1	42-00512	602 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Bungalow	Craftsman
2	42-00513	603 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1950	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
3	42-00546	606-608 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Freestanding Commercial	Other
4	42-00547	607-609 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
5	42-00514	610 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
6	42-00515	611 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1968	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
7	42-00516	612 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
8	42-00093	701 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Commercial Row Building	Other
9	42-00517	703 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Commercial Row Building	Classical Revival
10	42-00548	705-707 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
11	42-00518	709 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
12	42-00519	711 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
13	42-00520	712 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
14	42-00521	713 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
15	42-00522	714 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
16	42-00089	715 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
17	42-00549	717-721 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
18	42-00523	718 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
19	42-00089	723 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
20	42-00524	724 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1940	Freestanding Commercial	International Style
21	42-00550	727-725 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
22	42-00525	806 Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	ca 2000	Freestanding Commercial	No Style
23	42-00526	810 Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1990	Freestanding Commercial	No Style
24	42-00072	815 Louisa Street	Individually Listed	Building	1926	Other	Spanish Eclectic
25	42-00551	Unknown Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1990	Other	No Style
26	42-00527	822 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Freestanding Commercial	Art Deco
27	42-00528	827 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Other	International Style
28	42-00071	834 Louisa Street	Individually Listed	Building	1909	Other	Gothic Revival
29	42-00529	902 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1940	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
30	42-00070	905 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	1906	Other	Gothic Revival
31	42-00530	910 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
32	42-00531	1003 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1955	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
33	42-00069	1007 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Bungalow	Craftsman
34	42-00532	1011 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1960	Ranch	Other
35	42-00533	1012 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1965	Freestanding Commercial	Other
36	42-00067	1013 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1935	Four Square	Other
37	42-00534	1107 Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	2005	Other	Other



38	42-00066	1109 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Bungalow	Craftsman
39	42-00062	1204 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1915	Four Square	Prairie
40	42-00061	1207 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
41	42-00060	1210 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	Ca. 1940	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
42	42-00535	1211 Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	ca 2000	Freestanding Commercial	Other
43	42-00536	1214 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Split Level	Other
44	42-00058	1307 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	1927	Other	Classical Revival
45	42-00056	1401 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1905	Bungalow	Craftsman
46	42-00055	1407 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Bungalow	Craftsman
47	42-00537	1410 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	1969	Freestanding Commercial	Colonial Revival
48	42-00538	1501 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
49	42-00539	1505 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
50	42-00540	1507 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
51	42-00541	1510 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
52	42-00542	1513 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
53	42-00543	1514 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
54	42-00544	1603 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	Craftsman
55	42-00545	1605 Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1972	Ranch	No Style
56	42-00671	1606 Louisa Street	Ineligible	Building	c. 2010	Other	No Style
57	42-00052	1609 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1935	Other	No Style
58	42-00053	1611 Louisa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Other	No Style
59	42-00675	521 W. Rosa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Warehouse	Other
60	42-00676	509 W. Rosa Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Warehouse	Other
61	42-00595	104 N. Louisiana Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1940	Warehouse	Other
62	42-00468	914 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Freestanding Commercial	Commercial Style
63	42-00467	904 Harrison Street	Ineligible	Building	ca.2020	Other	No Style
64	42-00466	902 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1965	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
65	42-00083	900 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Freestanding Commercial	Classical Revival
66	42-00465	814 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1885	Freestanding Commercial	Other
67	42-00464	806 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Freestanding Commercial	International Style
68	42-00463	800 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1885	Freestanding Commercial	Other
69	42-00470	718-720 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1950	Freestanding Commercial	International Style
70	42-00462	716 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1915	Freestanding Commercial	Moderne
71	42-00461	712 Harrison Street	Ineligible	Building	ca.1970	Commercial Row Building	No Style
72	42-00460	706 Harrison Street	Ineligible	Building	ca 1960	Commercial Row Building	No Style
73	42-00469	702-704 Harrison Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1915	Commercial Row Building	Spanish Eclectic
74	42-00394	308 Benedette Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1980	Depot	Other
75	42-00393	306 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Depot	Craftsman



76	42-00392	304 Benedette Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1980	Depot	No Style
77	42-00084	215-217 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
78	42-00397	211-213 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
79	42-00391	209 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
80	42-00390	207 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
81	42-00087	203-205 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Italian Renaissance
82	42-00396	119-121 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
83	42-00395	115-117 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
84	42-00389	109 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Commercial Row Building	Classical Revival
85	42-00388	103 Benedette Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	1937	Freestanding Commercial	Art Deco
86	42-00408	102 Eugene Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Commercial Row Building	Other
87	42-00409	104 Eugene Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1960	Commercial Row Building	No Style
88	42-00410	106 Eugene Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Commercial Row Building	Other
89	42-00411	108 Eugene Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1960	Commercial Row Building	Other
90	42-00412	110 Eugene Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Commercial Row Building	Other
91	42-00479	705 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
92	42-00480	707 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Freestanding Commercial	Classical Revival
93	42-00481	708 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1930	Other	Art Deco
94	42-00482	802 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1975	Freestanding Commercial	Other
95	42-00483	806 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1980	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
96	42-00484	809 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1975	Freestanding Commercial	No Style
97	42-00485	813 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1955	Ranch	Ranch Style
98	42-00486	817 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1955	Ranch	Ranch Style
99	42-00511	818-810 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1975	Freestanding Commercial	Metal Frame Building
100	42-00487	823 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
101	42-00488	824 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	Gothic Revival
102	42-00489	827 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Ranch Style
103	42-00490	828 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1915	Bungalow	Craftsman
104	42-00075	832 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Wood Frame Vernacular	Other
105	42-00076	833 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1885	Queen Anne House	Queen Anne
106	42-00491	902 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1965	Bungalow	Other
107	42-00492	905 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1969	Freestanding Commercial	Colonial Revival
108	42-00493	906 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1950	Ranch	Colonial Revival
109	42-00079	911 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1935	Other	Classical Revival
110	42-00078	912 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1910	Bungalow	Craftsman
111	42-00674	1001 N. Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1925	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Bungalow/Craftsman
112	42-00510	1006-1008 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1969	Ranch	Commercial Style
113	42-00494	1007 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1920	Wood Frame Vernacular	Other



114	42-00082	1101 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1915	Bungalow	Craftsman
115	42-00081	1104 Julia Street	Individually Eligible for Listing	Building	ca. 1910	Other	Spanish Eclectic
116	42-00495	1107 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	Ranch Style
117	42-00496	1201 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1980	Freestanding Commercial	Other
118	42-00497	1204 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
119	42-00498	1207 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
120	42-00499	1208 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Bungalow	Craftsman
121	42-00500	1212 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Bungalow	Craftsman
122	42-00501	1306 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1976	Freestanding Commercial	Commercial Style
123	42-00502	1401 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Dutch Colonial
124	42-00086	1402 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Other	Colonial Revival
125	42-00503	1405 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
126	42-00085	1410 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	Tudor Revival
127	42-00504	1411 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	Colonial Revival
128	42-00505	1502 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
129	42-00506	1505 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	Colonial Revival
130	42-00507	1506 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-El	No Style
131	42-00508	1509 Julia Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-El	No Style
132	42-00509	1512 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-El	No Style
133	42-00670	1604-1610 Julia Street	Ineligible	Building	c. 2016	Other	No Style
134	42-00558	702 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
135	42-00557	613 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Ranch Style
136	42-00556	611 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
137	42-00555	609 Madeline Street	Ineligible	Building	ca 1940	Other	Other
138	42-00554	607 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
139	42-00553	605 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Freestanding Commercial	Other
140	42-00561	503-511 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1940	Commercial Row Building	Moderne
141	42-00552	423 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Bungalow	Craftsman
142	42-00560	412-416 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1910	Freestanding Commercial	Commercial Style
143	42-00073	411 Madeline Street	Individually Listed	Building	1930	Other	Neo-Classical Revival
144	42-00559	402-404 Madeline Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Commercial Row Building	Commercial Style
145	42-00600	104-316 S. Louisiana Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 2000	Other	Other
146	42-00569	302 Morgan Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Other	Other
147	42-00570	308 Morgan Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1995	Wood Frame Vernacular	Other
148	42-00673	310 Morgan Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1920	Other	Other
149	42-00672	316 Morgan Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1920	Wood Frame Vernacular	No Style
150	42-00568	Rayville Cemetery	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Site	Ca. 1900	Cemetery	No Style
151	42-00562	104 Martin Luther King Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1945	Ranch	Ranch Style



152	42-00563	109 Martin Luther King Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Ranch Style
153	42-00564	110 Martin Luther King Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
154	42-00565	112 Martin Luther King Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1940	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
155	42-00566	114 Martin Luther King Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1935	Wood Frame Vernacular	Other
156	42-00445	716 Francis Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	1961	Other	Other
157	42-00444	708 Francis Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1955	Ranch	Ranch Style
158	42-00666	603 Francis Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Freestanding Commercial	Neo-Classical Revival
159	42-00443	509 Francis Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
160	42-00442	413 Francis Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Other	No Style
163	42-00573	109 Mulberry Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
164	42-00080	112 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1960	Bungalow	Craftsman
165	42-00575	202 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
166	42-00576	208 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
167	42-00577	310 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	Craftsman
168	42-00571	102 Mulberry Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1995	Wood Frame Vernacular	Other
169	42-00572	105 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
170	42-00578	311 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
171	42-00579	315 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
172	42-00580	401 Mulberry Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
173	42-00581	402 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
174	42-00582	408 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
175	42-00583	502 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
176	42-00584	505 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	Ranch Style
177	42-00585	510 Mulberry Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
178	42-00586	513 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	No Style
179	42-00587	514 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	No Style
180	42-00588	602 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
181	42-00589	603 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
182	42-00590	606 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
183	42-00591	609 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
184	42-00592	612 Mulberry Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
185	42-00593	615 Mulberry Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
186	42-00626	706 Spencer Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1984	Ranch	Other
187	42-00625	613 Spencer Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 2000	Other	Other
188	42-00624	610 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
189	42-00623	519 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Bungalow	Tudor Revival
190	42-00622	516 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1970	Ranch	Ranch Style
191	42-00621	510 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Four Square	Craftsman



192	42-00627	504-506 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Other	Other
193	42-00620	403 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1972	Freestanding Commercial	Commercial Style
194	42-00068	310 Spencer Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1919	Bungalow	Other
195	42-00619	307 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
196	42-00618	303 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1940	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
197	42-00617	214 Spencer Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
198	42-00596	202 Rhymes Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Wood Frame Vernacular	Colonial Revival
199	42-00597	206 Rhymes Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1935	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Ranch Style
200	42-00598	212 Rhymes Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1955	Ranch	Colonial Revival
201	42-00601	102 Smith Street	Ineligible	Building	ca.1990	Ranch	Other
202	42-00602	106 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1960	Other	Other
203	42-00603	202 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1940	Side-Hall Shotgun	Craftsman
204	42-00604	206 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
205	42-00605	209 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca.1960	Ranch	Other
206	42-00606	214 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1935	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
207	42-00607	302 Smith Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1990	Other	Colonial Revival
208	42-00608	304 Smith Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-Ell	No Style
209	42-00609	307 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Gable-Ell	Ranch Style
210	42-00610	308 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Other	No Style
211	42-00611	404 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Ranch	Other
212	42-00612	412 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Saddlebag	No Style
213	42-00613	503 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	Colonial Revival
214	42-00614	506 Smith Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 2000	Other	No Style
215	42-00615	507 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1967	Ranch	Ranch Style
216	42-00616	511 Smith Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
217	42-00459	414 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
218	42-00458	413 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1927	Double Shotgun	Craftsman
219	42-00457	410 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
220	42-00456	409 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
221	42-00455	405 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Wood Frame Vernacular	Other
222	42-00454	401 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1930	Double Shotgun	Other
223	42-00453	318 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
224	42-00667	317 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1950	Ranch	Ranch Style
225	42-00452	314 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1910	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
226	42-00451	312 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1927	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Other
227	42-00450	111 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca 1927	Wood Frame Vernacular	Craftsman
228	42-00449	108 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Craftsman
229	42-00448	107 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-Ell	Classical Revival



230	42-00447	104 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-El	No Style
231	42-00446	101 Franklin Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Four Square	Craftsman
232	42-00401	116 Chaney	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
233	42-00399	110 Chaney	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1968	Ranch	Ranch Style
234	42-00402	121 Chaney	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1972	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
235	42-00400	113 Chaney	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1945	Wood Frame Vernacular	No Style
236	42-00398	109 Chaney	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
237	42-00407	1112 Cotton Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
238	42-00406	1111 Cotton Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Ranch	Ranch Style
239	42-00405	1106 Cotton Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
240	42-00404	1012 Cotton Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
241	42-00403	1008 Cotton Street	Individually Eligible for Listing	Building	ca. 1920	Gable-El	No Style
242	42-00424	1108 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
243	42-00423	1104 Foster Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 2000	Other	No Style
244	42-00422	1015 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
245	42-00421	1014 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1935	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
246	42-00420	1010 Foster Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1972	Other	Colonial Revival
247	42-00419	915 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	No Style
248	42-00418	909 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
249	42-00417	908 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Other	No Style
250	42-00416	814 Foster Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1935	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
251	42-00415	809 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
252	42-00414	625 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1955	Gable-El	No Style
253	42-00413	621 Foster Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
254	42-00594	113 Mulhern Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1990	Other	Other
255	42-00477	514 Ineichen	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Ranch	Ranch Style
256	42-00478	517 Ineichen	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	Ranch Style
257	42-00476	414 Ineichen	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
258	42-00475	410 Ineichen	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
259	42-00474	310 Ineichen	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1992	Other	No Style
260	42-00668	114 Ineichen Street	Ineligible	Building	c. 1950	Other	Ranch Style
261	42-00473	107 Ineichen	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Other	No Style
262	42-00472	102 Ineichen	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1900	Other	No Style
263	42-00471	101 Ineichen Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
264	42-00654	103 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
265	42-00655	104 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
266	42-00656	105 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
267	42-00657	106 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other



268	42-00658	107 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
269	42-00659	110 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
270	42-00660	111 Boone Street	Ineligible	Building	c. 1990	Other	Other
271	42-00661	112 Boone Street	Ineligible	Building	c. 1990	Other	Other
272	42-00662	113 Boone Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1955	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
273	42-00441	708 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Double Shotgun	No Style
274	42-00440	706 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
275	42-00439	703 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Freestanding Commercial	Other
276	42-00438	603 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	No Style
277	42-00437	516 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	Colonial Revival
278	42-00436	513 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1950	Ranch	Colonial Revival
279	42-00435	510 Fragala Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1990	Ranch	Other
280	42-00434	504 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
281	42-00433	503 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Hall-Parlor	No Style
282	42-00432	415 Fragala Street	Ineligible	Building	ca. 1980	Ranch	Colonial Revival
283	42-00665	412 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1945	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Other
284	42-00431	409 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Wood Frame Vernacular	Craftsman
285	42-00430	403 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1960	Ranch	Ranch Style
286	42-00429	311 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Double Pen	Craftsman
287	42-00428	309 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	No Style
288	42-00427	213 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1935	Freestanding Commercial	Colonial Revival
289	42-00426	212 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1945	Minimal Traditional/American Small House	Colonial Revival
290	42-00425	115 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1920	Bungalow	Craftsman
291	42-00664	111 Fragala Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1945	Ranch	Ranch Style
292	42-00663	116 Bradley Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	c. 1925	Minimal Traditional Cottage	Bungalow/Craftsman
293	42-00567	210 Missouri Street	Contributing to a Listed NR District or Eligible NR District	Building	ca. 1955	Ranch	Ranch Style



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## 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.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. 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.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

1868-1969

**Significant Dates**

1890, 1891 (Fires)  
1927 (Flood)

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**



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**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.)

The Rayville Historic District is eligible for the National Register on a local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture and Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The period of significance ranges from 1868-1969. The year 1868 represents the town's founding, and the year 1969 represents the end of Rayville's commercial heyday – a heyday that spanned at least 100 years. The Rayville Historic District is significant for its range of American architectural styles, many of which incorporate Louisiana's vernacular building methods and materials. The Rayville Historic District is also significant for its commercial impact on northeast Louisiana during the period of significance. It was during this time that Rayville was a central hub of commerce for agricultural and timber trade via strategic rail lines. As one local historian described, Rayville was a small town with bright lights.

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

***Period of Significance***

The period of significance for the district is 1868-1969. The year 1868 represents Rayville's founding. Prior to 1868, Rayville was called Little Creek Station, and in the 1850s it included one or two commercial structures including a steamboat station and/or a saloon near the banks of the Beouf River (outside of the district).<sup>4</sup> Rayville's earliest buildings within the district boundaries were built of wood as early as 1860, and an early courthouse from 1868-1873 was built of brick.<sup>5</sup> According to local historians, the 1890 fire in downtown Rayville burned half of the structures, and then there was another fire in 1891.<sup>6</sup> Since the fires did not burn every structure, and since Rayville had access to brick by 1868-1873, it is likely that there were other brick buildings in downtown Rayville as early as 1868 that remain extant, possibly obscured by modern additions or other changes. Rayville's documented growth and rail boom after the Civil War would also relate to a surge in Reconstruction buildings around 1865-1890. Unfortunately, the Richland Parish courthouse/assessor no longer have documents related to the town's earliest structures, and Sanborn Maps do not begin until 1919. A circa 1890-1900 photograph of downtown Rayville does show a mix of masonry and wood-framed structures (FIGURE 02). By correlating the town's founding date with its documented history, historic photographs, and knowledge of its 1860s structures and building materials, we can support a period of significance beginning with the town's founding in 1868.

The Period of Significance ends in 1969 for that is the last year when records show definitive proof that Rayville was on the tail-end of its commercial heyday. Bank records from the

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<sup>4</sup> The station and the saloon might have been the same building. "Rayville," *Richland Beacon News*.

<sup>5</sup> *The Monroe News Start*, October 28 1937.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*



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Richland State Bank, as reported in 1969 by the *Richland Beacon News*, showed a continued growth in year-end assets between 1945 and 1968.<sup>7</sup> First-hand accounts by the Rayville locals who contributed to *Richland Memories Volume II* wrote that, “Indicative of stability and growth was the milestone of 1969,” when referencing church building.<sup>8</sup> The density and integrity of Ranch houses also signifies Rayville’s continued success through the 1960s. Census records also show a slight decrease in Rayville’s population for the first time in 1970, although population growth did pick back up by the 1980 census. The first-hand accounts of Rayville in the late 1960s, the architecture, and the census records all support an end to the Period of Significance of 1969.

***Early and Indigenous Peoples near Rayville***

Important, nearby archaeological sites reveal how Rayville and Richland Parish have a long history connected to agriculture. The UNESCO world heritage site of Poverty Point is located approximately 28 miles northeast of Rayville, and it represents the largest, most complex settlement of the Late Archaic period in North America.<sup>9</sup> Rayville is not being nominated under Criterion D for archaeology, but it is worth mentioning that the Poverty Point site has yielded important information about the very early people of North America. Given its proximity to Rayville, it is likely that the original builders of Poverty Point would have sourced materials and hunted/gathered in the area around present-day Rayville.

Later Indigenous tribes in the area included the Ouachita and the Taensa tribes. The Ouachita people lived in northeast Louisiana, near the Ouachita River, and the Taensa tribe lived closer to the Mississippi River, which puts present-day Rayville in the middle. The Ouachita was a tribe loosely connected to the Caddo Nation, while the Taensa were culturally connected to the Natchitoches.<sup>10</sup> By the 1720s, likely to due to European colonization, the Ouachita left their region and moved east to settle with the Taensa, and later, with the Natchitoch(es).<sup>11</sup> Between 1700 and 1800, the Taensa moved around, but were eventually wiped out by disease, slave raiding, and warfare.

The Richland Parish and Rayville area have a long history with agriculture, trade, and commerce that dates back thousands of years. The undisturbed land around Rayville (outside of the district) would likely reveal more information about the Indigenous peoples of this area via archaeology.

***Area of Significance: Commerce***

***18<sup>th</sup> Century European Arrivals***

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the area around Rayville was known as Ouachita River Country and later, as the Big Creek-Boeuf River Country. This area was inhabited by French

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<sup>7</sup> “Thank You from Richland State Bank,” *Richland Beacon News*, Rayville, January 11 1969.

<sup>8</sup> *Richland Memories Volume II*, 241.

<sup>9</sup> Greenlee, Diana. “Poverty Point,” *64 Parishes*, November 19 2016. Accessible URL: <https://64parishes.org/entry/poverty-point>.

<sup>10</sup> Oklahoma Historical Society, “Ouachita Mountains,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. Available URL: <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=OU001>

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*.



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hunters and traders and it is generally accepted that Joseph Etier and Joseph Baptiste FaFar were two of the first European-descent, large landowners, living there approximately between 1768 and 1803.<sup>12</sup> French explorers first arrived in Louisiana in 1682, and then French settlers arrived in large numbers in 1755 following their expulsion from British Canada or Acadia. The area of Richland Parish became increasingly Anglified after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

The rich, fertile soil of Richland Parish was apparent, and most settlers became small and mid-sized farmers; there was slave labor, and the Trio Plantation (1832) was located about 5 miles away.<sup>13</sup> Farming, steam transportation, and later rail activity were commercial activities that shaped early Rayville and Richland Parish. An early description of Rayville and Richland Parish described how, “the formation is alluvial land, wooded swamp, and upland breaking into bluffs. The soil of the river, bayou and creek bottoms is of alluvial deposit, exceedingly rich and productive, and produces good paying crops.”<sup>14</sup> Michael Anderson, a Richland Parish historian and former editor of the *Richland Beacon News*, described how “the steamboats [on Boeuf River] had a large effect on this area, allowing cotton to be easily marketed, opening further settlement, and increasing business opportunities. Boeuf River became the hub of agriculture, business, social, and political activity in the area,” even before the parish or Rayville’s official founding.<sup>15</sup> This early connection between the area’s agriculture and trade commerce set the stage for Rayville’s growth.

*Nineteenth Century Founding and Early Commerce*

Rayville’s growth would increase in the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century thanks to the rail lines. A railroad charter was granted in 1836 for a railroad across northern Louisiana, but construction did not begin until 1854, and the first train did not pass until 1861.<sup>16</sup> The rail line operated through the early years of the Civil War until Union and then Confederate forces destroyed the line in 1864. It would be rebuilt by 1883, and the rail lines provided vital commercial opportunities to Rayville during most of the Period of Significance or 1868-1969. The railroad remains functioning today.

By the 1850s, the Big Creek-Boeuf River Country (Rayville and the surrounding area) had become a “well-established agricultural community [in Ouachita Parish] of about one thousand inhabitants, including slaves. It was still a young community...and it had many of the characteristics of a rough, backwoods, pioneer society.”<sup>17</sup> A local historian described how, “Time was in the 1850s when Little Creek Station, Rayville’s forerunner, stood as a steamboat stop on the banks of Boeuf River. Passengers on the well-known boats stopped or chatted at a store owned there by the Ray brothers...and their store known as Little Creek Station was the

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<sup>12</sup> Richland Memories Volume II,

<sup>13</sup> Jane Ellerbe, “Richland Parish was once James’ brothers Refuge,” *The News Star*, originally published 1976, available URL: <https://www.thenewsstar.com/story/news/local/2016/01/02/richland-parish-james-brothers-refuge>

<sup>14</sup> Alcee Fortier, “Louisiana sketches of Parishes, Towns, and Events,” Century Historical Association, Vol II, 1914.

<sup>15</sup> *Richland Memories Volume II*, 17.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Bennie McLain Hixon, “The Big Creek-Boeuf River Country 100 Years Ago,” *The Richland Beacon-News*, Rayville, LA, January 11 1969.



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center of activity for the entire area.”<sup>18</sup> Another historian notes that this “station” was merely a saloon, and that it was located near the parking lot behind the current courthouse.<sup>19</sup>

Rayville is named for its early entrepreneur and landowner, John Ray. John Ray served from 1844-50 in the Louisiana House of Representatives, and then in the Louisiana Senate from 1850-54, and again from 1868-1872. John Ray, like some of the founding fathers of the US, was both a slave-holder personally and an abolitionist politically. He was a Republican who was not in favor of secession, a lawyer who worked in Monroe, and he was considered an unpopular Scalawag.<sup>20</sup> His plantation on the Ouachita River was known as Ray’s Point, but it was the 120 acres that he purchased from A.C. Dotson on January 20, 1863 that became the town of Rayville.<sup>21</sup> John Ray also pushed through the Louisiana legislature Act 115 which combined parts of Ouachita, Franklin, Carroll, and Morehouse parishes to create Richland Parish in September 1868, with his namesake Rayville as the parish seat.<sup>22</sup> The very founding of Rayville therefore represents a change in Louisiana geopolitics. Major streets such as Julia, Benedette, Louisa, Rosa, Madeline, and Francis Street were named for various Ray family members.

*Rail Commerce*

As of 1914, there were two railroads traversing the parish: the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific, which ran east-west, and the New Orleans & Northwestern R.R., which ran north-south. The two railroads intersected at Rayville.<sup>23</sup> This rail intersection was immensely important to Rayville’s growth and commerce, and to that of Richland Parish. “Rayville was at the center of a rich farming district and the distributing point for farm machinery, supplies, etc.”<sup>24</sup> Other towns or villages that contributed to Rayville’s commerce included Alto, Archibald, Boughton, Girard, Mangham, and Delhi, proving that Rayville functioned as a commercial hub for the entire northeast Louisiana. The chief export product was cotton, but diversified farming included corn, hay, sorghum, vegetables, peaches, pears, plums, cattle, and hogs; as of 1914, many of these goods were exported to the northern markets, which connected Rayville’s commerce beyond the borders of Louisiana and even the regional South.<sup>25</sup> Lumbering was also an important industry for years, and timber included oak, gum, cottonwood, willow, hickory, and cypress; cottonseed oil mills and brickyards provided the principal manufacturing industries of Richland Parish.<sup>26</sup> These items came through Rayville via the rail intersection, and provided an impressive commercial benefit to the town that can be seen in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings.

*Prominent Businesses*

Rayville prospered from the surrounding agriculture of Richland Parish and the town’s location, which enabled trade routes via the Beouf River, and then via the intersection of the two rail lines.

<sup>18</sup> “Rayville,” *Richland Beacon-News*, Rayville LA ,

<sup>19</sup> *Richland Memories Volume II*, 221.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> The north-south line is no longer existing, and in its place is a small park lined with street lamps that represents its former location. This park is just outside of the district’s eastern boundary.

<sup>24</sup> Fortier.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*



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The list below has been made possible from *Richland Parish Memories Volume 1*, *Richland Parish Memories Volume II*, and the assistance of local, noted Richland Parish historian, Michael Anderson. The earliest testimonials or memories date to the 1890s, and the latest date to the 1970s. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but it shows that Rayville was a self-sufficient, thriving commercial center with a wide variety of businesses from at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Mrs. Miriam Lane Davey of Raville described how, "Rayville was a little metropolis on Saturdays, and it wasn't necessary to shop in Monroe except for an occasional item or to see a specialist doctor." She goes on to describe...

"Besides at least one other grocery store and a couple of restaurants, at least three drug stores, several specialty and general clothing / dry goods stores, a fabric shop, a vet supply/tack shop, a shoe store, two discount stores, a couple of hardware stores, a movie theatre, two banks, a couple of feed & seed stores, a cotton gin, a jewelry store, a pool hall, some bars, an auto parts store, a bus stop, a train station, a hotel, a city electric power generating plant, physicians' and dentists' offices, a TV/appliance repair shop, a regional meat-packing plant, and even one nationally known gin manufacturing factory."<sup>27</sup> (FIGURE 02, FIGURE 03)

Prominent Businesses during the Period of Significance:

1. People's Lumber and Supply Co, Inc at 407 Rhymes 1907-65<sup>28</sup>
2. Rubeye's Beauty Shop, Benedette St. 40 years in business
3. Grover Hardware (black man was the blacksmith)
4. Dupont Jewelry
5. Tombs Drugstore
6. C.B. Griffin's Clothing Store 1926-1971
7. Ellerbe's Jewelry Store
8. Morgan and Lindsay Dime Store
9. Eddin's Cotton Office at Highway 80 and Louisa, with telephone office upstairs and Richland Parish Health Unit
10. Mr. Hugh C. Watson's grocery store
11. Miss Emma Cumpton's café
12. Miss Bessie Baker's Street Car Café
13. McCoy Drugstore / Joseph's Drugstore
14. Mr. Phillip's barbershop
15. Tabor's Clothing Store
16. Elite Café
17. Mr. Solomon's clothing store / Albert's Men Store
18. Hatchell's
19. Bertha Cook's Beauty Shop (previously a millinery shop)
20. LA Power and Light

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<sup>27</sup> Volume I, 71

<sup>28</sup> "The Stodghills Came to Buy Lumber and Stayed on to Sell it for 58 years!" Richland Beacon News, Rayville, January 11, 1969.



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21. O'Neal's Drug
22. Joy Theatre
23. Hodge's Feed Store
24. Dewey Baker's Café
25. Watson's Grocery
26. Dago Williams' Chevrolet
27. Sandra's Dress Shop
28. Dr. Lane O'Neal (dentist)
29. Dr. Sayer's Office (physician)
30. Filling Station on Louisa | owned by John Morris
31. Fragala's shoe repair shop on Louisa | 1930s-1960s
32. Pete McKinney's Barber Shop
33. Richland State Bank

*Women in Commerce*

Women in Rayville, like women across America, had many vital roles that often went unpaid, underpaid, or unrecognized as a part of the town's traditional commerce. Women were caretakers of children, parents, husbands, livestock, and friends. They were teachers, laundresses, beauticians, seamstresses, nurses, secretaries, cooks, cleaners, librarians, and telephone operators. Women also controlled one important form of economics in Rayville: fundraising. The women in Rayville noticeably contributed to Rayville commerce and architecture through their significant fundraising efforts that led directly to the construction of several prominent churches, including the Rayville Baptist Church and the Rayville Methodist Church. One Rayville native described how, "Mrs. Thelma Eppinette, the oldest member of the Rayville Baptist Church, recorded that the Women's Missionary Society had booths at the parish fair each year to sell home-baked and canned goods. There were bazaars, dinners, concerts, and other functions – all to raise money to buy such things as musical instruments, carpet for the pulpit, screens for the windows, a church bell and money to pay the preacher, plus the bank notes on the parsonage."<sup>29</sup> Another Rayville native described how, "the women of [the Rayville Methodist Church] sponsored functions to raise money...to purchase property and build a new, larger sanctuary. Records of these functions date back to 1873 as recorded in the Richland Beacon newspaper, and the women had a new church built in 1906."<sup>30</sup> The process of collecting funds to hire architects and builders and purchase materials and furnishings also contributed to the local construction economy. The women of Rayville were responsible for capital fundraising, the day-to-day church finances, and they also organized efforts during WWI and WWII to roll bandages and collect donations, carving out a space for themselves within Rayville commerce during a time when women were not wholly welcome. While Rayville's banks, mills, depots, and other businesses represented the financial victories of Rayville men, the churches represented the financial victories of Rayville women. (FIGURE 04)

<sup>29</sup> *Richland Parish Memories Volume II*, 248.

<sup>30</sup> *Richland Parish Memories Volume II*, 248.



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Women also owned more traditional businesses, especially businesses that catered to other women such as beauty shops, and they worked alongside husbands and children on the surrounding farms and in family businesses. Two of the beauty shops included Rubeye's Beauty Shop on Benedette St. and May McIntyre's Beauty Shop, which she ran out of her house at the corner of Louisa and Madeline in the 1940s.<sup>31</sup> When the new Commercial Bank opened in the 1950s, Miss Ola Mae Cain had the "distinction of being the first one to open a savings account and Mrs. W. Hodge was the first one to open a regular account, evidencing the fact that the ladies of Rayville take an active interest in the town's commerce and do not allow the men to lead them in anything, especially in the matter of banking."<sup>32</sup> While this is a notable sentiment, the bank's entire board and staff was made entirely of men, proving that women could be involved, but not be *really* in control of commerce.

A history of Rayville would be incomplete without mentioning the impact of the Rayville teachers and educators, most of whom were women. While the teachers' names are too numerous to list, the *Richland Memories Volume I and Volume II* are full of stories describing how Rayville teachers changed lives for the better and set students on paths of success. For many single women in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the job of teacher was one of the few respectable jobs, and while teachers were paid little, they bolstered the Rayville economy by raising the next generation of business owners.

Women's social clubs were another important aspect of Rayville life and commerce. If a school or government entity could not or would not provide a service, the women's social clubs often filled that gap. For example, Adele Smith was a notable Rayville woman who "brought energy, intent, and ambition to Rayville" in 1899 by organizing the "Bachelor Maids" social club, teaching art and music whenever it was not offered in schools, and being the first woman elected to the board of Aldermen in a town of Louisiana in 1920.<sup>33</sup> Services like free art and music classes added to Rayville's quality of life without adding to its cost of living, thus attracting families and businesses and quietly contributing to the town's commercial success.

### *Black Commerce*

Another group that both contributed and remained disenfranchised from Rayville's commerce was the Black population. Richland Parish was a slave territory, and enslaved people and their labor represented a billion-dollar industry in Louisiana in 1860. After the Civil War, Black people had restricted opportunities to directly participate in Rayville's town commerce, but local histories suggest that Black citizens gained some prosperity and greater opportunity by the 1920s. For example, The Colored Fraternal Administration Building in Rayville was built in 1926 on Mansfield Street, and was "composed of a large number of the leading colored men and women of north Louisiana."<sup>34</sup> The building itself was impressive, measuring 40x60 with two levels for offices, store rooms, and lodge rooms on a very desirable lot in the east part of town.<sup>35</sup> The officers included "some of the Black leaders in the state of Louisiana" including A. Grimes

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 43.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 303.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., 149

<sup>34</sup> *Richland Memories I*, 126.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, 302.



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of Rayville. Other notable Black citizens included Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950) who taught himself to read between field work and then organized the first Black History Week in Rayville in 1926; Mr. George Spears, a farmer who also bought a bus to shuttle black students to/from the Richland Parish black schools; Mr. Joel Elijah Washington, who had to fight the Rayville school district in 1948 for a school bus for Black students; and the Black man who drove the ice cart and gave small shavings of ice to local kids.<sup>36</sup> The efforts of these Black citizens to forge a better future for young Rayvillians via education and even simple acts of kindness - like sharing ice shavings on a hot day – reveals how Black commerce during the period of significance centered on opportunity and betterment, not just a collection of riches.

Black women also played a major role in Rayville life, and they proved themselves equal to the task of fighting both racism and sexism when it came to business and commerce. Ms. Jonnie Davison Little was a teacher for 40 years who organized the first unit for retired teachers in Richland Parish and the first kindergarten class for Black students, thus impacting the financial and social well-being of both young and old Black community members. Ms. Jessie Williams Gundy worked as secretary-treasurer of Simms Funeral Home of Rayville between 1929-79, eventually added her name to the company, and also helped finance the Macedonia Baptist Church building. Mrs. Eula D. Britton worked for 37 years, between 1920 and 1957, as the Principal of Rayville Rosenwald High School, during which she “built and put into operation one of the best educational institutions in Northeastern Louisiana.”<sup>37</sup> Under her leadership, the Rayville Rosenwald High School was accredited with an “AA” rating, the highest rating given to Black schools, and several young men and women were personally, financially helped by Britton to further their education, proving yet again the ability of one educator to impact countless citizens. Britton also “contributed many dollars, time, and gifts to the Rayville Community Comfort Cottage Nursing Home, the Ranking Chapel A.M.E. Church, the Red Cross, and countless other local fundraisers, proving herself a key figure among Black women in Louisiana. In 1957, the Rosenwald School was renamed in her honor. The school lies outside of the district, but Britton’s story reveals important elements of Black commerce in Rayville.

Due to centuries of enslavement, Jim Crow, and segregation, the contributions of Black people to Rayville’s commerce and architecture are likely more prolific than official records recognize.

*Financial Institutions*

As a commercial center for Richland Parish and northeast Louisiana, Rayville included several banks, one of which remained in business over a century and represents most of the period of significance. The Richland State Bank opened on September 20, 1902 with capital of \$15,000, and they celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002. This enterprise “provided the first banking facility the entire parish, and attracted depositors from throughout Rayville and Richland Parish,” thus again proving Rayville’s significance on a state level for commerce.<sup>38</sup> The original bank building at 900 Harrison is an Italianate masonry structure from 1902, and it currently functions as the local police department (FIGURE 05). The current bank building is an International Style

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<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 33-34

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 90



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structure built in the 1960s. One particular banker from the Richland State Bank was Fred Morgan, who began as a bookkeeper in 1907, started an insurance company in 1910, and then became one of Rayville's leading businessmen, "writing with life the true American success story."<sup>39</sup> Morgan led the Richland State Bank through the dark years of the Great Depression, and while many rural Louisiana banks toppled, Richland State Bank stayed open. The ability for a small, rural bank to remain open during the Great Depression provided stability to the area and further cemented Rayville's role as an economic stronghold in northeast Louisiana. Morgan was eventually awarded the 50-year continuous service award by the Louisiana Bankers' Association, and the 'Richland State Bank Fred Morgan Memorial Scholarship' was established at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.<sup>40</sup> The longevity and accolades of this financial institution and its leader(s) again demonstrate Rayville's commercial significance to the state of Louisiana.

***Area of Significance: Architecture***

***Introduction***

Rayville's architecture is significant at the local level for its representation of vernacular building traditions, American styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and its direct relationship to the commercial heyday of Rayville and Richland Parish during the period of significance.

Rayville includes a commercial area at the north end of its district and a residential area at the south end of its district. The commercial area is denser, and it includes multi-story masonry buildings that abut the street as well as larger education, civic, and religious buildings located on more spacious lots with setbacks. There is a noticeable change from the oldest part of the commercial area along Benedette Street to the less dense areas south of Madeline Street. The commercial area includes three buildings: the Rhymes Memorial Library, the Rayville High School, and St. David's Episcopal Church that are individually listed on the National Register, and a handful of other local landmark commercial buildings (see description above). In general, the commercial area is architecturally significant for its collection of late 19<sup>th</sup>s to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century styles that relate directly to Rayville's commercial boom between 1868 and 1969.

Rayville's residential area is much more widespread and larger than the commercial area. The residential and commercial areas tend to blend together around Martin Luther King Street, and then south of Francis Street, the area becomes more heavily residential. Like the commercial area, there are few stand-out residences (see description above), but in general, the residential area is architecturally significant for its collection of late 19<sup>th</sup>s to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century styles that relate directly to Rayville's commercial boom between 1868 and 1969. The residential area includes many Craftsman cottages, Minimal Traditional Cottages, and early Ranch styles that specifically show an influx of residential building between the Great Flood of 1927 (FIGURE 06) and the end of the period of significance in 1969.

***Rayville's Earliest Buildings***

Rayville's earliest buildings date from the 1860s, and records of these buildings reveal vernacular building traditions that are significant at the state level. Rayville's earliest buildings

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<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 90

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 91



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are generally described as small, wood-framed buildings, and included the Little Creek Station or saloon, the first school, a few residences, an early courthouse, a log chapel named Horn Chapel, and a modest train depot. Most of these early buildings did not survive Rayville's major catastrophes or the passing of time, but they are worth noting, for they document early building types, styles, and construction methods.

The "oldest house in Rayville" was considered to be the Mangham House, which was built in 1869 by Wiley Mangham, founder of the town's first newspaper. The house was a dogtrot, with a Victorian vergeboard, and built of cypress planks on top of solid, rough-hewn cypress logs with square-cut nails. (FIGURE 07) <sup>41</sup> The house was originally two rooms and received several additions as the family grew. <sup>42</sup> It was demolished in 1967, but its combination of the vernacular, American-South dogtrot style with the cypress materials and simple, applied detailing reveals how early architecture of Rayville was decidedly Louisianian, with emphasis on function. Another, early residence was the circa-1869 vernacular Greek Revival building located in the commercial area, which functioned first as a house and then as the home of the *Richland Beacon News*. <sup>43</sup> (FIGURE 08). This simplified Greek Revival structure with a roomy front porch again shows how early buildings were vernacular, wood-framed structures with little ornamentation – more function than style. The Balfour House, circa-1860 and also reputedly "Rayville's oldest home", was a more high-style example of Rayville's early architecture, and a great example of a Folk Victorian home with a 7-sided bay window and intricate spindle work at the front porch (FIGURE 01). The Victorian detailing was likely shipped to the building owner via Rayville's rail line, thus revealing how Rayville's rail commerce and architectural stylings grew side-by-side. The Balfour House was also constructed of cypress wood, raised high on brick piers, had 12'-0" ceilings, and was a center hall; the houses exemplified both Louisiana vernacular types and building methods. <sup>44</sup> This spacious home was located about 2-1/2 blocks north of the railroad tracks, giving evidence that both sides of the rail line shared in Rayville's early prosperity. This building was demolished in 2023.

Other buildings that have been lost or moved out of the district include the old train depot building (moved), the oldest high school (moved, then demolished), the old Rayville State Bank (demolished), and the old courthouse (demolished). The high school, courthouse, and bank were demolished and replaced with newer structures within the Period of Significance. The loss of these structures is unfortunate, but their losses do not damage the integrity of the district as a whole. The replacement of each structure – a commerce structure, educational building, and a government building - relay part of Rayville's commercial growth and desire for modernization within the Period of Significance.

### *Education Buildings*

Education buildings in Rayville showcase vernacular building traditions and reveal how Rayville, an important commercial center in northeast Louisiana, valued education. Rayville's

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<sup>41</sup> Michael Anderson, "Old Mangham Residence Still Remembered," *Richland Beacon News*, Rayville, June 11 2003.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> "The Beacon News Plant," *Richland Beacon News*, Rayville, January 11 1969.

<sup>44</sup> Bernadette Cahill, "Requiem for the Historic Balfour House," *Richland Beacon News*, June 9 2023.



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first school was founded in 1869, shortly after the town was platted. It was a private, one-room schoolhouse located about one mile southeast of the courthouse, likely built out of cypress hewn logs in a vernacular style.<sup>45</sup> It is notable that the earliest citizens took it upon themselves to set up a school as one of the town's first buildings, "realizing that the town's future would depend largely upon the ability of the forthcoming generations."<sup>46</sup> The first public school was built in 1880, and the first substantial school building – a two-level, framed with four classrooms, a principal's office, and assembly space, and many openings – was finished in 1906 (FIGURE 09).<sup>47</sup> This building remained serviceable as a school and public gathering space until it was replaced with the current, larger brick building. The large high school building that stands on Madeline Street was built in the 1930 and showcases the apex of Rayville's population boom and commercial success (Photo 07). The building is three levels in height and the second largest historic building in the commercial area, second only to the courthouse. The high school was expanded between 1950 and 1960, with third levels added at the wings. The high school is brick construction with stone belt courses, a cupula above the entrance, and Renaissance Revival pilasters and doors at the central massing. The size, materials, and attention to detail of this large building reveal Rayville's pride in its educational systems and also show a population increase after the Great Flood. Depression.

*Commercial Area*

Rayville's commercial architecture is significant at a local level for its late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century styles, building methods, and materials. The commercial area architecture also reflects Rayville's commercial heyday. Rayville's commercial area extends north-south between Rosa St and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and east-west between Eugene Street and Louisiana Street. The highest concentration of older structures can be found along Harrison, Benedette, and Madeline between Julia and Louisiana. The historic "main street" is the L-shape formed by Benedette and Julia streets.

The historic "main street" of Benedette includes 1, 2, and 3-level buildings that directly abut the sidewalk. Most of these structures are solid masonry and include party walls, indicating a time when commercial real estate was precious and not an inch of street frontage was to be wasted. Earliest Rayville structures between the 1840s and the 1870s were wood-framed, and the earliest documented use of masonry was the 1868-1873 courthouse (demolished, FIGURE 16)<sup>48</sup>. Fires in 1890 and 1891 burned at least half of the existing structures, suggesting that most of the earliest structures were wood-framed. The density of extant, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century masonry buildings in downtown Rayville suggests that some masonry structures might have survived the fires, and that many structures were likely rebuilt shortly after 1891. A circa 1890-1900 photograph of downtown Rayville shows a mix of masonry and wood-framed structures (FIGURE 02). All histories and of Rayville and Richland Parish document building activities in the 1860s, but the Richland Parish assessor unfortunately no longer has its oldest records. In

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<sup>45</sup> *Richland Memories Volume II*, 228.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, 231.

<sup>48</sup> Some resources cite an 1868-69 two-room, wood-framed courthouse that was quickly replaced by 1871-1873 with a two-level masonry courthouse (PHOTO 16). Other resources cite the masonry structure as the original courthouse from 1868-69.



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general, most of the extant commercial structures are simple, late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century structures with some masonry detailing at the cornice or parapet levels; these building forms reflect quality masonry work but are not high-style. Most of the buildings include metal, canvas, or vinyl awnings that are attached via metal tie-backs. These awnings reflect a time of heavy foot-traffic and a desire to shield shoppers from the Louisiana weather. Many commercial buildings also include glass and metal storefront windows, and some of these systems have been replaced or upgraded, but in a compatible way that does not detract from any historicism. The regularity of the storefronts again reflects a time of heavy foot-traffic and window shopping within the commercial area, which speaks directly to the period of significance between 1868 and 1969.

Directly north across the railroad tracks from the “main street” portion of Benedette Street is Harrison Street, and this stretch also includes masonry commercial buildings from the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The buildings on Harrison are separated by side yards, and have a higher concentration of 20<sup>th</sup> century styles, which suggest later build-dates and slightly less desirable real estate. However, the Joy Theater is the most significant piece of architecture on this stretch, and first-hand accounts of life in Rayville attest to its popularity and everyone’s willingness to “cross the tracks” for entertainment. On Louisa Street between Harrison and Rosa Street, there are some 1 and 2-level masonry buildings separated by party walls, and there are a couple of framed structures with gable forms, glass storefront windows, and awnings. This collection of different building types, materials, and side yard configurations provides a message that this is the end of the pedestrian-friendly commercial area. Indeed, once the corner onto Rosa Street is turned, the buildings become decidedly industrial and modern construction on one side, and residential on the other side of the street. The historic commercial architecture at this northern end of the commercial area has therefore successfully maintained its scale and pedestrian-friendly attitude in a way that creates a natural boundary at the northern end of the district.

Moving south, the commercial area becomes less dense between Madeline Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard. In this area, one finds a mix of civic buildings, religious buildings, smaller stand-alone commercial buildings, and a few residential examples. There are some small-scale intrusions in this area that are compatible in size, scale, and (some) materials to the historic structures, and therefore do not detract from the area’s architectural integrity. This area is where the commercial blends into the residential area, and there is a mix of building types and materials in this blended area. The churches, Civic Center, and even the courthouse are much larger structures on much larger lots compared to the rest of Rayville, and these public or communal buildings represent the apex of Rayville’s financial investment in architecture. The required investment for these relatively large and high-style structures reveals how Rayville historically valued the roles of religion (Christianity) and civics within their community during the period of significance, thus revealing an important aspect to life in northeast Louisiana.

### *Entertainment and Civic Buildings*

The entertainment and civic buildings of Rayville demonstrate how Modern architectural styles did infiltrate this rural, small-town landscape, and thus exemplify how Rayville did have some eyes on the future. Rayville was a “small town with bright lights,” and the Joy Theater was a major source of entertainment for the town (FIGURE 10). Located at 713 Harrison Street, the



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Joy Theater still stands with its signature large, metal fin at the front elevation. Almost every citizen who contributed to the *Richland Memories* testimonials included a story about visiting the Joy Theater on a hot day, as it was the first (and for a long time, the only) building in Rayville with air conditioning. The Joy Theater opened in 1949 and is a good example of an Art Moderne theater with its large, fluted lines of white stucco and the metal canopy. The Joy Theater provides a physical and social anchor to Rayville's commercial area, linking the north side of the railroad tracks with the denser collection of historic commercial buildings on the south side of the tracks.

Other venues for entertainment and gatherings included the International Style Rayville Civic Building and the Mission Revival Rhymes Memorial Library building, which are next door to each other on the 700-800 block of Louisa Street. Testimonials prove that the Rhymes Memorial Library, which was Louisiana's first Parish library, was an important educational space and entertainment space; it was used for nursery school classes, readings, book clubs, and the general entertainment of book lending. Particularly during the Great Flood of 1927, the Rhymes Memorial Library managed to stay open thanks to the pluckiness of its librarian, who rowed a boat to the library each morning in order to lend books. The Rayville Civic Center includes a large, cast concrete colonnade at the front façade, a simplified entablature, a brick envelope, and smaller, single-level wings at both sides. The emphasis on the deep colonnade and the overall massing of the structure is reminiscent of Greek Revival plantation architecture, which is likely not accidental. The combination of the plantation module within the language of the International Style represents a Rayville of the 1960s that was both rooted in Southern traditions and yet eager to move forward into the future.

*Religious Buildings*

Rayville's historic district includes a myriad of Christian churches, and they all played a significant role in Rayville's social life and general development. Churches within the district include the large Rayville Methodist Church (905 Louisa, 1906), the smaller St. David's Episcopal Church (834 Louisa, 1909), the medium-sized Rayville Presbyterian Church (824 Julia, ~1920), the Sacred Heart Catholic Church (716 Francis, 1961), and the large First Baptist Church (1307 Louisa, ~1900). The Methodist Church is a grand Gothic Revival structure built of red brick with a stained-glass window above the front entryway and a long, arcaded breezeway that connects the sanctuary to the smaller chapel at the right. The First Baptist Church is also a very grand structure, built in the Neoclassical Revival style, with Ionic columns and portico and steeple at the front entry, and Gothic-style arched stained glass windows. The educational building, located directly to the left, is also an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style, and the First Baptist church buildings together encompass almost an entire city block. The smaller churches, which include Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rayville Presbyterian, and St. David's Episcopal, all include red brick, Romanesque columns, and simple Gothic Revival detailing. Of these three, St. David's Episcopal is by far the most ornate and stylized, and it was individually listed on the National Register. The five religious buildings within the Rayville historic district were built by different congregations at different times, but they all incorporate red brick and elements of Gothic architecture, thus creating a noticeable "church architecture." This calling-card "church architecture" immediately tells visitors that they are nearing a sacred space, and subtly (or not so subtly) encourages one to fix their posture. The power of architecture to send a message is therefore epitomized by these religious buildings, and the sheer density of



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religious buildings within ~4 acres confirms that church activities were historically very important to Rayville life.

*Residential Buildings*

The residential area showcases vernacular building styles and traditions, a density of American house styles from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and they reflect Rayville's commercial success during the period of significance. The highest density of residential structures can be found south of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and north of Bradley Street. Most of the existing housing stock dates from circa 1900 to 1969 based on Sanborn Maps, architectural styles, and Subdivision Plats that are available at the Richland Parish courthouse (FIGURES 35-38). There are a few older structures scattered in the district that stylistically date to circa 1875-1899, including the houses at 833 Julia and 1009 Cotton. Neither the Rhymes Memorial Library nor the Richland Parish Courthouse have any maps or plat records that show buildings prior to 1919, which is the date of the first Sanborn Map. There is a 1902 hand-drawn map of the commercial area, with individual businesses mapped, from the private collection of a local historian. (FIGURES 11-14)

Typical residential styles include late Victorian, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Revival styles, late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century American movements, and Mid-Century Modern styles. The density of these styles successfully represents the period of significance, and these are styles commonly found in both urban and rural settlements in Louisiana and the Southern United States. Rayville's residential lots are spacious, but there are usually at least 3 structures to a block-face, and the district is laid out in a grid. This regularity and density, when compared to other, nearby and more rural examples like Delhi, Louisiana, give credence to Rayville's role as the Big Town in Richland Parish / northeast Louisiana.

Most of the oldest, extant residential structures that date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century are simpler, single-level Folk Victorian or late Victorian in style with wood clapboards, raised foundations, front porches, and simple exterior trim. Another common style is the simple, wood-framed cottage from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which has a smaller massing and less ornamentation than the district's later Victorian counterparts (PHOTO 16). Some of the wood siding on these earlier structures has been replaced with vinyl or fiber cement; this type of material replacement is common in Louisiana where weather and financial hardships have generated cycles of damage and inexpensive repairs. Due to a combination of ample front yard setbacks, front porches, and the integrity of massing, the replacement siding does not detract from the individual buildings' integrity, nor from the integrity of the district as a whole.

By far the largest stylistic representation in the residential area is the Craftsman cottage. Based on the 1919 and 1927 Sanborns, most of the existing Craftsman Cottages were built between these years. However, it is recorded in the *Richland Parish Memories* volumes that many people from surrounding villages like Alto, Girard, Mangham, and Archibald decided to move to Rayville after the Great (Mississippi River) Flood of 1927. The influx of people corresponded to an influx of late Craftsman cottages and other 1920s Revival styles like Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival (PHOTO 24). The Great Depression hit just one year after the Great Flood, and this put a significant strain on the people of Rayville. The town proved resilient, even though



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“parents had difficulty buying shoes for their children to wear to school and food to put on the table.”<sup>49</sup> Church-giving, which was a major social/economic driver that directly impacted Rayville’s architecture, was done in “7 cent and 50 cent increments” during the Great Depression, relating to a significant construction slow-down in the 1930s. World War II brought revived economic opportunity to Rayville and Richland Parish; there was a German POW camp in nearby Delhi, and prisoners had to pick cotton on local farms.<sup>50</sup> There is a noticeable increase in residential styles post WWII, making the ~1928-1945 architectural “gap” even more apparent. The post-war residential architecture in Rayville includes the Ranch style houses and Minimal Traditional cottages, and these structures are noticeably more modern with their emphasis on horizontal lines, lower ceilings, integral garages, and different materials (PHOTO 18). In the post-war architecture, there is a greater representation of brick envelopes (including some Roman brick), asbestos materials, aluminum windows, and smaller openings that indicate a move towards interior climate-control.

In general, Rayville’s historic residential buildings have few significant changes that have been made since 1969 other than the addition of some carports and/or siding/roofing replacements. The residential area remains intact, especially through the lens of architectural massing, fenestration patterns, and front porch stylings.

*Conclusion*

The collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles, the “gap” of 1928-1945 residences, and the concentration of Mid-Century Modern styles reflects a book-end pattern of prosperity in Rayville that was interrupted by the Great Flood and Great Depression. Rayville, like many small Southern towns, experienced general well-being, civic pride, and commitment to itself until about 1969, or the end of the period of significance. After that year, a decline in population begins, and even the *Richland Parish Memories* memoirs sort of trail off, indicating a change to or within the town. This change is likely related to many factors, including state and national politics, changes in industrial agriculture, the Vietnam War, Civil Rights movements, and the exodus of American small towns to larger cities.

The end of Rayville’s period of significance is as significant as its beginning, as it reflects the commercial downfall of small-town, rural Louisiana around 1969. Rayville’s architectural styles represent the timing(s) of the town’s success as a commercial hub in northeast Louisiana. Rayville’s architecture is significant at the local level for its representation of vernacular building traditions, American styles of the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and its direct relationship to the commercial heyday of Richland Parish during the period of significance.

While many storefronts are currently shuttered, Rayville maintains a strong cadre of citizens who care deeply about this community and want to see it revitalized through preservation work. Rayville’s next heyday is hopefully around the corner.

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<sup>49</sup> Richland Parish Memories, page unknown.

<sup>50</sup> The ever-industrious Germans were noted to be very good cotton pickers.



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Thank you to Lee Thomason, Sharon Gilmore, Nancy Ineichen, and the Richland Parish Chamber of Commerce for their information on Rayville and Richland Parish. Thank you also to Michael Anderson, local historian, who provided invaluable information and images.



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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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: ☐ Michael Anderson's private archives on the City of Rayville and Richland Parish

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_



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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** ~ 1561 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Rayville Boundaries		
	Longitude	Latitude
1	-91.757709	32.478561
2	-91.755583	32.478422
3	-91.756239	32.474045
4	-91.756716	32.474052
5	-91.756796	32.473135
6	-91.756258	32.473093
7	-91.757159	32.4669
8	-91.758653	32.466894
9	-91.758613	32.467355
10	-91.760364	32.467432
11	-91.761287	32.46731
12	-91.76309	32.467257
13	-91.765159	32.467975
14	-91.765186	32.468577
15	-91.764546	32.470009
16	-91.761333	32.474506
17	-91.760551	32.474533
18	-91.75989	32.476343
19	-91.760254	32.476375
20	-91.759696	32.47815

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983



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- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The district boundaries are represented in the attached Map. The district begins to the north at the corner of Harrison and Eugene Street, extends east to Louisa, and extends north along Louisa Street to Rosa Street, capturing the buildings on both sides of Louisa Street. The boundary extends east towards Louisiana Street, and then extends south for ~4 blocks to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The boundary then jogs west on MLK Drive, and extends south again on Rhymes Street. The boundary jogs east on Francis Street, then extends south along Missouri Street and Bradley Street. At the southeast corner, the boundary jogs west along Bradley Street. The boundary extends north about ½ block on Louisa Street to Fragala, and then extends west to Ashley Street, capturing the structures on both sides of Fragala. The boundary then extends north along/continuous with Ashley Street to the Little Creek, which acts as the natural or topographic western boundary of the district. The boundary extends north along Little Creek to Mason Street / MLK Drive. It picks up on Eugene Street, and extends north to the corner of Harrison Street.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries utilize the natural topographic Little Creek at the western edge, the end of pedestrian-scale historic commercial buildings at the northern edge, and the end of highly dense and integral residential structures at the southern and eastern edges. The buildings within these boundaries best represent Rayville's historic architecture during the period of significance and allow for as few non-contributing intrusions as possible while still capturing most of the architecturally significant structures.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Michelle Stanard Duhon, Professional Preservationist  
organization: Southick Rolf Preservation Works  
street & number: 4516 Magazine Street  
city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70115  
e-mail: mduhon@southkickrolf.com  
telephone: 504.229.2291  
date: 2/25/25



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## 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 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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: Rayville Historic District

City or Vicinity: Rayville

County: Richland

State: Louisiana

Photographer: Southkick Rolf Preservation Works LLC: Nora Goddard, Michelle Duhon, Juliette Hotard, James Rolf.

Date Photographed: March 27, 2024 and February 19, 2025

Photo\_1\_of\_26\_SE\_Perspective\_Facing\_NW\_716\_HarrisonSt\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_2\_of\_26\_NW\_Perspective\_FacingSE\_708\_N\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_3\_of\_26\_NW\_Perspective\_Facing\_SE\_207/209\_S\_Benedette\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg



Rayville Historic District

Richland Parish, Louisiana

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County and State

Photo\_4\_of\_26\_NE\_Perspective\_Facing\_SW\_203/205\_S\_Benedette\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_5\_of\_26\_SE\_Perspective\_Facing\_NW\_724\_N.Louisa\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_6\_of\_26\_SW\_Perspective\_Facing\_NE\_700\_block\_Louisa\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_7\_of\_26\_NE\_Elevation\_Facing\_SW\_411\_Madeline\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_8\_of\_26\_W\_Elevation\_Facing\_E\_Rhymes\_Memorial\_Library\_815\_Louisa\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_9\_of\_26\_SE\_Perspective\_Facing\_NW\_828\_N\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_10\_of\_26\_SW\_Perspective\_Facing\_NE\_833\_N\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_11\_of\_26\_W\_Elevation\_Facing\_E\_Civic\_Center\_827\_N\_Louisa\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_12\_of\_26\_NW\_Perspective\_Facing\_SE\_905\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_13\_of\_26\_N\_Elevation\_Facing\_S\_509\_W\_Francis\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_14\_of\_26\_E\_Elevation\_Facing\_W\_1104\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.JPG

Photo\_15\_of\_26\_N\_Elevation\_Facing\_S\_400\_block\_Franklin\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_16\_of\_26\_W\_Elevation\_Facing\_E\_300\_block\_Mulberry\_St\_cottages\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_17\_of\_26\_S\_Elevation\_Facing\_N\_1212\_Julia\_St\_OR\_1282\_US\_425\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_18\_of\_26\_SE\_Perspective\_Facing\_NW\_210\_Missouri\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg



Rayville Historic District

Richland Parish, Louisiana

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Photo\_19\_of\_26\_SE\_Perspective\_Facing\_NW\_1306\_Louisa\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.JPG

Photo\_20\_of\_26\_N\_Elevation\_Facing\_S\_517\_Ineichen\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_21\_of\_26\_NW\_Perspective\_Facing\_SE\_506\_Ineichen\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_22\_of\_26\_SE\_Perspective\_Facing\_NW\_1410\_S\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_23\_of\_26\_W\_Elevation\_Facing\_E\_1505\_S\_Julia\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_24\_of\_26\_NW\_Perspective\_Facing\_SE\_101\_Ineichen\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_25\_of\_26\_W\_Elevation\_Facing\_E\_1600\_block\_Louisa\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg

Photo\_26\_of\_26\_NW\_Perspective\_Facing\_SE\_1605\_Louisa\_St\_Rayville\_LA\_RichlandParish.jpg



Rayville Historic District  
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Richland Parish, Louisiana  
County and State

## Figures



01. Balfour House (demolished). From "Festival salutes Cotton Farmers and Homes,"  
*Richland Beacon News*, April 1992.



02. Rayville's commercial area circa 1890-1900. 1910 postcard in the personal collection of  
Michael Anderson of Rayville, LA.



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03. Rayville's commercial area circa 1940. Courtesy of the Louisiana Digital Library.



04. 1915 Women's Lambda Kappa Club of Rayville. This photo is in the personal collection of Michael Anderson of Rayville, LA.

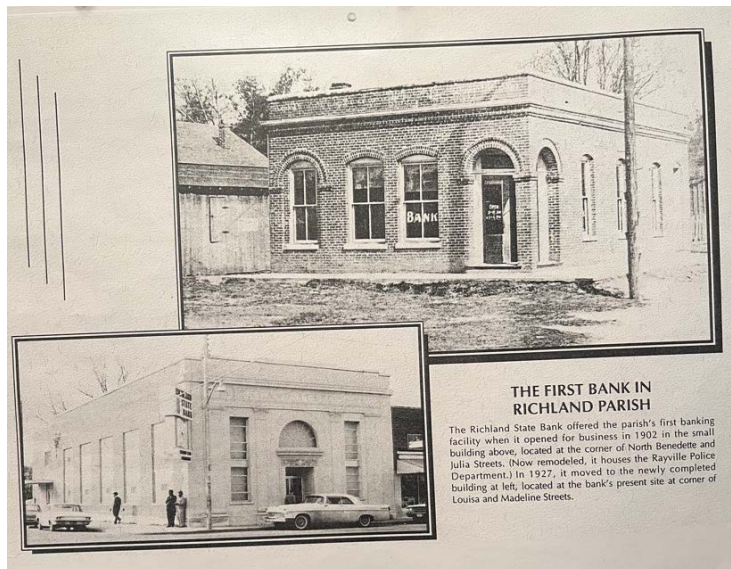


Rayville Historic District

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05. (Left) Rayville State Bank building from circa 1904; (Top right) the Richland State Bank building from circa 1902; (Top left) the Richland State Bank building from 1927. The 1904 Rayville State Bank was near the current location of the Joy Theater and was demolished 1994-5. The 1902 bank building still exists as the police department at 900 Harrison. Images courtesy of personal collection of Michael Anderson of Rayville, LA.



06. Image of downtown Rayville during the 1927 Great Flood. Photo courtesy of the Louisiana Digital Library.

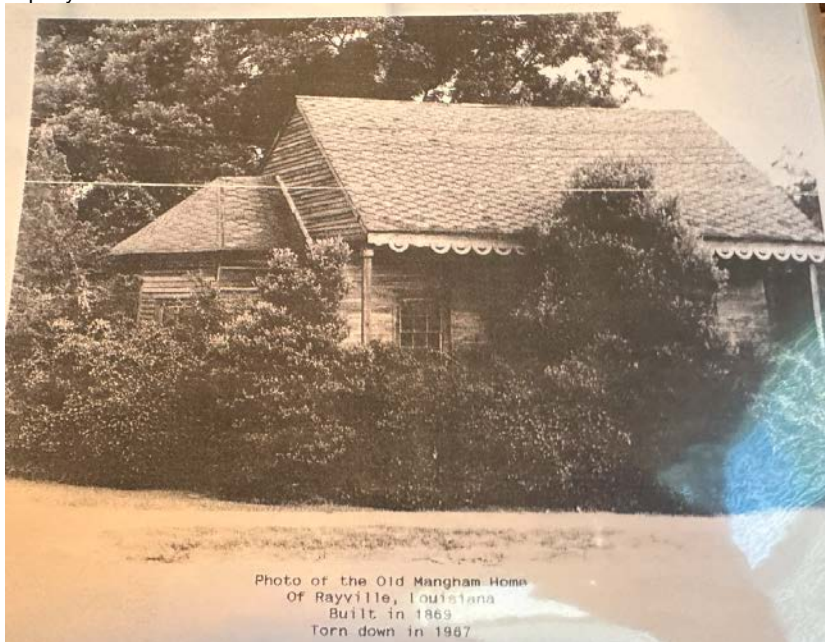


Rayville Historic District

Name of Property

Richland Parish, Louisiana

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07. Mangham House of Rayville, LA prior to demolition. This photo is from the personal collection of Michael Anderson.

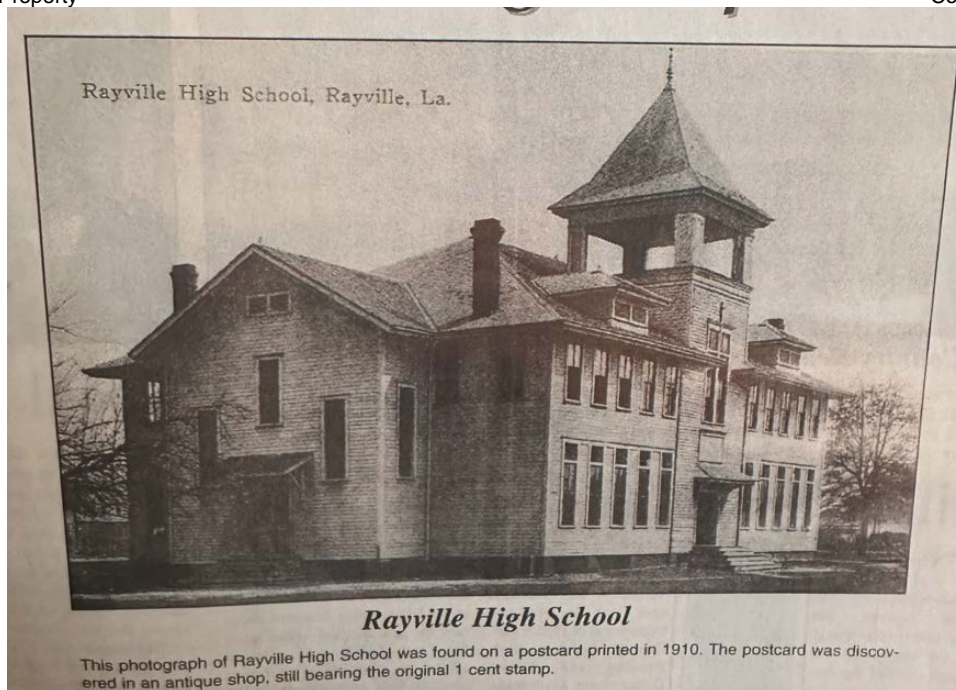


08. An 1869 vernacular house. This copy of a newspaper clipping is from the personal collection of Michael Anderson.



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09. Rayville High School, circa 1910. This school was replaced with the current structure. This postcard is from the personal collection of Michael Anderson of Rayville, LA.



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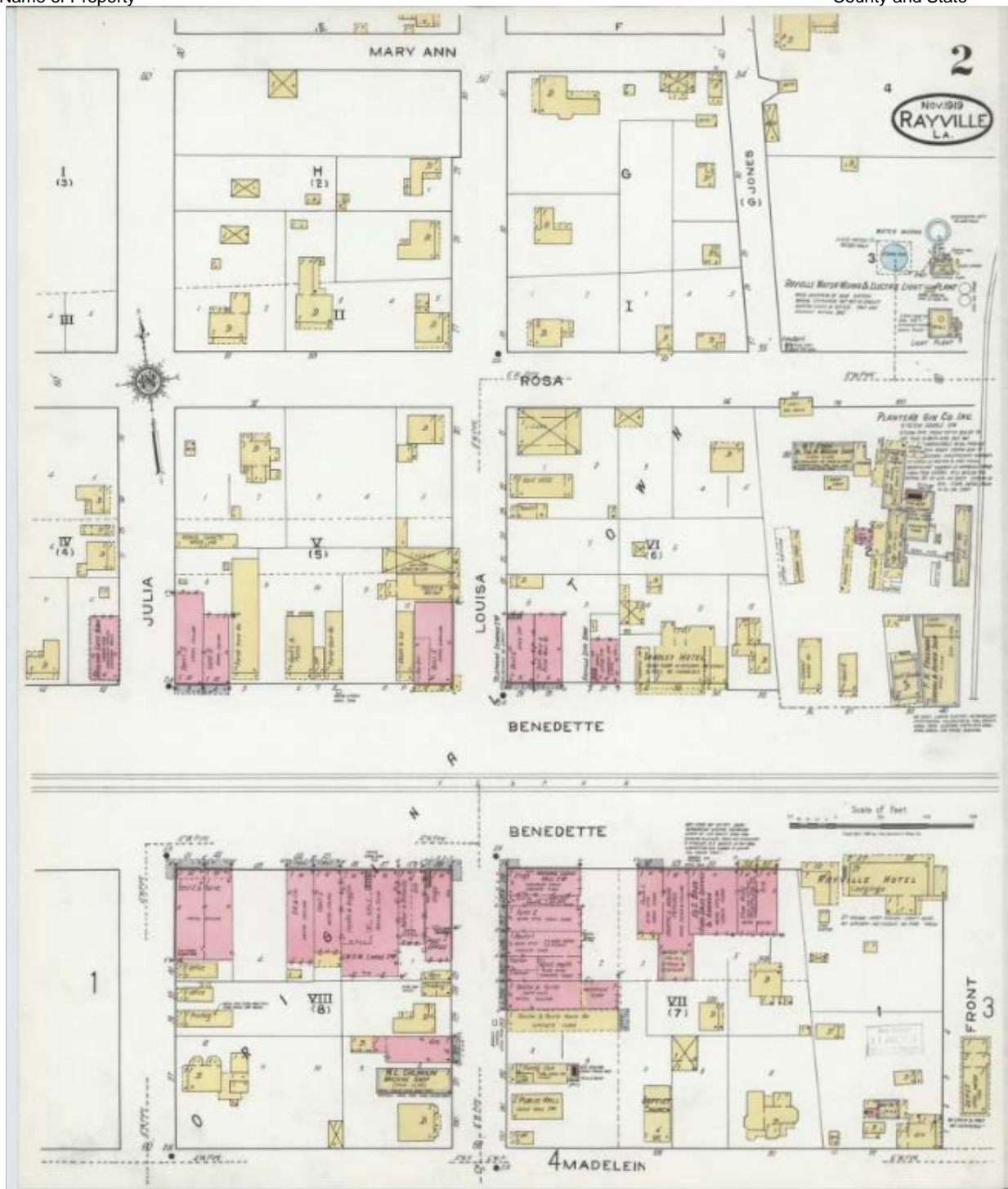
State Library of Louisiana (<http://www.state.lib.la.us>)

10. The Joy Theater can be seen in this 1953 image of downtown Rayville. Courtesy of the Louisiana Digital Library.



Rayville Historic District  
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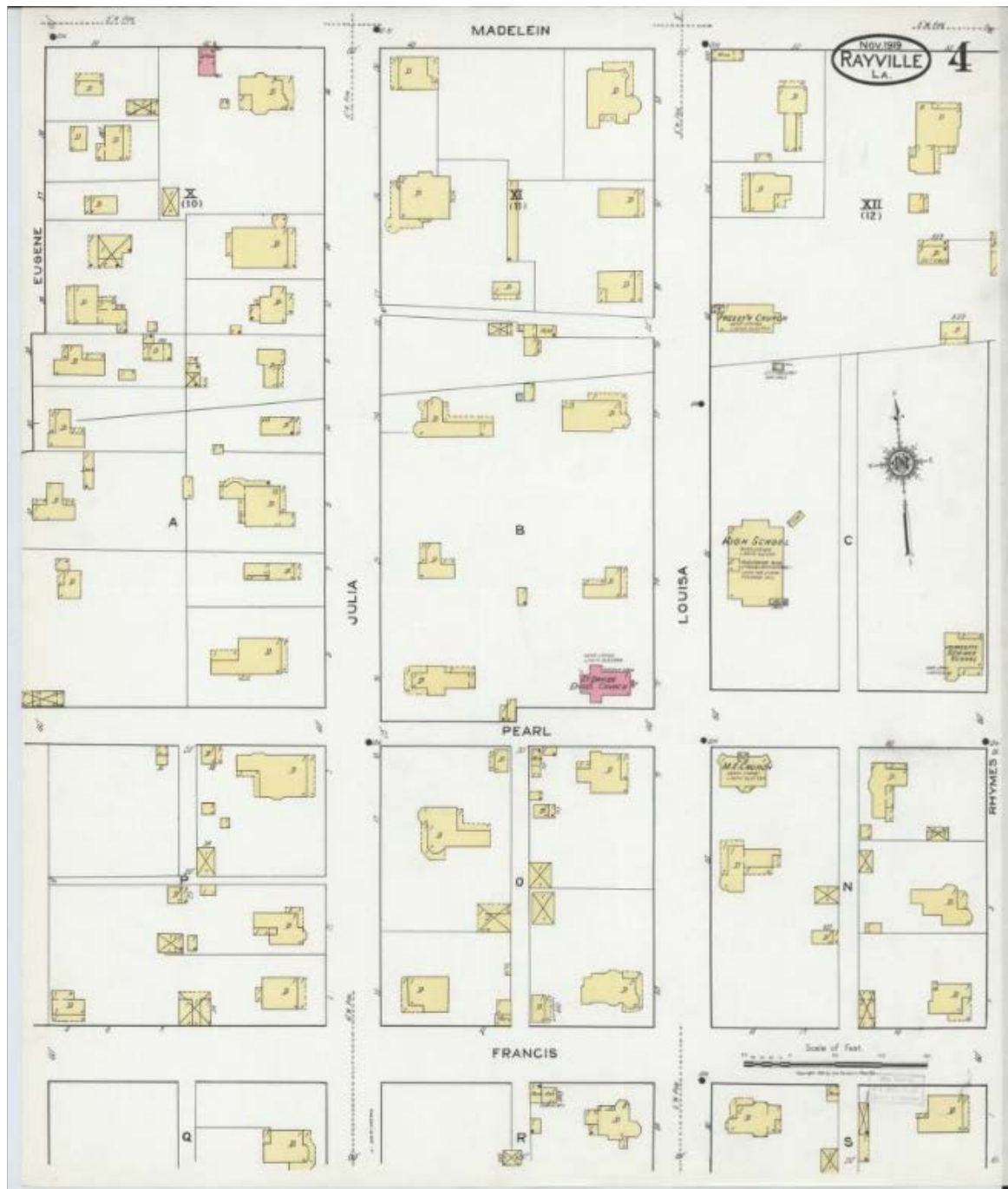


11. 1919 Sanborn of Rayville's commercial area, available through New Orleans Public Library: Historic Fire Insurance Maps Online.



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Name of Property

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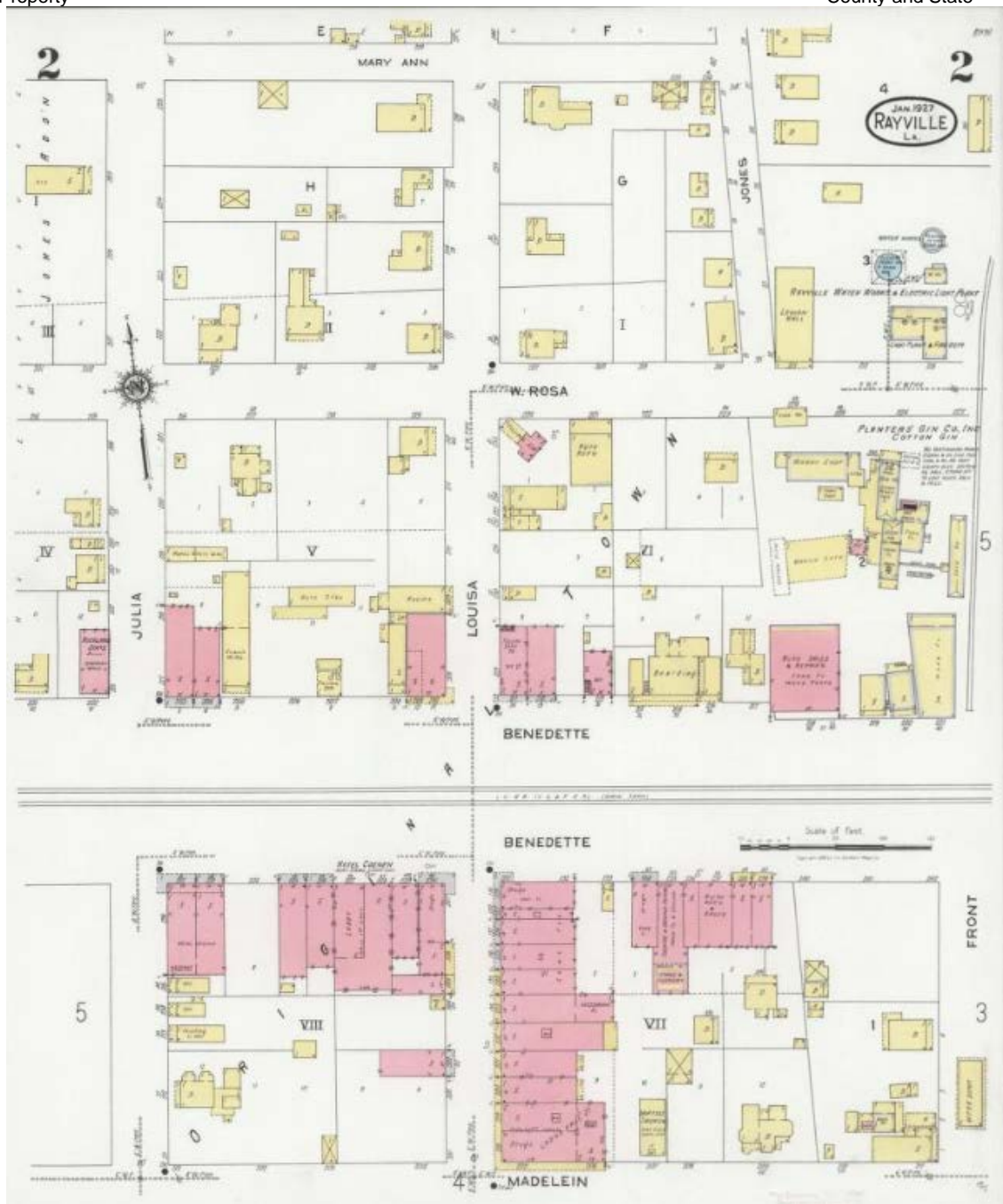


12. 1919 Sanborn of Rayville's residential area, available through New Orleans Public Library: Historic Fire Insurance Maps Online.



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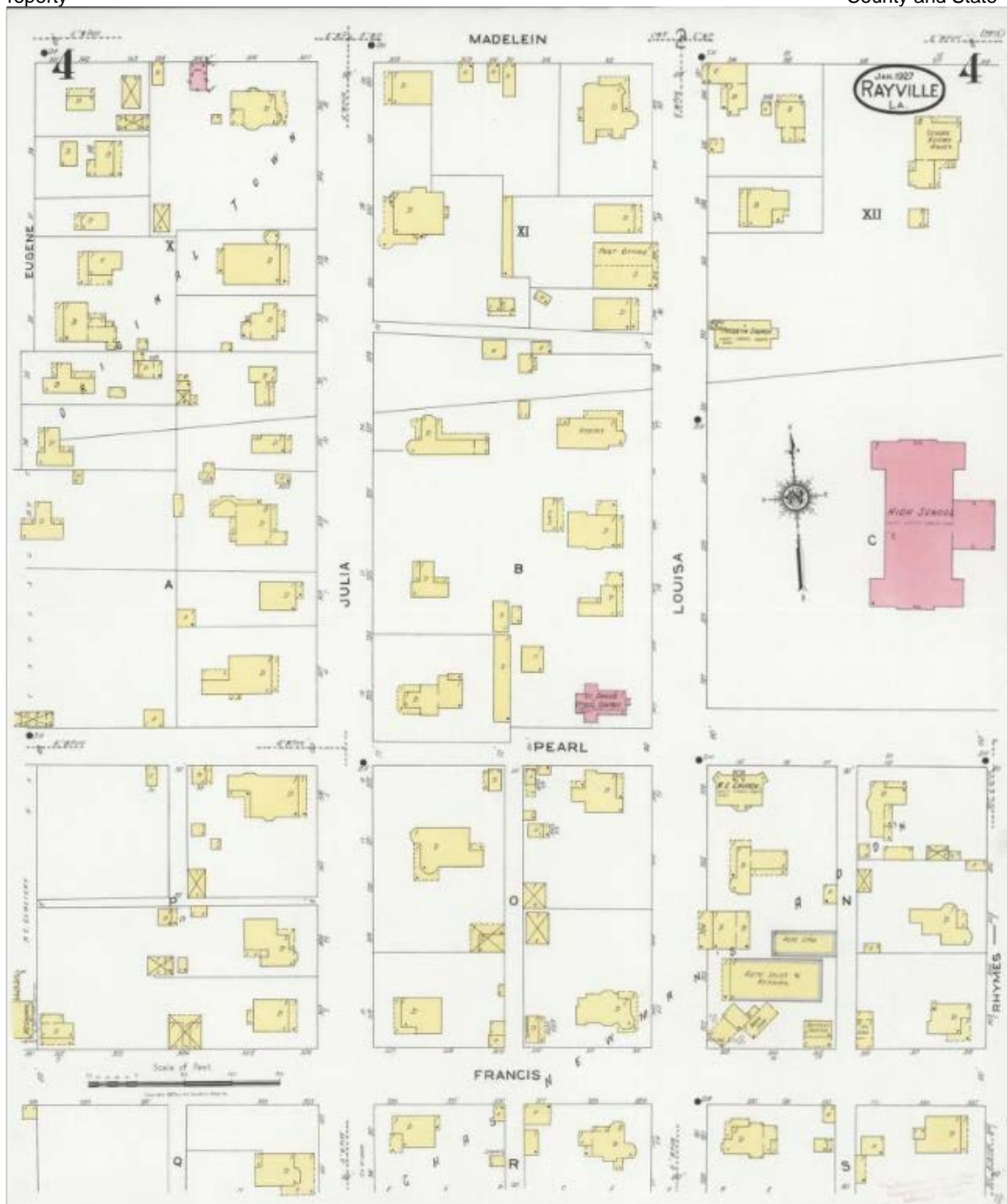


13. 1927-1944 of Rayville's commercial area, available through New Orleans Public Library: Historic Fire Insurance Maps Online.



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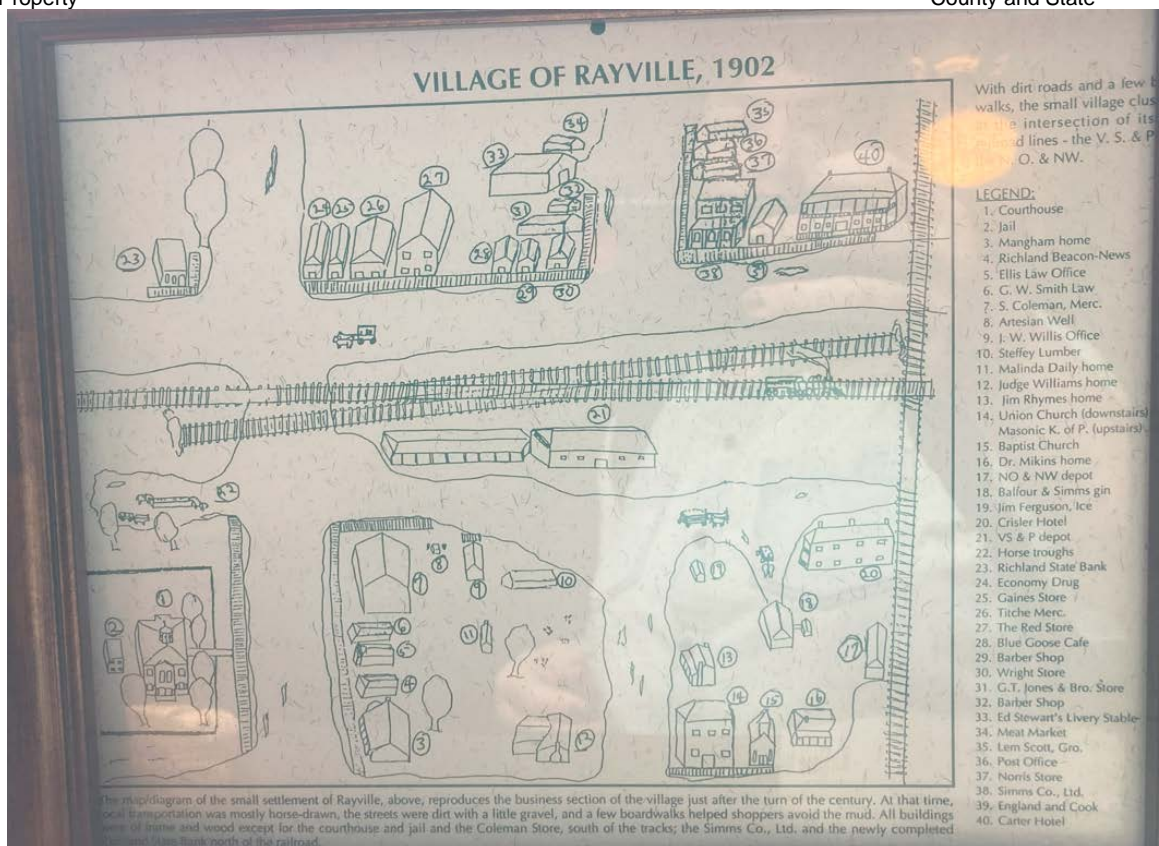


14. 1927-1944 Sanborn of Rayville's residential area, available through New Orleans Public Library: Historic Fire Insurance Maps Online.



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15. 1902 "Village of Rayville" diagram with business locations. This is from the private collection of Michael Anderson.



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16. The 1868 Richland Parish Courthouse in Rayville. Photograph courtesy of *The New Star* (Monroe, Louisiana), October 1937. The note reads, "all of the materials in the Richland parish courthouse are form that parish. Even the brick were made in Richland. The building was erected in 1868, the year the parish was created."

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

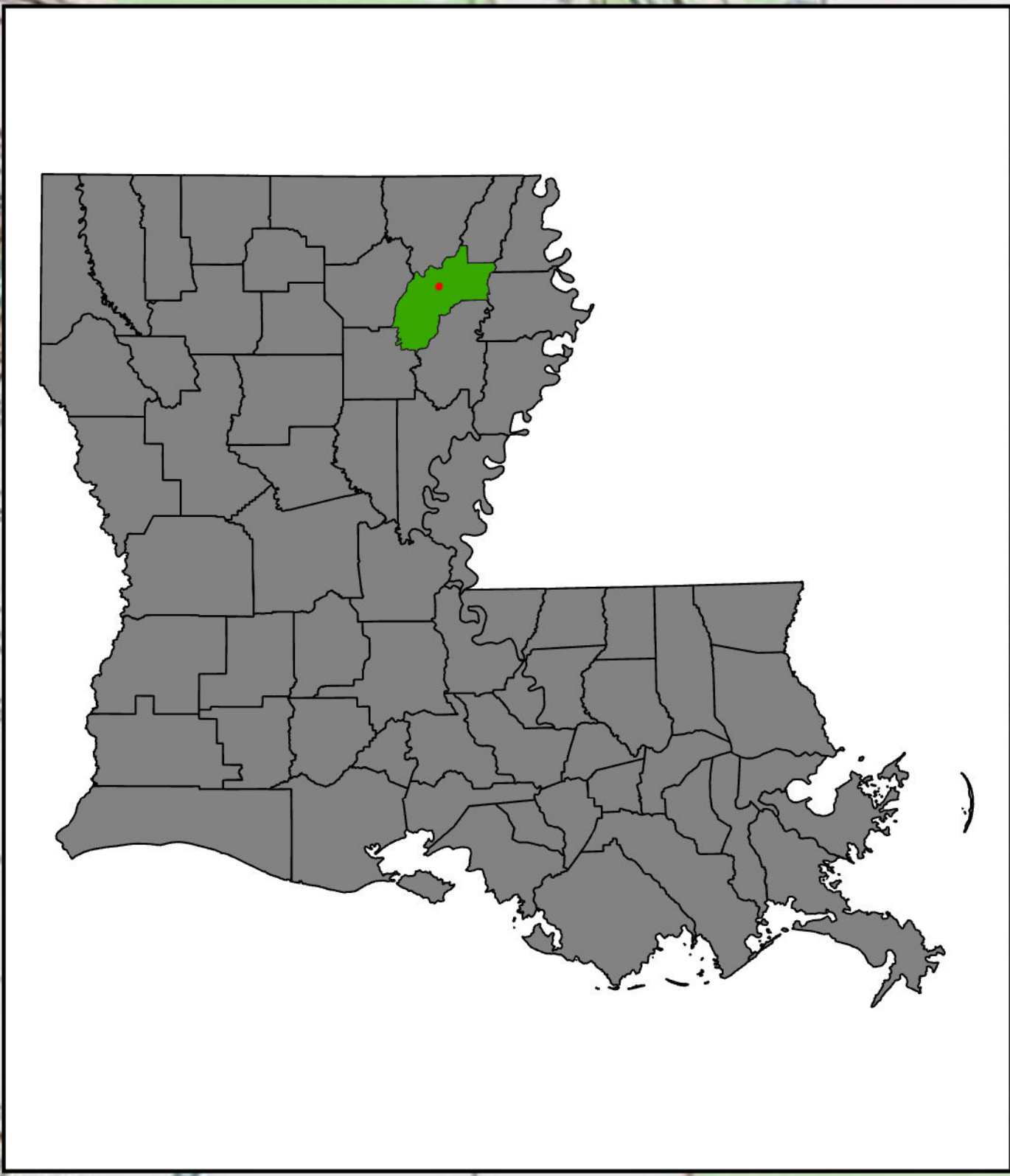
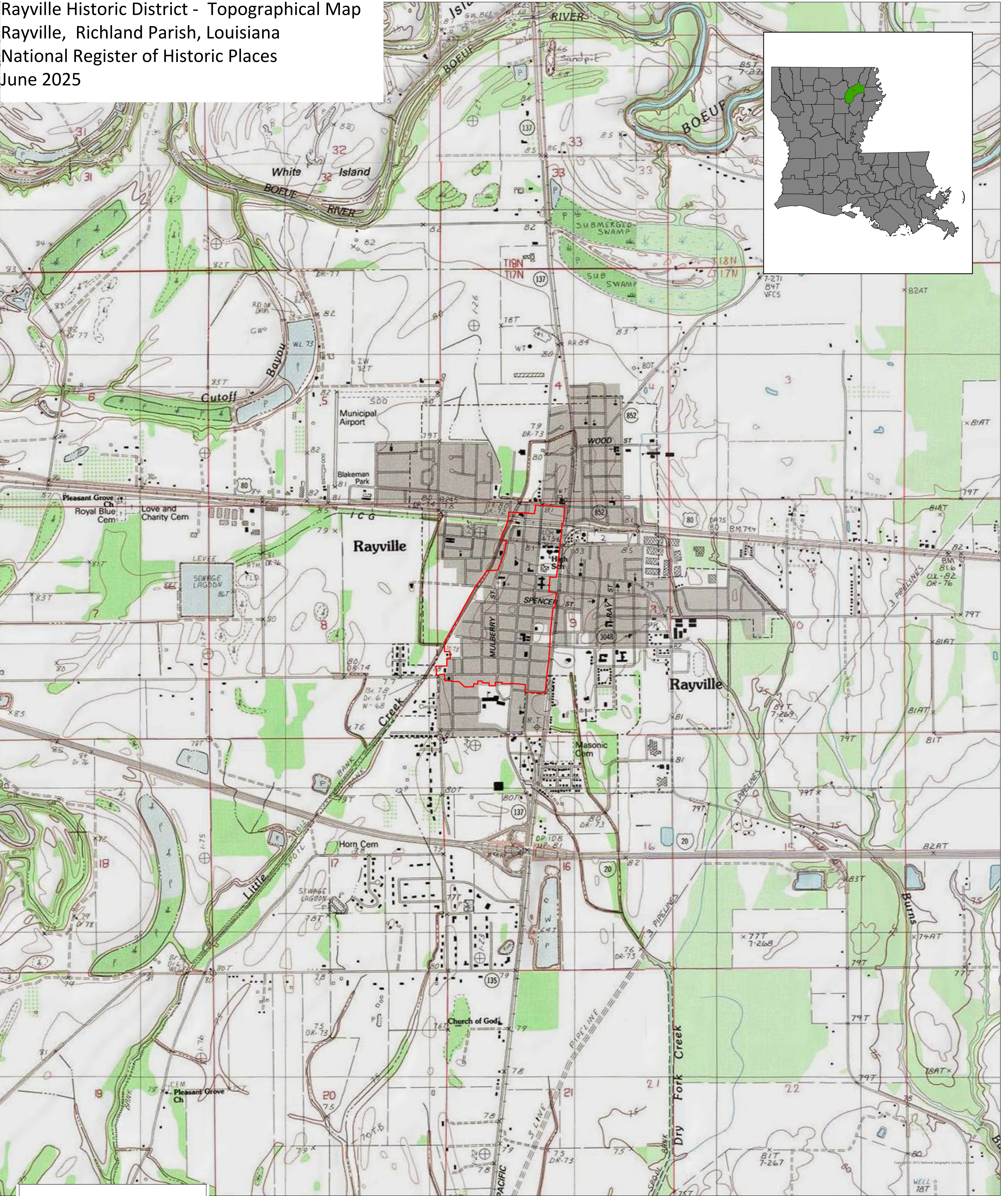
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours  
Tier 2 – 120 hours  
Tier 3 – 230 hours  
Tier 4 – 280 hours

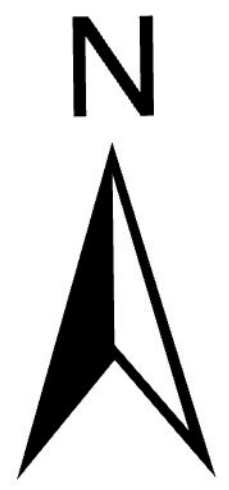
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



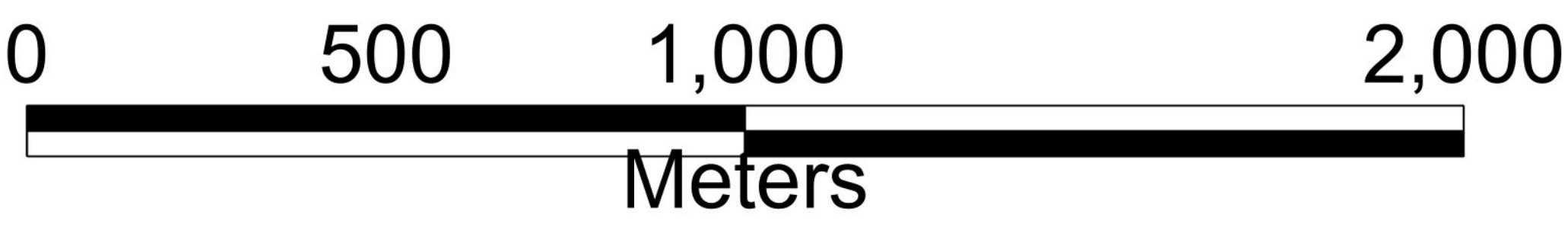
Rayville Historic District - Topographical Map  
Rayville, Richland Parish, Louisiana  
National Register of Historic Places  
June 2025



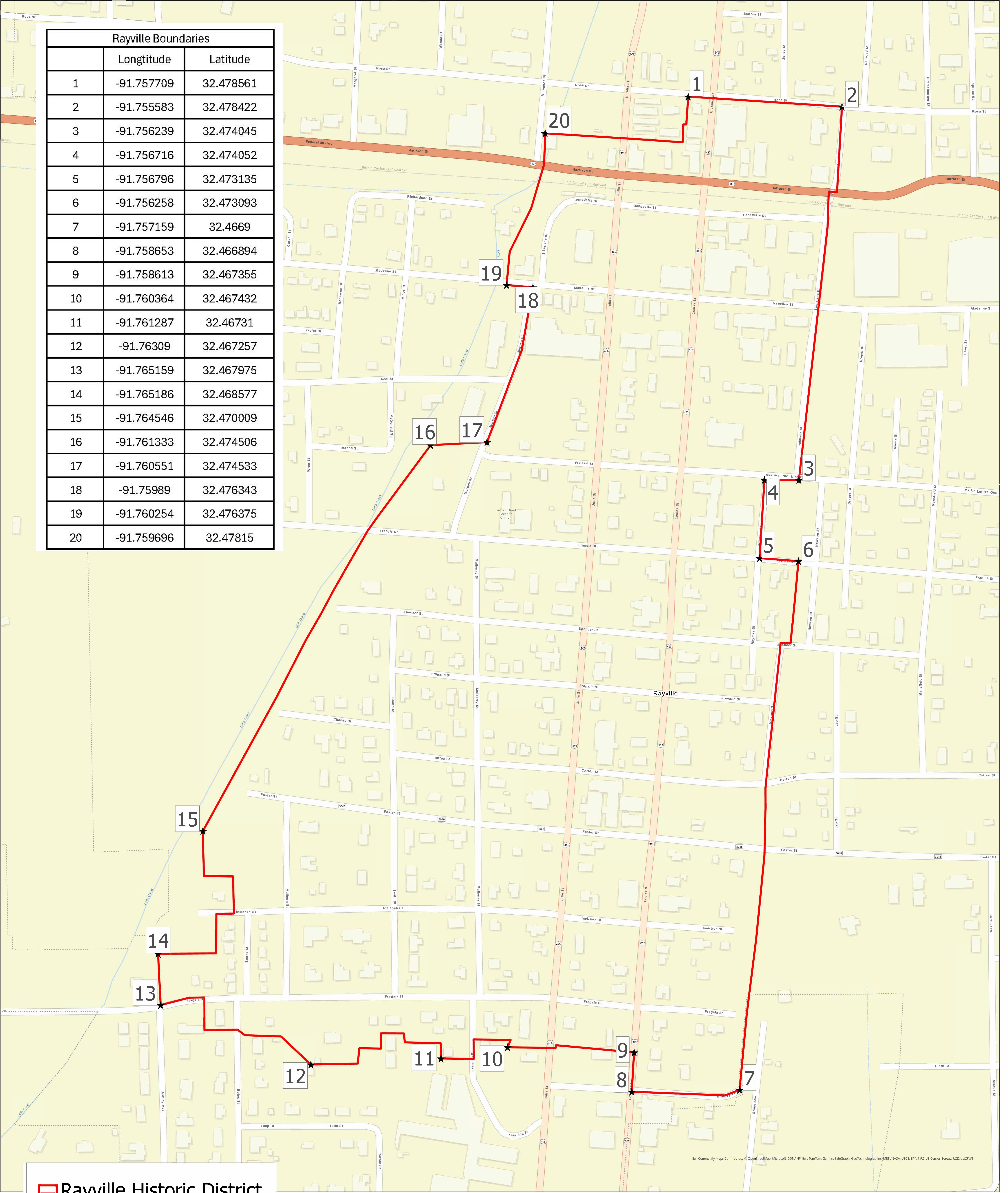
▬ Rayville Historic District



Center: 91°45'37"W 32°28'22"N







Rayville Historic District - Boundary Map  
Rayville, Richland Parish, Louisiana  
National Register of Historic Places  
June 2025

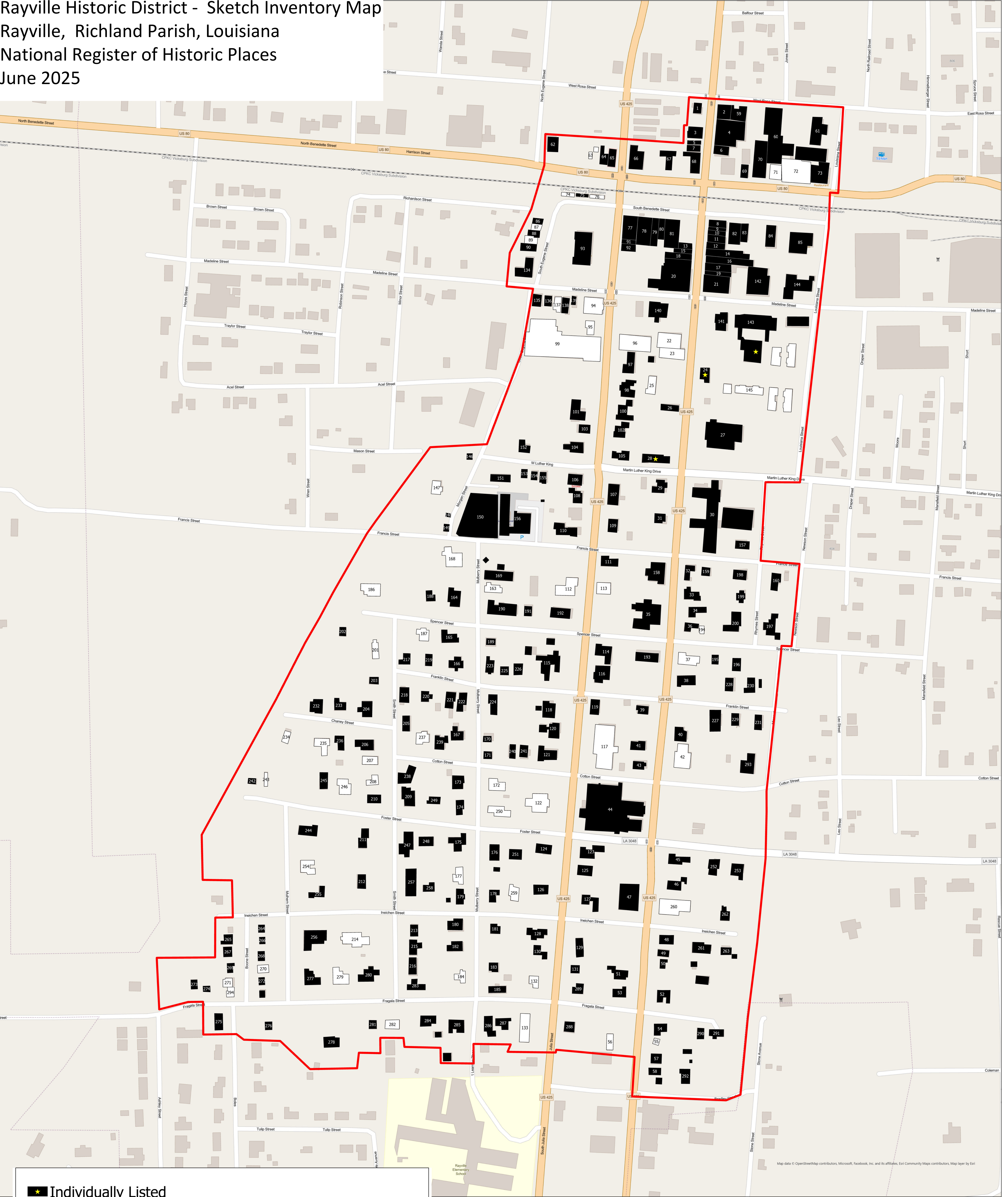


Rayville Historic District - Sketch Inventory Map

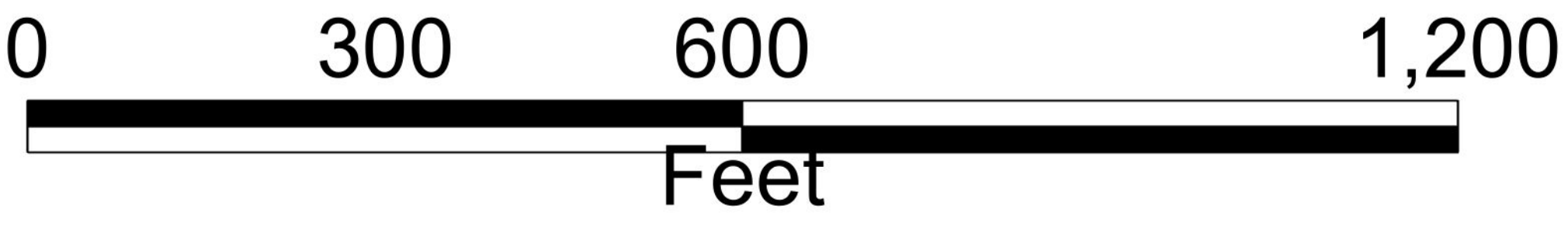
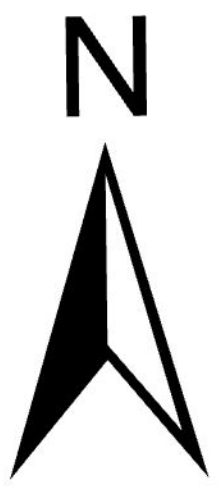
Rayville, Richland Parish, Louisiana

National Register of Historic Places

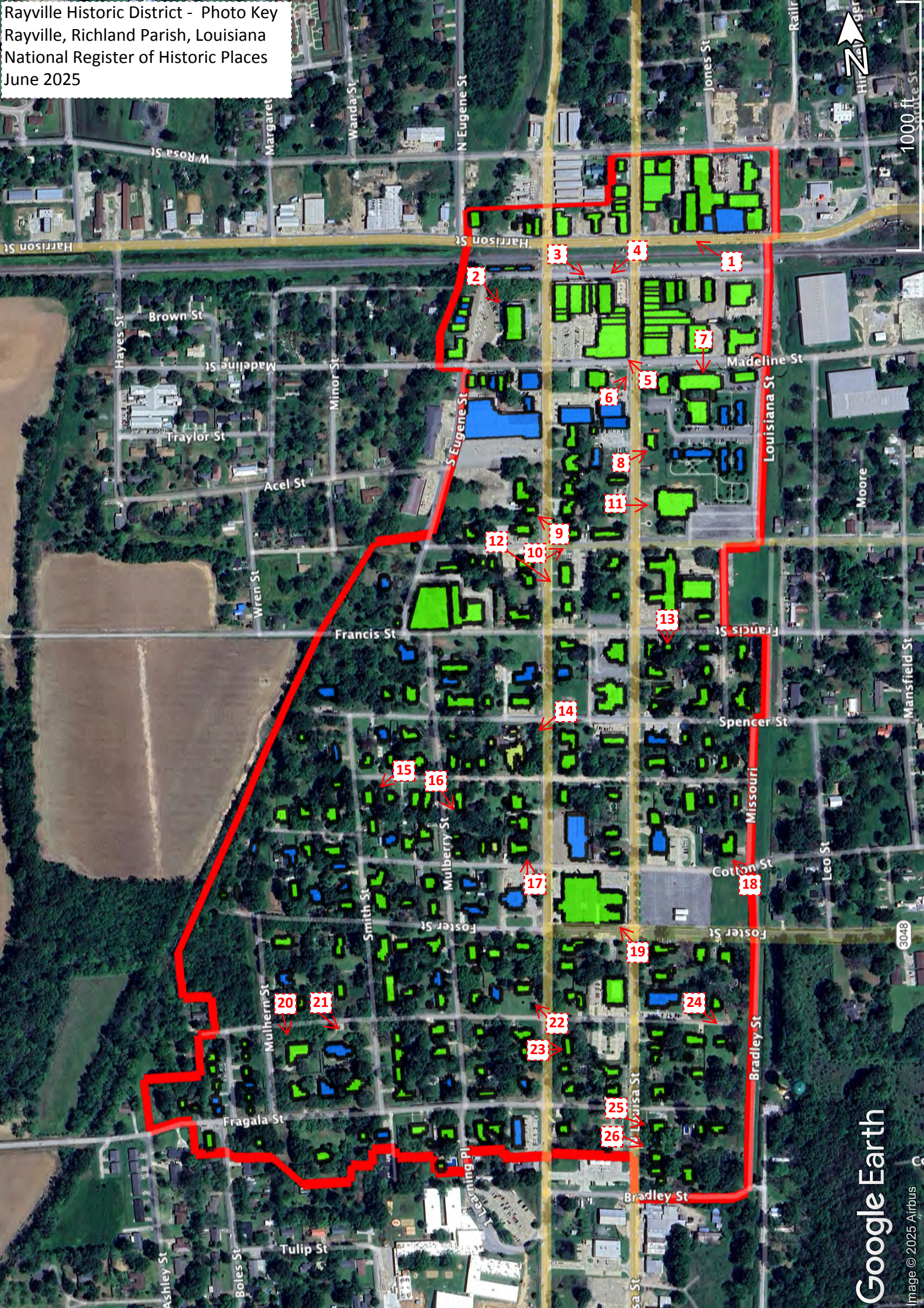
June 2025



Center: 91°45'37"W 32°28'22"N











☉ 304°NW (T) ☉ 32.477593°, -91.756600° ±13ft

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024

716 Harrison 1



☀ 138°SE (T) ● 32.477203°, -91.759598° ±13ft



708 Julia

2

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024



# 209 S Benedette St Rayville LA

☀ 149°SE (T) ● 32.477241°, -91.758167° ±13ft



3 209 Benedette

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024



☀ 218°SW (T) ● 32.477296°, -91.757697° ±13ft



205 Benedette

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024



# Rayville LA 71269

☀ 308°NW (T) ● 32.476249°, -91.757618° ±13ft





# Rayville LA 71269

☀ 37°NE (T) ● 32.476161°, -91.757733° ±9ft



Rayville

02-20-2025

6 Louisa streetscape



☀ 207°SW (T) ● 32.476253°, -91.756611° ±13ft



7 411 Madeline school

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024





815 Louisa St.  
Rhymes Memorial Library

Rayville Commerical



# 828 Julia St Rayville LA

☀ 323°NW (T) ● 32.474629°, -91.759130° ±13ft



9 828 Julia

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024



# 833 Julia St Rayville LA

☀ 55°NE (T) ☉ 32.474330°, -91.758942° ±13ft



833 Julia

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024





RAYVILLE CIVIC CENTER

827 N Louisa St  
Rayville Civic Center

Rayville Commercial



# 905 Julia St Rayville LA

☀ 138°SE (T) ● 32.474125°, -91.759000° ±13ft



905 Julia

Rayville Commercial  
03-26-2024



# 509 W Francis St Rayville LA

☀ 185°S (T) ● 32.473165°, -91.757581° ±9ft



509 Francis

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024



# Rayville LA 71269

☀ 258°W (T) ☉ 32.471787°, -91.759341°



Delhi

02-20-2025

1100 block Julia





400 Block of Franklin St

Rayville Residential





300 Block of Mulberry St  
Residential

Rayville



☀ 8°N (T) ● 32.470716°, -91.759849° ±13ft



1212 Julia

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024



# 210 Missouri St Rayville LA

☀ 317°NW (T) ● 32.470611°, -91.756793° ±13ft



210 Missouri

18

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024





☀ 316°NW (T)    ● 32.469866°, -91.758295°



1306 N. Louisa

Rayville  
02-20-2025



# 517 Ineichen St Rayville LA

☀ 191°S (T) ☉ 32.469072°, -91.762931° ±13ft



Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024

517 Ineichen 4



☀ 143°SE (T) ● 32.469039°, -91.762700° ±13ft



500 Ineichen

21

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024



# 1410 Julia St Rayville LA

☀ 331°NW (T) ● 32.469093°, -91.759738° ±13ft



1410 Julia

22

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024



# 1505 Julia St Rayville LA

☀ 89°E (T) ☉ 32.468675°, -91.759618° ±13ft



1505 Julia

23

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024



# 101 Ineichen St Rayville LA

☀ 154°SE (T) ☉ 32.468762°, -91.757425° ±13ft



Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024

101 Ineichen 1





1600 Block of Louisa St

Rayville Residential



# 1605 Louisa St Rayville LA

☀ 115°SE (T) ● 32.467611°, -91.758554° ±13ft



1605 Louisa

26

Rayville Residential  
03-26-2024