

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 PropertyHistoric name: Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 7883 W. Main StreetCity or town: Houma State: LA County: TerrebonneNot 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 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**

Houma Elks Lodge #1193
Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA
County and State

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

☐

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

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

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: Meeting Hall

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 building was constructed in 1906 in downtown Houma, LA, at 7883 West Main Street. The building is located within the boundaries of the Houma National Register Historic District (listed in 1983, expanded and updated in 2015), which sits in the historic commercial core of Houma along Bayou Terrebonne. The building was first constructed as the Terrebonne Building and Loan in 1906, and it has been occupied by the Houma Elks Lodge #1193 since 1911. The brick building itself is two stories with simple details along the stepped cornice line, has three arch topped openings on each floor, and a simple second floor balcony. The first floor has a large open gathering space with a bar, kitchen, and bathrooms at the rear. A stair leads to the second floor, which has a gathering space at the rear and the lodge meeting room at the front. The main alteration to the building is the replacement of the windows and entry door within the existing arched opening – this occurred following damage from Hurricane Ida in 2021. The windows and doors were damaged over time, including in a recent hurricane. The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 building retains historic integrity and is easily recognizable to any former or current lodge members and is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

Narrative Description

Setting

The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 is a two-story masonry building located at 7883 West Main Street in downtown Houma, Louisiana. Constructed in 1906, the building reflects modest architectural detailing typical of commercial buildings of the period, with a focus on functionality and use rather than stylistic flourish. The property includes a small rear lot used for parking and service access and faces directly on Bayou Terrebonne.

The building is located within the boundaries of the Houma Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1983 and expanded and updated in 2015. In the most recent update, the building's architectural description notes: "Terrebonne Building and Loan/Elks Lodge No. 1193 (1906) Contributing Element, 517 East Main Street¹: Rectangular, brick and wood structure; meeting and dining rooms on inside; large glass windows in front; shallow arch windows and doors; corbel table; stepped gable front." While the building is technically listed on the National Register as a contributing resource to a district, this nomination seeks to recognize further the significance and impact this building and the Elks organization has had on Houma.

¹ Since the writing of the nomination, the addresses in Houma have been updated as the current address of the property is 7883 W. Main Street.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

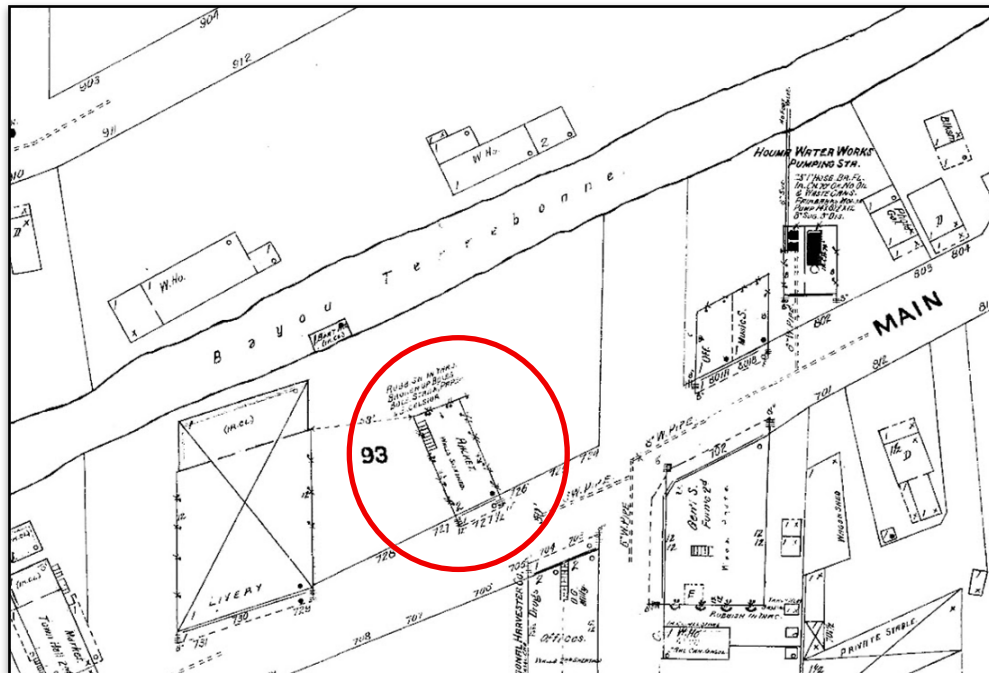
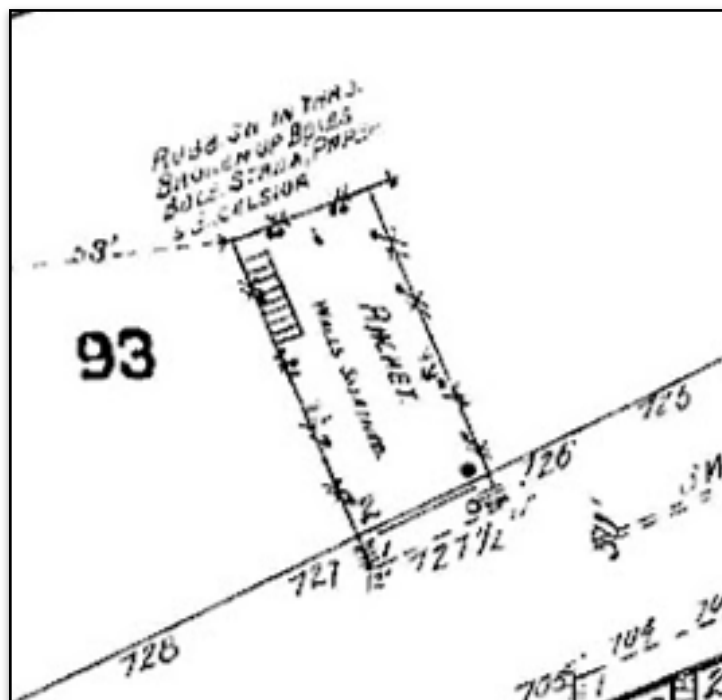


Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 1. 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Houma, LA. The Houma Elks Lodge is circled and shown in detail below.. This was prior to the Elks moving into the building. Source: State Library of Louisiana.



Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

Exterior

The structure is rectangular in plan and sits within a block of commercial row buildings, with its primary façade oriented toward West Main Street. The exterior is clad in unpainted brick, with minimal ornamentation. The façade features a central entrance flanked by symmetrically placed windows. The entrance is marked by a simple canopy and signage identifying the lodge. Above the lodge sign is an arched single light transom window. The first-floor windows are 1/1 double hung replacement, which were installed prior to 2016, as were the second-floor windows. The first-floor windows have the same arched single light transom as the entry.

A projecting balcony covers the entirety of the second floor and has a simple metal balustrade. There are three 1/1 double hung windows with arched tops on the second floor. Per a 1972 photo of the building (see Figure 2), the original windows on the second floor were 6/6 double hung wood windows. Above the windows is a line of corbelled brick, which is the most architectural detail found on the building. The cornice is stepped on both sides.



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 2. The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 in 1972. Note the original windows and alterations made to the ground floor Source: Houma Elks Lodge #1193.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

The side elevations are party walls with the neighboring buildings. Former window openings can be seen on the interior, particularly on the second floor where there were four windows on each side elevation overlooking the former one-story neighbors. However, these were closed in shortly after the building was built once neighboring two-story buildings were constructed.

The rear elevation has a single-entry door on the first floor and the former paired windows on each side have been infilled on the exterior with plywood that have painted murals on them. They are still visible on the interior. The second floor has an extended, enclosed sun porch that covers the front floor, forming a rear patio facing the bayou. There is a single-entry door with single light transom and a flanking 1/1 double hung window on the right-side elevation that provides access to a fire escape. There is a bank of four 1/1 double-hung windows on the rear of the second floor.

Interior

The interior layout is divided between public and private lodge functions. The first floor houses a large social hall and lounge area, which has historically served as the venue for community events, fundraisers, and informal gatherings. The space retains its original open plan, although finishes such as flooring and wall treatments have been updated over time. The walls and ceiling are clad in wood paneling dating to the 1950s/60s. The floors are historic wood floors. Between the two main rooms, there is a dividing wall with double-width openings on each side of a central column. Above the openings are large openings with round metal bars so that sound can pass through, but the two spaces can be closed off with folding doors. In the rear lounge space, the floor is clad in vinyl tile and the historic stair is located on the left side. The walls are exposed, unpainted brick with paneled wainscoting. There is a small bar under the stairs and a kitchen at the rear right corner. The stairs have wooden treads and turned wooden balusters with a wooden handrail. The ceiling of the stair is clad in painted bead board. A small central hall at the rear of the lounge space leads to the back of the building with bathrooms to the left. The door frames leading to the rear hallway and kitchen are historic and formerly had single light transoms. These have been replaced with metal vents. The ceiling in the lounge space is unpainted wood.

The second floor contains the formal meeting room used for lodge rituals and administrative functions at the front and a public gathering space at the rear. At the top of the stairs, through a historic four panel wooden door, is a lobby-like room that provides access to the lodge room at the front and the former rear porch at the rear. One wall of this area is clad in 1950s-era paneling, as is the ceiling. The other walls are covered in sheetrock.

The rear porch has since been enclosed for interior space and the original rear wall of the building is visible. It is clad in brick and includes a large arched opening on one side and a single-entry door with single light arched transom above on the other. This space also includes an elevator and storage closets. The former rear porch has vinyl floors and a sheetrock ceiling. One wall is clad in sheetrock while the other three are exposed brick with remnants of paint.

To the front of the lobby-like space, a historic four panel wooden door provides access to the lodge room. This room is utilitarian in nature and is set up like all other lodge rooms with raised dais along the edges of the room with seating for lodge members and open space in the center of the room. All the walls are exposed, unpainted brick. The former window openings on the side elevations are visible on both sides and along the western wall, the openings have been "reopened" with casing placed in the window opening and faux shutters. The ceiling is clad in tin and the floor is vinyl – both finishes date to 2021 following Hurricane Ida damage. At the center of the ceiling is a round stained glass light fixture with a star design.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

Along the northern wall, there are two four panel wooden doors, one serving as the entrance and the other providing access to a large storage closet.

Alterations and Integrity

Despite damage sustained during Hurricane Ida, which resulted in roof leaks and water intrusion, the building retains its historic integrity in terms of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling and association. Repairs have been made with sensitivity to the building's original materials and layout, ensuring that the lodge continues to reflect its historic character.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

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

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Period of Significance

1910-1976

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 Houma Elks Lodge #1193 is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its long-standing role as a center of civic engagement, charitable activity, and social cohesion in Houma, Louisiana. Chartered in February 1910, the lodge is part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), a national fraternal organization that played a vital role in shaping American civic life in the 20th century. Located along Bayou Terrebonne in historic downtown Houma, the lodge has served as a gathering place for generations of residents, not only for Elks members, but for the community at large.. Its two-story building includes a social hall and lounge on the ground floor and a formal meeting room above, where members have convened for over a century to conduct lodge business and organize community initiatives. The period of significance for the lodge begins in 1910, when the lodge moved into the building, and continues through 1976, the current 50-year guideline, as the lodge has continually occupied the building and served Houma and still does.

While the building is a contributing resource to the Houma National Register Historic District, this nomination seeks to recognize further the significance and impact this building and the Elks organization has had on Houma. Throughout its history, the Houma Elks Lodge #1193 has exemplified the Elks'

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Terrebonne Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

mission to promote charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity. The lodge has hosted youth programs, veterans' services, scholarship initiatives, and drug awareness campaigns, reflecting the organization's commitment to public service. The lodge also holds cultural significance through its involvement in patriotic and commemorative activities within Houma. A notable example is the 1917 flag sewn by the women of the Houma Elks Lodge, which was featured in a World War I exhibit at Nicholls State University, underscoring the lodge's contributions to national efforts during wartime.

The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 has remained resilient for over 100 years and continues to serve as a vital institution in Houma's social landscape. Its enduring presence and community impact make it a strong candidate for listing in the National Register under Criterion A.

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

Houma Historical Background

The following context for the history of Houma is from the 2015 update to the Houma Historic District National Register Historic District nomination.

Houma is the seat of government for Terrebonne Parish, one of Louisiana's southernmost parishes fronting onto the Gulf of Mexico. Roughly 40% of the parish's 2,080 square miles is water. During the historic period for this nomination, Houma was the only incorporated community in Terrebonne – the only town of any size. For perspective, the entire population of Terrebonne in 1940 was 35,880, with 9,052 of those people residing in Houma.

Terrebonne ("good earth" in French) was established as a parish in 1822. The town of Houma (named for the Houma Indians) was established to be the parish seat in 1834. In that year, Richard H. Grinage and Hubert M. Belanger donated one arpent of frontage on Bayou Terrebonne for the new governmental seat. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, agriculture (sugarcane) and the seafood industry dominated the local economy.

A seismic shift in the economy occurred in 1929, when oil was first discovered in the parish. The Texas Company (Texaco) brought in wells at Lake Pelto and Lake Barre in that year. The major field of Caillou Island started producing in 1930. Subsequent fields were Four Isle Bay (1934), Gibson (1937), Bourg (1952), Mosquito Island (1955), and East Caillou Island (1956). By 1965, there were some three dozen oil and gas fields in the parish (inshore) as well as 17 offshore wells in production. There were numerous major oil companies operating in Terrebonne (Texaco was the largest), as well as various smaller concerns. (Oil prosperity continued unabated until a slump in the 1980s.)

With all of this activity, the City of Houma emerged as the parish's oil service center – the epicenter of oil related services. Like Shreveport in northwest Louisiana, Houma was able to ride out the worst of the Depression so-to-speak because of booming oil prosperity. Various indices illustrate growth in the city in the 1930s. Population surged from 6,531 (1930 census) to 9,052 (1940), an increase of 38.6%. Post office receipts were up 72%; telephone installations, 137%; and bank deposits, 180%.²

² National Register of Historic Places, Houma Historic District Additional Documentation, Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana; National Register #15000699.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

History of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) as a Fraternal Organization

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) was founded on February 16, 1868, in New York City by a group of actors and entertainers led by Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, a British expatriate and comic performer who arrived in the city one year earlier. Originally formed as a social club called the Jolly Corks, the group met informally to circumvent New York's Sunday blue laws, which prohibited public gatherings and alcohol sales. The death of a fellow member, Ted Quinn, who left behind a destitute family, prompted the Jolly Corks to adopt a more serious mission.³ They reorganized as a fraternal and charitable society, choosing the name "Elks" for its symbolic qualities—an animal described as noble, swift, and protective.⁴ The name was selected over "Buffalo" by a narrow vote, reflecting the group's desire to establish a distinctly American identity. The Elks quickly expanded beyond New York. In 1871, the organization received a charter from the New York State Legislature to form a Grand Lodge, enabling the creation of local lodges nationwide. By 1890, there were 173 lodges across the country.⁵

Throughout the 20th century, the Elks became one of the largest fraternal organizations in the United States. Their mission centered on four pillars: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. The Elks were known for their philanthropic efforts, including: Veterans' services, such as building hospitals and rehabilitation centers during World Wars I and II; youth programs, including scholarships and sports competitions; and community support, such as disaster relief and drug awareness campaigns.⁶

The organization also developed rich traditions, including the "Hour of Recollection", a nightly toast to absent members, and annual Flag Day ceremonies, which they helped establish as a national observance in 1911. Historically, the Elks were exclusive, admitting only white men and requiring belief in God. However, the organization began to diversify in the late 20th century, opening membership to women and minorities, and today welcomes all U.S. citizens over 21 who affirm a belief in a higher power.

The Elks' national headquarters is located in Chicago, Illinois, at the Elks National Veterans Memorial, a monument honoring members who served in World War I. Today, the BPOE includes over 1,900 lodges and has had more than 750,000 lifetime members, continuing its legacy of service and fellowship across the United States.⁷

History of the Elks Lodge Organization in Louisiana

Louisiana saw its first lodges emerge in the early 20th century, with New Orleans Lodge #30 among the earliest, followed by others in Houma, Shreveport, Baton Rouge, Opelousas, and Plaquemine. These lodges mirrored the national organization's emphasis on civic engagement, patriotic observances, and charitable outreach. By the mid-20th century, Louisiana had a robust network of Elks lodges, each serving as a hub for social activity and public service in its respective community.

These lodges were part of a national movement that emphasized charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, and they became central to civic life in Louisiana communities. The Elks provided a space for fellowship, organized patriotic events such as Flag Day ceremonies, and supported the BPOE's national philanthropic efforts.

³ "Our History." <https://www.elks.org/who/ourHistory.cfm>. Accessed September 1, 2025.

⁴ "What are Elks?" <https://summitelks1246.org/what-are-elks/>. Accessed August 30, 2025.

⁵ "Our History." <https://www.elks.org/who/ourHistory.cfm>. Accessed September 1, 2025.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

The Louisiana Elks State Association, formed to coordinate statewide efforts, helped unify the lodges under shared goals. It facilitated conventions, leadership development, and charitable campaigns, including scholarship programs and support for local schools and emergency services

During the Great Depression, Louisiana lodges contributed to national relief efforts. This work continued through World War II, when lodges fundraised for war bonds and supported displaced families. They also contributed to national defense efforts through bond drives and civil defense programs. In the post-World War II era, they expanded their charitable work to include support for public schools, emergency services, and health initiatives. The Elks' quiet but impactful presence in Louisiana communities has continued into the 21st century, with lodges adapting to changing social needs while preserving their fraternal traditions.

Parallel to the BPOE, the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW) was founded in 1898 in Cincinnati, Ohio, by African American leaders, B.F. Howard and Arthur J. Riggs, who were excluded from the white Elks organization. Its purpose was noted as "that the welfare and happiness of its members be promoted and enhanced, that nobleness of soul and goodness of heart be cultivated, that the principles of charity, justice, brotherly & sisterly love, and fidelity be inculcated, that its members and their families be assisted and protected, and that the spirit of patriotism is enlivened and exalted."⁸ Louisiana became a stronghold for IBPOEW lodges, which played a vital role in civil rights advocacy, education, and economic empowerment for Black communities. These lodges offered scholarships, health services, and job placement programs, and were deeply involved in campaigns for racial equality throughout the 20th century. Fraternal organizations like the Elks were part of a broader network of civic institutions that shaped public life in Louisiana. By 1900, nearly one-third of American men belonged to a fraternal order, and Louisiana reflected this national trend with a proliferation of lodges serving diverse communities.

⁸ "The Black Elks Fraternity is Formed." [The Black Elks Fraternity is Formed - African American Registry](#). Accessed August 31, 2025.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State



Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 3. The charter for the Houma Chapter of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Source: Houma Elks Lodge #1193.

For more than 120 years, the Elks in Louisiana have remained an active and impactful organization. Lodges like Houma Elks Lodge #1193 exemplify the enduring legacy of the organization, maintaining their role as pillars of community service and fellowship.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

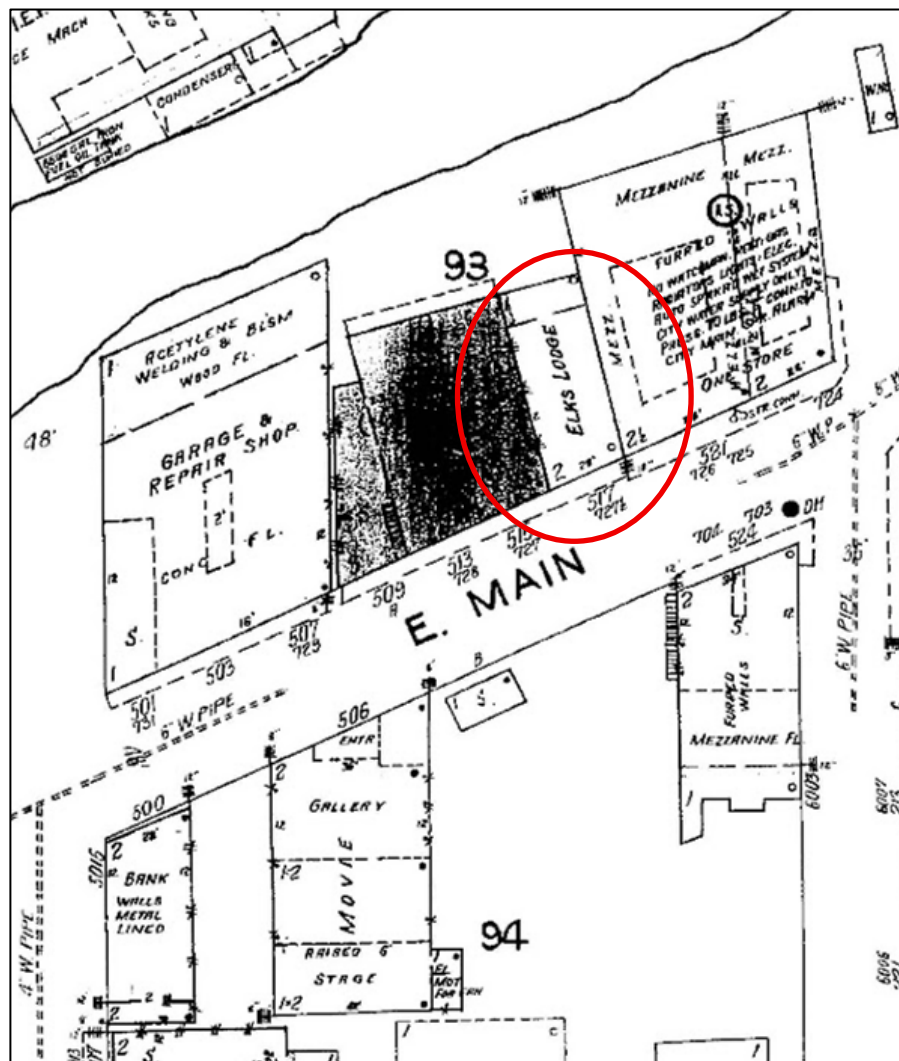


Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 4. 1924 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the property labeled as Elks Lodge. Source: State Library of Louisiana.

Criterion A: Social History – Houma's Elk Lodge #1193

The Houma Elks Lodge #1193, chartered in February 1910, is part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), a national fraternal organization founded in 1868 that expanded rapidly across the United States during the early 20th century. As noted previously, the Elks were established to promote principles of charity, justice, brotherly love, and fidelity, and their lodges became vital centers of civic life in communities across the country.

Judge Robert B. Butler was already a member of the Morgan City Elks Lodge, located roughly 40 miles east of Houma. However, he wanted to set up a lodge in Houma and he asked the Morgan City Lodge to sponsor the Houma Lodge. The chapter's first exalted ruler was Charles William Bocage, who had previously served as Houma's first mayor in 1894. Officers and organizers were A.J. Livaudais, Dr. Hugh P. St. Martin, Sr., Leon Heymann, Mayor Calvin H. Wurzlowl, J. Arthur Daspit, J. S. Donahue, John D.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Terrebonne Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

Shaffer, Clifford Percival Smith, J. Cyrille Dupont, Robert Valentine Daspit, Henry P. Berger, and E.C. Wurzlow, Sr. Charter members included Claude H. Wallis, R. P. DeRemer, Charles C. Miller, Dr. Leon J. Menville, Dreux Angers, H.A. LeBlanc, Jean Charles Cenac, Dr. Louis J. Sandoz, Jean J. Marmande, Emile B. Marmande, Felicien A. Therior, Dr. Marcellin V. Marmande, Tristram B. Easton, M. Daunis McBride, Caliste A. Duplantis, Alfred B. Lewald, Douglas M. Kilpatrick, Martial J. Bonvillain, Joseph H. Pullen, Fred C. LeBlanc, Randolph Shaffer, Dr. J. Berwick Duval, William J. Cenac, Dr. Edmund Connely, Emile Daigle, John Shaffer, Jr., Charles M. Daspit, Ernest A. Dupont, August P. Robichaux, J.P. Bertrand, William Wright, George Gueno, S. H. Daigle, M.J. Giroir, E.W. Dupont, Gilbert Fanguy, Nelson Delaune, and Congressman Whitmel P. Martin.⁹ Of these charter members, two are especially notable: Senator Allen Ellender and Dr. Thaddeus St. Martin. Allen Ellender was first elected to the Senate in 1936 and served until his death in 1972. He was particularly supportive of agricultural-related issues and chaired the agricultural committee for 18 years.¹⁰ Thaddeus St. Martin was a radiologist and friend of John Steinbeck, who mentioned St. Martin in his *Travels with Charley*. He was also a published author, writing *Madame Toussaint's Wedding Day* in 1936.¹¹

Newspaper articles from the early to mid-20th century describe a variety of events hosted by the Elks. In coordination with other lodges throughout the country, the lodge became known for its annual Flag Day ceremonies, which began in 1911 and continue to this day. These events bring together community members to honor the American flag and reflect on the values of patriotism and unity, reinforcing the lodge's role as a cultural anchor in Houma.

In 1921, the group held a Halloween party at the lodge building open to members, their families, and friends. Activities at the party included games, a pie-eating contest, apple ducking contest, vocal solos, and dancing. The article noted that the Elks "intend to give these little parties very often in the near future."¹² Five years later, one article described the Elks' initiation, which included the Fabregas Brass Band parading the main streets of downtown Houma. The Morgan City lodge team led the initiation, and 16 new members were welcomed into the lodge. Following the initiation, a "sumptuous luncheon was served."¹³ This was only one of many articles describing the initiation ceremonies held by the Elks.

Throughout the 20th century, Houma Elks Lodge #1193 served as a focal point for charitable initiatives, patriotic observances, and youth programs. One notable example of its early civic involvement is the 1917 American flag sewn by the women of the lodge, which was later featured in a World War I exhibit at Nicholls State University. This artifact symbolizes the lodge's deep-rooted commitment to national service and local pride. Another of the Elks' early charitable drives was the basket fund. Collections were taken to pay for food baskets that were distributed to the poorest families in Houma. The goal was to raise \$100 to fund 50 baskets.¹⁴ They also raised money for a variety of causes including the "Free Lunch Fund," which provided free lunches every day to needy children in Houma's public school.¹⁵ The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 has been active in addressing social needs like the "Free Lunch Fund." Its programs historically have included scholarships, youth sports (such as the Elks Hoop Shoot), drug awareness campaigns, and veterans' services.

⁹ Helen Wurzlow. *I Dug Up Houma*. Houma: 1985

¹⁰ "Allen Ellender." United States Senate. https://www.senate.gov/senators/FeaturedBios/Featured_Bio_EllenderAllen.htm. Accessed September 8, 2025.

¹¹ Rien Fertel. "Shrimp Boats and White Lace." 64 Parishes. <https://64parishes.org/shrimp-boats-and-white-lace>, published February 28, 2025.

¹² "Houma Elks Give Halloween Party." *The Houma Times*. November 5, 1921. Accessed via www.newspapers.com.

¹³ "Elks Initiation Here Saturday." *The Houma Times*. July 3, 1926. Accessed via www.newspapers.com.

¹⁴ "Subscriptions to 1927 Elks Basket Fund." *The Houma Times*. December 17, 1927.

¹⁵ "Free Lunch Fund." *The Houma Times*. March 22, 1930. Accessed via www.newspapers.com.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

In the 1940s, in addition to the many efforts related to World War II, the Elks also maintained their social hosting status. They gave regular monthly suppers at the lodge building, including one in 1942 that included “oyster spaghetti,” which drew “many favorable comments” regarding its tastiness.¹⁶

In November of 1960, a meeting was held to organize the Elks Ladies Auxiliary. Houma’s lodge was the only one of the Elks Lodges in the state that did not have a Ladies Auxiliary yet. Exalted Ruler Nolan Cunningham supported the creation of the group and over 50 women signed up for membership at that time. Their first project was to construct the rear patio at the Elks building, which is still in use today.¹⁷ The first officers of the Auxiliary were Mrs. D. E. Baker, treasurer; Mrs. Esco Benton, second vice president; Mrs. Charles Pere, president; Mrs. Julius Hebert, historian; and Mrs. Leopold Blum, recording secretary. In addition to the patio project, the Ladies Auxiliary got to work very quickly in hosting social events including a banquet honoring past Exalted Rulers, a Christmas party and supper, and a white elephant sale.¹⁸ Other events hosted at the Elks Lodge during the early 1960s included children’s costume parties, Mardi Gras parties, a carnival party, regular dinners, sales to purchase items for donations to local day care centers, clothing donation drives for the American Red Cross, and a youth leadership banquet. In 1960 and 1962, the Houma Elks Lodge #1193 was chosen to host the Louisiana Elks State Convention.

When a lodge member passes away, their name is inscribed on a marble plaque that is displayed in the building. Currently, the plaques are waiting to be reinstalled on the walls of the first-floor lobby (room closest to W. Main Street) as a museum honoring these members. There are 11 of these plaques with an example seen below in Figure 5.

¹⁶ “Locals.” *The Houma Times*. February 14, 1942. Accessed via www.newspapers.com.

¹⁷ Houma Elks Lodge #1193 archives. Meeting minutes dated November 9, 1960; “Elks’ Auxiliary To Be Organized.” *The Terrebonne Press*. December 6, 1960.

¹⁸ Houma Elks Lodge #1193 scrapbook.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

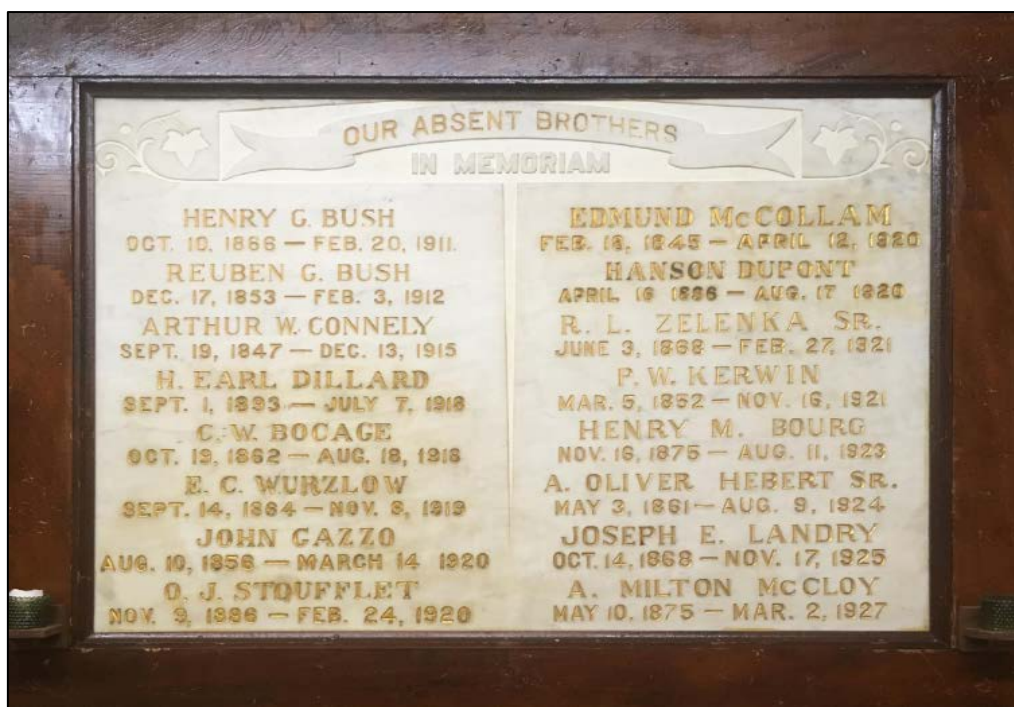


Figure SEQ Figure * ARABIC 5. One of the memorial plaques to Elks members who have passed away.
Source: Houma Elks Lodge

Lodge #1193 emerged during a period of significant growth and modernization in Terrebonne Parish. As Houma transitioned from a small bayou town into a regional hub for oil, shipping, and agriculture, the Elks Lodge provided a stable social institution that fostered community cohesion and civic engagement. The lodge's founding coincided with a national trend in which fraternal organizations played a key role in shaping local identity and providing social services in the absence of robust public welfare systems.

The Houma Elks Lodge's enduring presence and adaptability over more than a century reflect the broader historical significance of fraternal organizations in American social history. Its contributions to civic life, charitable outreach, and cultural traditions make it a strong candidate for listing under Criterion A: Social History.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193
Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

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Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 29.597666

Longitude: -90.721125

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

The property is bounded by W. Main Street to the south, neighboring buildings to the east and west, and Bayou Terrebonne to the north. Legally, it is described as having 28' on the north side of Main Street, being a portion of Block 93. See submitted tax assessor's map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary chosen is the historic boundary of the property.

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Richardson

organization: Richardson Preservation Consulting, LLC

street & number: 251 Linda Ave

city or town: Baton Rouge state: LA zip code: 70806

e-mail richpresconsulting@gmail.com

telephone: 225-937-6022

date: June 1, 2025

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: Houma Elks Lodge #1193

City or Vicinity: Houma

County: Terrebonne

State: LA

Photographer: Jessica Richardson

Date Photographed: May 14, 2025

Houma Elks Lodge #1193

Name of Property

Terrebonne Parish, LA

County and State

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

- 1 of 26: View of W. Main Street with Houma Elks Lodge at left foreground; view west.
- 2 of 26: Façade; view northwest.
- 3 of 26: Front room, first floor; view northwest.
- 4 of 26: Front room, first floor; view east.
- 5 of 26: Back room and bar; view southeast.
- 6 of 26: Bar; view west.
- 7 of 26: Rear hallway; view northwest.
- 8 of 26: Kitchen; view northwest.
- 9 of 26: Kitchen; view northwest.
- 10 of 26: Rear hallway; view southeast.
- 11 of 26: Hallway storage; view southwest.
- 12 of 26: Rear patio; view northwest.
- 13 of 26: Rear patio; view southeast.
- 14 of 26: Stairs; view northwest.
- 15 of 26: Entrance to second floor; view northwest.
- 16 of 26: Stairs; view southeast.
- 17 of 26: View from rear room on second floor towards center room; view southeast.
- 18 of 26: Rear room on second floor; view southwest.
- 19 of 26: Center room on second floor; view south.
- 20 of 26: View of rear room on second floor towards rear; view west.
- 21 of 26: Center room on second floor; view northeast.
- 22 of 26: Lodge meeting room; view southeast.
- 23 of 26: Lodge meeting room; view north.
- 24 of 26: Lodge meeting room; view northwest.
- 25 of 26: Lodge meeting room; view northwest.
- 26 of 26: Lodge meeting room closet; view northwest.

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.



Boundary

Parcel# 41906

Primary Owner B.P.O.E.-HOUMA LODGE #1193

Physical Addr 7883 MAIN ST

Mailing Addr HOUMA LA

Block

Lot

Subdivision MAIN STREET

Assessed Value 12,220

Homestead Value 12,220

Est. Parish Tax 0.00

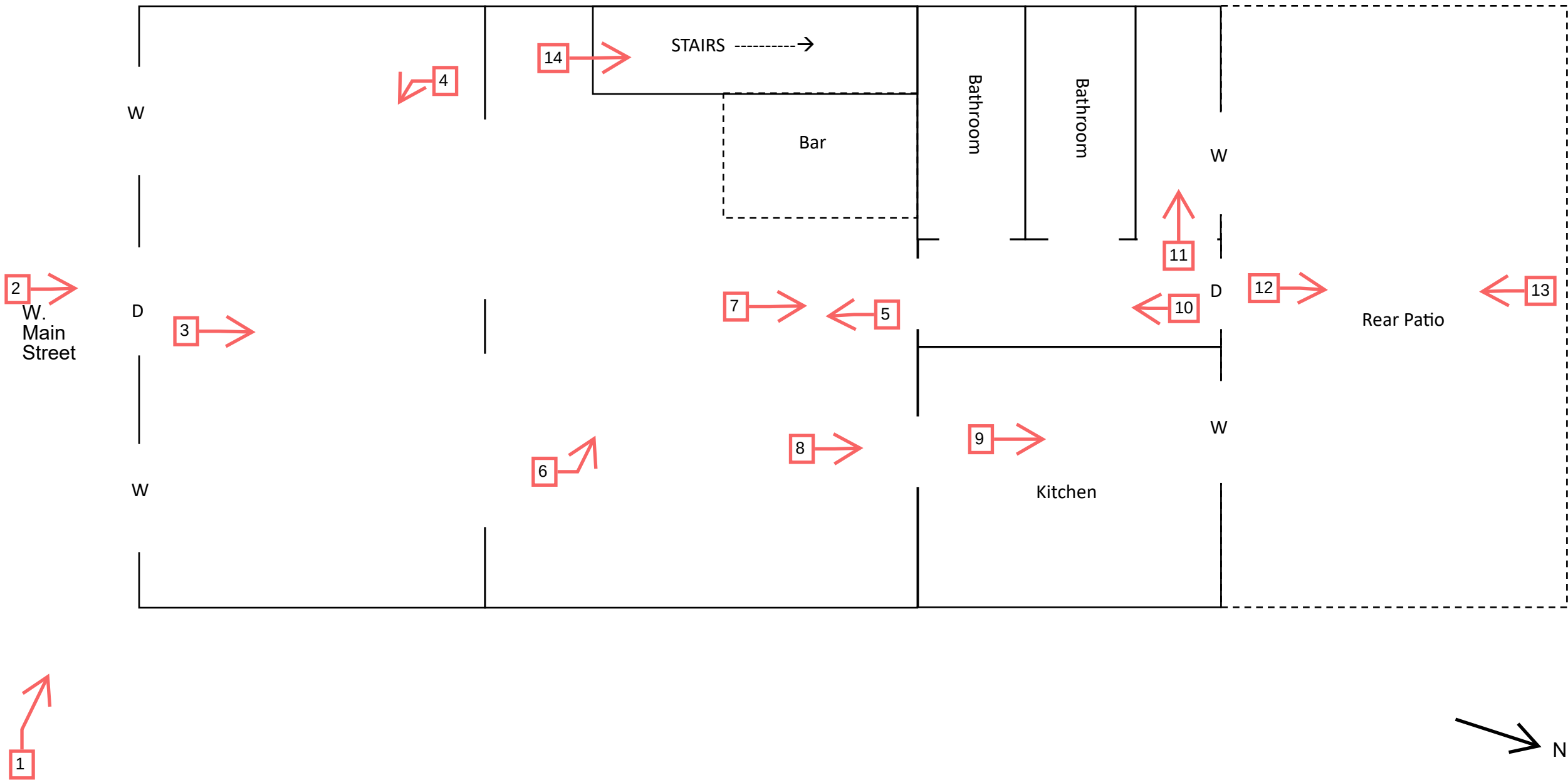
Est. City Tax 0.00

Legal 28' FRONT ON NORTH SIDE OF EAST MAIN STREET, BEING A PORTION OF BLOCK 93.

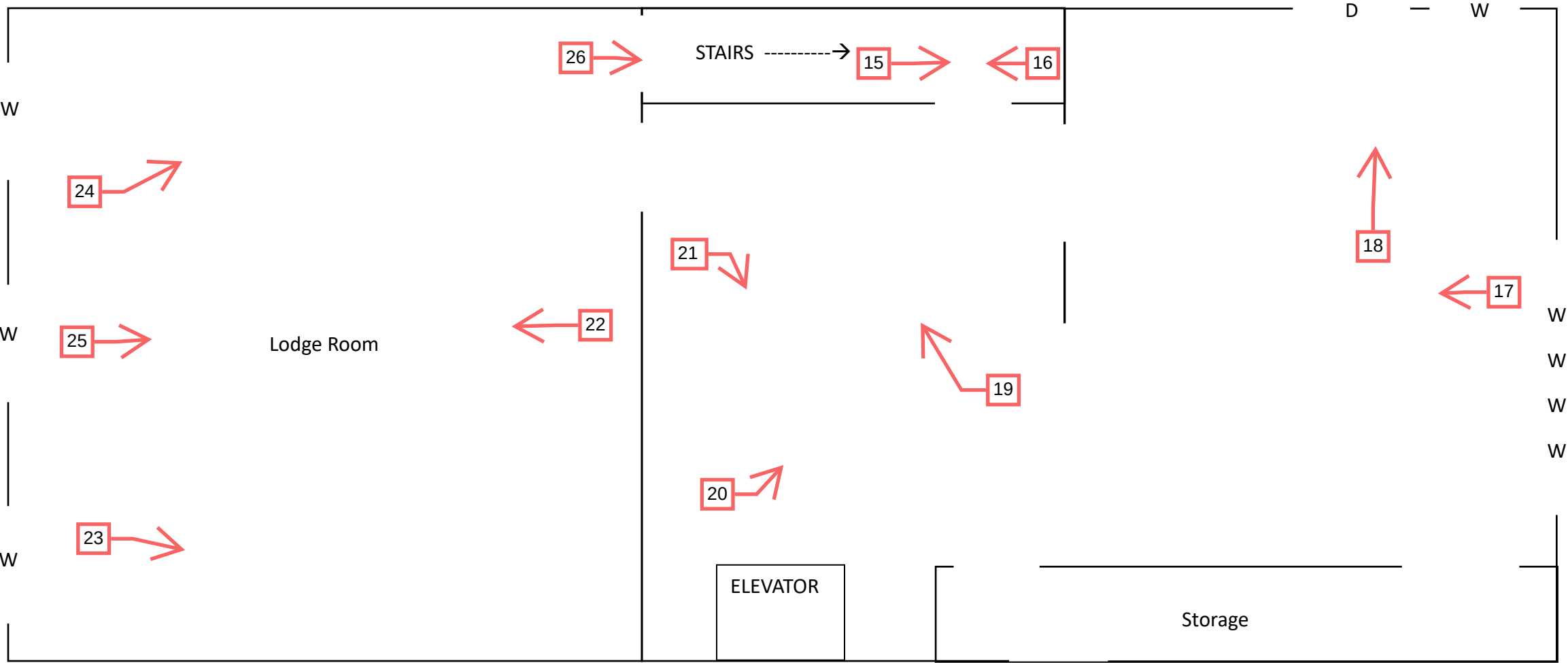
Property Class	Assmt.	Units
LOT(S)	3,820	1.00
MISC BLDG	8,400	1.00



Houma Elk's Lodge #1193
Terrebonne Parish, LA
Exterior and First Floor Photo Key
***Not to scale**



Houma Elk's Lodge #1193
Terrebonne Parish, LA
Exterior and First Floor Photo Key
Not to Scale



May 4th
BE WITH
US
MAY 03, 2025
DOWNTOWN
HOUMA













HERWIN.
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11



HOUMA ELKS LODGE



GOD BLESS AMERICA

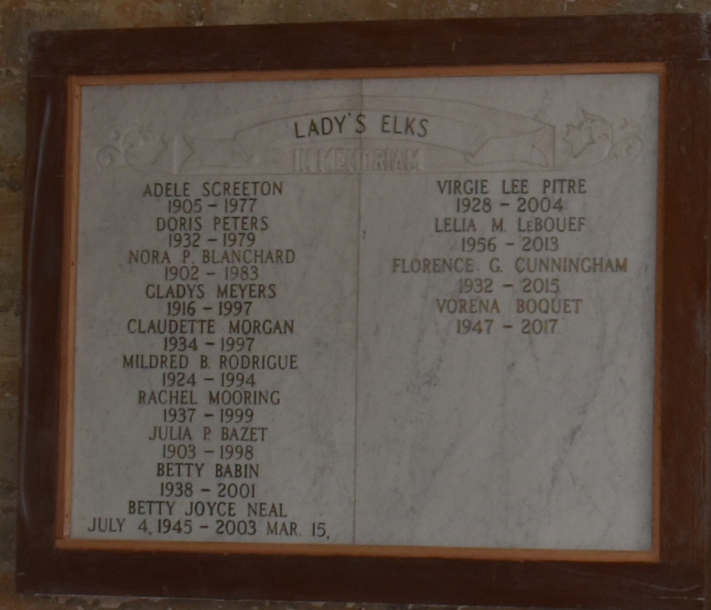






















HOUMA
LODGE NO. 1193
B.P.O. ELKS
HOUMA, LOUISIANA





