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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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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: Patterson Commercial Historic District
Other Names/Site Number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 1106, 1110, 1107, 1109 Main Street
City or town: Patterson State: LA County: St. Mary Parish
Not for Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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 ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets, meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

Phil Boggan 4-8-16

Signature of certifying official/Title: Phil Boggan, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date**

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title: **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

5-31-2014

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

5. Classification

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

X	Private
	Public – Local
	Public – State
	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

	Building(s)
X	District
	Site
	Structure
	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
4		Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
4	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution, Department Store; Recreation and Culture: Theater, Music Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Vacant/Not in Use

7.Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Commercial Style
Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
foundation: Wood, Concrete, Dirt
walls: Brick, Plaster, Sheetrock, Stucco Overlay, Wood
roof: Asphalt, Tin
other: N/A

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 Patterson Commercial Historic District consists of four contributing buildings situated along both sides of Main Street. Two are bounded by the Lower Atchafalaya River on the east, on the north by Morey Park, on the south by a vacant bar, and on the west by Main Street. The other two buildings are bounded on the east with Main Street, north by an Insurance Business, on the south by a vacant lot, and on the west by residential properties from the back street. The site is flat with concrete, very little grass and a few small trees. The four commercial style buildings are all made of brick with extra accent details. The oldest building was constructed c.1895 (Hausmann Dry Goods, 1109 Main). The other buildings date from c. 1906, 1912, and 1915. Together they form the main central business district of what was once a bustling cypress lumber town of the early 1900's. One building has recently been restored leaving most of the historic architectural features intact. The other three having suffered deterioration during the years of vacancy, but they are still in good condition and are definitely easily recognizable to any person from the period of significance. Thus, they retain their National Register eligibility. There are two small buildings – two sheds behind 1110 Main Street - that are no longer standing, but do appear on current satellite images of the area.

Narrative Description

Patterson historically had a dispersed commercial area as seen on Sanborn maps from 1895 through 1932. It wasn't like commercial districts in large cities that are large, cohesive, and linear. Like many small towns, the industry in the area, lumber, was a boom and led to the construction of many commercial buildings along Main Street between 1895 and 1935. The end of the lumber boom signaled an end to large building campaigns. A later industry, shrimping, came in later, but very few historic buildings remain in the town to show the impact of this industry on the built environment.

At one point in history Patterson housed 35 stores, 20 shops of various kinds, 3 banks, 3 cypress lumber mills, 4 hotels, and 6 boarding houses. On the 1932 Sanborn map, there were 49 stores on Main Street between Railroad Avenue and Park (Morey St) Avenue, a distance of 4 blocks). Included in the 49 were two meeting halls, two churches, a jail, the town water works, and the police station. Only a handful of the structures are still here including 9 commercial buildings found on that 1932 Sanborn map. Outside of the four grouped together, there are two wooden structures (814 Main St, former Listi Meat Market and Patterson United Methodist Church), a two story textured concrete block building (1009 Main St, former Gianfala Hotel, Restaurant, and Café, 1906-1915), one masonry stucco/granite building at the southeast corner of Main and Catherine Streets (former Patterson State Bank), and a one story building with a textured concrete block façade at 1119 Main Street (St. Mary Realty). There are a couple other wooden buildings from the early years of Patterson along

Main Street, but they are either altered so that their historic integrity is no longer intact, or they have been cut off from the other commercial buildings with more modern development. Thus, the main area left to speak to Patterson's commercial history is the area directly around the four buildings discussed below.

In the same four blocks analyzed above, there were 32 dwellings in 1932, of which 12 are still standing today. There are a small handful, around 4-5, houses in the area built from the 1940s through the 1960s, and much more recent homes built along the river side of Main Street, primarily between Railroad Avenue and Church Street. The largest concentration of the historic homes is on the opposite side of Main Street, also between Railroad Avenue and Church Street. Residences are not included within the boundaries of the small district as the areas of significance for the district include commerce and entertainment/recreation, and thus, is tied to commercial buildings.

The immediate area around the four historic commercial buildings is quite quaint with an existing park under the process of major proposed renovations. The park is home to several large live oak trees and is located on the Lower Atchafalaya River adjacent to 1110 Main Street. It is shown in place in 1927 and had a dancing pavilion at that time, which is no longer extant.

INVENTORY

Dating buildings: Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps (1895, 1899, 1906, 1927, and 1932), local newspapers (etc. from the City Archives), history books, and records from the Parish Courthouse were all used to obtain estimated construction dates.

1. First National Bank and Telegraph Exchange, 1106 Main Street:

Circa 1906 or earlier based on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps of 1899 (no building shown) and 1906 (shows referenced building). Two story commercial style brick building first housing the First National Bank and Telegraph Exchange. In 1915, a total of three banks were listed in Patterson. Later renamed the Union Bank (1910). The U.S. Postal office was operating out of the building at an early date until 1947. Also the Parish Library was located there from 1955 to 1960.

The building was built with the front offset from the back of the building by 2 feet. The floor plan (which is unchanged) consists of a first floor commercial space and second floor apartment. Central entrance archway is a vestibule leading directly to doorway for first floor with another door located on the left leading to the second story. A large square protruding multi paned metal window is located on the right of the entrance vestibule; this was put in to replace the mailboxes that were located here when it was used as a post office. Arched one over two wood windows and doorway all have transoms and are all of the original cypress wood. Beadboard ceiling is original in the vestibule

Façade showcases the original decorative brickwork consisting of a majority of tan brick while all decorative elements including window arches, portions of engaged columns, panels above and below second floor windows, and window edges are a darker, red brick. Side and rear walls are a more utilitarian red/orange brick. There are three large arched windows on the second story. Each window opening along with the central ground floor entry has stone keystones.

This building showcases the most intricate, extensive craftsmanship of all commercial buildings in the city of Patterson. The building had housed many important businesses required for the town of Patterson to function. It retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship.

2. Patterson Opera House and Realty Company, 1110 Main Street:

Circa 1913 or earlier. Considering the original theater burned down in 1911(with Sanborn Fire Insurance Co map of 1912 showing an empty lot and also the Opera Board being formed in 1912), the earliest reliable record found was a 1913 newspaper advertisement showing an upcoming movie being featured. The commercial style building houses three separate tenant spaces. The façade supports two entrances for two separate

businesses on the left and right with an arched hallway entrance (almost in the center of the building) leading to the large two story opera/theater space in the back (consists of a large open theater space, stage, and balcony seating). The two front tenant spaces with the arcade have a shared roofing system while the attached opera in the rear has its own roofing system. The whole complex's outer walls are brick (to a depth of 3 bricks, possibly being locally made) with the façade later being covered with stucco. The façade supports three large square windows and one entrance door with glass transoms. The interior windows with transoms, which face onto the central arcade, have decorative stained glass details. One entry door is the original cypress wood door. Decorative stepped stucco details adorn the cornice. Inset panels just below the cornice are located above each commercial space. The arched opening was likely originally open as on the interior, this is an arcade leading to the original entry door for the opera/theater space, which also features several skylights.

The building has been vacant for a very long time and is in need of some repairs. Despite its current condition, this building has a vivid history and still retains many of its original architectural features. It retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship.

There were two sheds behind the property that have been removed (and would have been considered non-contributing as they did not relate to the commercial significance of the property)

3. Citizens State and Savings Bank, 1107 Main Street

Circa 1912 or earlier per Sanborn map of 1906 (1912 shows the first record), in operation from 1907–1920. The original bank vault and its doors are still in place in the building. The brick building is one story and features a central double door entry flanked by two large plate glass windows. Above each opening is a single lite transom. There are decorative brick engaged columns separating each of the three bays. An inset brick panel features the ghost imprint of "The Citizens State and Saving Bank" sign. Above this panel is more decorative brickwork including a pattern of 20 "arrow points" with a dentilated band below and a dentilated cornice above. The brick on the façade is a darker red brick while the sides are a brighter orange brick. There are large full height openings on the left side with metal shutters, which appear to be original. This building was recently renovated and it retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship.

4. Hausmann Dry Goods 1109 Main Street

Circa 1895 or earlier (Sanborn map of 1895).The original owner's family name is stamped on the floor of the entrance. The successive owners (Rizzo's Clothing) have a large painted store advertisement on the north side of the building's brick wall painted by Sam Dangerfield Sr. His son, Sam, Jr., painted it last. Rizzo Tailoring Company was established in 1910 (*per advertisement of The Broadcaster, Patterson High School newspaper, December 5, 1924).* In 1930-1944, the Rizzo Tie Factory was in operation a few doors down. Rizzo's relocated to this building in 1942. Mr. Joseph Rizzo invented and obtained a patent for the tie, which he named the "Rizzo Cravat". He had a patent for the lining inside the tie that would not twist or turn when the tie was washed or cleaned. The patent was sold to Wembley Ties, and this is basically how ties today are still made. The last business to operate in this building was the Rizzo clothing store, closing in 1986. The building has since been vacant. The one story brick building is ell shaped and features a large recessed storefront, which is marked on Sanborn maps as a dwelling, likely the owner's apartment. The configuration appears to be original as the name stamped in the entryway dates to the family that built the building. Currently the storefront is boarded up for security. Above the storefront is decorative brickwork featuring three inset panels, a simple projecting band at the cornice, and a stepped parapet. The front brick is a dark red brick while the sides are a brighter orange brick. This building retains many original features and retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship.

Integrity of the District

Each of the four buildings retains their historic integrity. They remain in their original location and retain substantial design features, materials, and workmanship to help them all retain a historic feeling and association. The setting has changed in the city as a whole with the loss of many historic resources, but the

immediate setting in this four building area is intact to a degree. Together, these four buildings speak to a time when Main Street had almost 40 commercial businesses in a four block area and they remain to show the early history of the city of Patterson from 1895-1935.

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.)

x	**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:

	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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance: 1895-1935

Significant Dates: N/A

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

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

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

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance is 1895-1935. The final sawmill in Patterson had been sold by 1929 with its lumber supply taking until 1935 to be depleted and thus, the boom of the industry was over. The next boom, the shrimping industry, did not begin until the later 1930s and no historic buildings remain in the 4 building area to represent this industry.

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

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

The Patterson Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and entertainment/recreation because it served as the commercial and entertainment center of the city. The four buildings located within the district served as banks, central businesses like a pharmacy and telegraph exchange, a post office, opera house/theater, and a dry goods store during the period of significance. The oldest building in the district dates to c. 1895 and the youngest building dates to c. 1912. The period of significance for the district dates from 1895-1935, encompassing the years that the buildings were constructed and functioned in these important roles within the city of Patterson.

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

Patterson Today

Located at the intersection of longitude 29 ¾ north, W -91.309539 and latitude N 29.690885[1], present day Patterson serves as the home to a state owned airport, Audubon Trail Golf Course, and a state Air and Cypress Museum. Famous Pattersonians include: Louisiana State University and New Orleans Saints running back Dalton Hillard, Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Ike Hillard, black folk art sculpture artist David Butler, and Jimmy Wedell, a famous air speed pilot. Patterson is also home to Wedell Williams Air Services, which was started by Harry Williams and Jimmy Wedell - famous plane builders. The term "Who Dat"—commonly associated with the New Orleans Saints—was initiated by a Patterson resident and Lumberjack fan, Lawrence Francis. Other famous Pattersonians: Mel Ott, who played for Major League Baseball's New York Giants for 22 years and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1951; Henri Bendel, a fashion designer noted for the Bendel hats; Ruckins McKneely, a mechanic for Amelia Earhart; and Lewis Kemper Williams, Brigadier General in World War II. The current population is estimated at 6,000 people.

Patterson Historical Background:

In the early 1800s, Dutchmen from Pennsylvania settled and began planting sugar cane in the Patterson area. The French began to arrive shortly after. They named the area "Dutch Settlement" (Dutch Prairie/Dutch Town).[2] In 1812, the United States Navy led an expedition to the Atchafalaya swamplands in search of timber (live oak, red cedar/cypress) after the war of 1812 for shipbuilding.[3] This expedition brought them to the Patterson area. Twenty years later, in 1832, Captain John Patterson from Indiana arrived and purchased land, built a store, and became one of the town's most prominent citizens. After moving the post office from a plantation to Dutch Settlement the town was renamed "Pattersonville".[4]

In 1838, a lumber mill was first established in Pattersonville (the town's name was shortened to Patterson in 1907).[5] In 1847 (with the first school being a crude simple one room building), the first two-story framed school was built and named "Pattersonville Academy". The next school had its origin in 1896.[6] The school was paid for by private citizens and it is assumed that the two sawmills provided substantial contributions of lumber (perhaps all of it) and cash contributions for labor and hardware.[7] In 1912, it was moved off the grounds and renamed "The Patterson Colored School". The school was replaced with a two story brick building.[8] In some

[1]Per www.citylatitudelongitude.com/LA/Patterson.htm.
[2] The Eighth Grade Louisiana History Class of Patterson High School. *A History of Patterson, Louisiana.* Morgan City: King-Hannaford Company, 1965. Pgs. 7 and 8.
[3] Davis, Edwin Adams. *The Rivers and Bayous of Louisiana.* Baton Rouge: Thos. J. Moran's Sons, Inc., 1968, Page 113.
[4] *A History of Patterson Louisiana.* Pages 8 and 9.
[5] Ibid, Page 10.
[6] Ibid, Page 25.
[7] C A Ives. *As I Remember.* Baton Rouge: Bureau of Educational Materials and Research College of Education- LSU, 1964, pg. 115.
[8] Patterson High School Desktop Publishing Students. *Patterson Past to Present.* Houma: Kwik Kopy Business Center,

sources, it is stated that Patterson's first brick structure was constructed in 1913, but Sanborn map research, which shows the two story First National Bank in place by 1906 contradicts this information. It is likely that c. 1900, the first masonry structures began to be built in Pattersonville's downtown area.

During the Civil War, in 1863, the "Battle of Bisland" was fought in area between Pattersonville and Centerville.[9] In 1872, following the Civil War, a cypress mill known as the Pharr and Williams Sawmill was established. This mill was bought out by owner Francis Bennett Williams and renamed F.B. Williams Cypress Co in 1892. It would later become known as the world's largest cypress sawmill.[10] The towns surrounding Pattersonville were widespread with lumbering activity with several mills in operation until the effects of the Depression and the depletion of cypress forced productions to cease. The Williams Mill employed approximately 350 people with 250 acres of land. 75,000+ board feet of lumber was turned out each day. The mill also consisted of a planing mill. The mill closed operations in 1929.[11]

In 1895, Pattersonville had 35 stores, 20 other shops of various kinds including a drug store, 2 millinery establishments, 4 hotels, 6 boarding houses, 3 physicians, 2 churches, and a school. At that time, the town had a population of 1800.[12]

A year later, in 1896, Pattersonville was described as a straggling (nonexistent government) village, extending about three miles along one road. Near the center of the main street, residences for the whites stretched two or three blocks from the river. Farther back at the same point was the heavily populated African American section. The African American population was large as there was a heavy demand for labor at the two lumber mills, sash and door factory, livery stables, and draying establishments. Common labor was performed mostly by the African American and Italian residents of Pattersonville. At the center of town were the business houses, two churches (Catholic and Methodist), an opera house, hotel, and new school building. Not a single brick structure existed among the buildings described in 1896. Perhaps the reason for the exclusive use of lumber was its cheap price and abundant supply of virgin cypress plus the fact that Pattersonville had 3 lumber mills in operation.

In addition to buildings related to the lumber boom, Patterson, shortened from Pattersonville in 1907, was also home to Wedell-Williams Air Service, Inc., formed in 1929. The company constructed planes of a radical new design that set world records as the fastest land planes of their time. The planes were built in Patterson with financial backing from Harry P. Williams and launched with Jimmy Wedell, who became nationally known as a speed pilot breaking records internationally. A replica of the No. 44 Plane is showcased in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Army used plans from a Wedell-Williams plane to make P-51 fighters used in World War II. Mail Service and Passenger service were also provided by the Wedell-Williams Air Service. In later years, the airport was donated to the State of Louisiana, the only state owned airport in Louisiana.[13]

Patterson's Commercial and Recreational History

The buildings located within Patterson's Commercial Historic District related directly to the town's growth from the lumber mills at the turn of the 20th century. The First National Bank (Telegraph Exchange) located at 1106 Main Street was constructed c. 1900 (Sanborn maps show no building in 1899, but show it in place by 1906). The bank itself was founded in 1898[14] and in 1910, it merged with the Bank of Patterson to form Union Bank.[15] In 1912, the U.S. Post Office in Patterson was located within the bank building and remained there until 1947.[16]

2006, Page 103.

[9] Davis, Edwin Adams, *The Rivers and Bayous of Louisiana.* Baton Rouge: Thos. J. Moran's Sons, Inc., 1968, Page 110.

[10] Crystal Thielepape. "Williams family was involved in aviation and cypress industries." *Morgan City Daily Review Newspaper,* September 4, 2015.

[11] Personal Archives of Peter Rogers, *Morgan City Archive document,* 2006.

[12] *A History of Patterson Louisiana*. Page 9.

[13] Ibid, Pages 54 and 62.

[14] Ibid, Page 35.

By 1915, there were a total of 3 banks in Patterson, including Union Bank.[17] Ten years later, Union Bank folded and the building and property were sold to Patterson State Bank.[18] Patterson State Bank sold the building at 1106 Main Street to an individual owner at the beginning of World War II in 1941.The building was again resold to a private owner in 1952.[19] From 1955-1960, the local library occupied the first floor of this building.[20] The last commercial tenant to occupy the building was an insurance company and thereafter, the building was used as a resident until it was vacated. (See below for information on the Patterson Opera House and Realty Company, which had both commercial and recreational significance).

In addition to the bank at 1106 Main Street, the building at 1107 Main Street also housed a bank – the Citizens State and Savings Bank. Operating from 1907-1920, smack dab in the middle of the period of significance for the district, the building would have been an important financial institution in Patterson. The fact that a town the size of Patterson had 3 banks is telling to the boom of the lumber industry in the area. After it was used as a bank, it was used as the Wild Jewelry Store in 1912 and a tavern for many years after that.

The building at 1109 Main Street, Hausmann's Dry Goods, would have also played an important role in Patterson's commercial history. Throughout its history, the building housed either dry goods or clothing stores, up until 1986. From c. 1895-1942, the Hausmann family ran a dry goods store out of the building. As is well known, dry goods stores were vitally important in small towns like Patterson supplying residents with all of their basic needs for cooking, cleaning, and other household activities. Following the period of significance, the building was purchased by the Rizzo family who were clothiers and tie manufacturers. The Rizzo family continued to operating clothing stores out of the building until 1986. The building clearly was significant to the city of Patterson as not only was it a successful dry goods store during the period of significance, but it also continued to serve the clothing needs of the community through the 1980s.

There was a slight downturn in development along Main Street following 1928 and the closure of the largest lumber mill due to depletion of cypress and the Great Depression. For this reason, the period of significance for the district extends from 1895-1935 to encompass the years of the heyday of the lumber mills and includes the extant concentrated buildings that were constructed as a result of the wealth and growth of the city. While there was a downturn in Patterson's economy due to the Great Depression and closing of the lumber mills, the historic commercial buildings on Main Street did survive and after 1940, after a 10-year slump in the economy, the town of Patterson came back to life with the boom of the seafood industry and shrimp packing businesses.[21]

The final demise of the Main Street commercial core was the opening of a four lane highway, Highway 90, in the mid to late 1960s. This highway runs through south Louisiana in an east-west direction and is located about an average of 5 blocks from Main Street. It diverts traffic from going through downtown Patterson to veering off to the west. The highway was important for the oil industry as a gateway from Lafayette to New Orleans. As Patterson had become a bedroom community for the local oil industry, the majority of businesses began to move from Main Street to the new highway.

Entertainment and Recreation

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[15] St. Mary Parish Courthouse records.
[16] Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. map of 1912. State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Map Collection; *Patterson Past to Present;* Page 8.
[17] Patterson Newspaper Advertisement Morgan City Archives
[18] St. Mary Parish Courthouse records.
[19] Ibid.
[20] *Patterson Past to Present,* Page 80.
[21] *A History of Patterson Louisiana*, pg. 36.

The Patterson Opera House and Realty Company, also referred to in later years as the "Arcade", was constructed c. 1913 at 1110 Main Street.[22] There was a previous building at the site named "The Opera House." A widespread fire destroyed the building and 14 others in December 1911. The cause of the fire was listed as film igniting. The ashes from the 15 burned buildings were used to make the foundation of the new opera house. The opera board was formed in 1912 with William Folse serving on one of the first board of directors. By 1927, Sanborn maps show the front portion of the building as housing a drug store and stores in the front with a central arcade leading to the opera house. Many of the performers were opera stars sent in from the opera company in New Orleans.[23] The building was also used by the local high school to hold their graduation ceremonies. A former student of Patterson High School told the story of an English teacher (Ms. Gladys Viator) who sponsored a club consisting of high school students to practice and put on plays on the stage of the Opera House as a fundraiser for the school. It was called "Stunt Night". Another local woman (Mrs. John D Nuttal) had a soprano voice of great charm and she was instrumental in organizing a cast to perform musicals at the Opera House. The full house and enthusiastic response were evidence of a keen interest in entertainment of that kind. The experience, pleasurable and cultural, was a community service that promoted the participation of many people in such wholesome activities.[24]

Other commercial uses for this building during the period of significance and after include as a utility office, a billiards hall, a bar, and a church. It was still in operation at least in 1965 as it was included in a history of Patterson written by the 8th grade class that year. Based on interviews with longtime Patterson residents, the opera house closed not long after 1968.

Social life in Patterson differed greatly from those of the northern section of Louisiana. South Louisiana was settled by French and Spanish and their social patterns were of Latin origin. In colonies settled by the English groups in North Louisiana, however, many lighter forms of polite amusement were not in favor or were not widely advertised. These included dancing, card games, theater, and reading of fiction. This harsh attitude common in the northern sections of the state did not exist in South Louisiana (or the activities up north were better concealed).[25] It is known that many of the town's male residents liked to partake in gambling behind closed doors in the Main Street businesses including the businesses housed in the front of the Opera House building. When the dance pavilion was still in place next door in the park, it was only logical for the activities to spill over into the Main Street commercial buildings.

The four buildings of the district that survive today are significant for the role they played in the commercial and recreational history of the city of Patterson during the 40 year period of significance window between 1895 and1935. These businesses not only tended to the financial and personal needs of Patterson's residents, but they also functioned as places for entertainment including dances, plays, and movies. These businesses and the activities that took place there were vital to the residents of Patterson and the surrounding area and for this reason, the 4 buildings that make up the Patterson Commercial Historic District are eligible for listing on the National Register.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

7. Major Bibliographical Resources

[22] Sanborn maps show 1912 as an empty lot, 1927 map shows the new building. Newspaper Advertisement from Morgan City Archives in 1915 listing of featured shows.
[23] *A History of Patterson Louisiana.* Page 33
[24] Ives, pg. 123.
[25] Ibid.

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

Banner Tribune. (Morgan City Archives). Morgan City, Louisiana. April 28, 1959.

Davis, Edwin Adams, *The Rivers and Bayous of Louisiana.* Baton Rouge: Thos. J. Moran's Sons, Inc., 1968.

Ives, C.A., *As I Remember.* Baton Rouge: Bureau of Educational Materials and Research College of Education- LSU, 1964, pg. 115.

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Personal Archives of Peter Rogers. *Morgan City Archive document,* 2006.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps 1895, 1899, 1906, 1912, 1927, 1932. State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Map Collection.

St. Mary Parish Courthouse records.

The Eighth Grade Louisiana History Class of Patterson High School. *A History of Patterson, Louisiana.* Morgan City: King-Hannaford Company, 1965.

Thielepape, Crystal. "Williams family was involved in aviation and cypress industries." *Morgan City Daily Review Newspaper, September 4,* 2015.

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:

_x__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ___N/A_____

8. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: ~1 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 29.694177	Longitude: -91.302908
2. Latitude: 29.694301	Longitude: -91.302625
3. Latitude: 29.694225	Longitude: -91.302598
4. Latitude: 29.694287	Longitude: -91.302329
5. Latitude: 29.694375	Longitude: -91.302348
6. Latitude: 29.694541	Longitude: -91.301608
7. Latitude: 29.694385	Longitude: -91.301578
8. Latitude: 29.694240	Longitude: -91.301962
9. Latitude: 29.694061	Longitude: -91.302257
10. Latitude: 29.693954	Longitude: -91.302203
11. Latitude: 29.693863	Longitude: -91.302399
12. Latitude: 29.693862	Longitude: -91.302522
13. Latitude: 29.693784	Longitude: -91.302893
14. Latitude: 29.693852	Longitude: -91.302895
15. Latitude: 29.693886	Longitude: -91.302847

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
See submitted boundary map and plat map for details. Boundaries start at a point at the northwest corner of the property line for 1109 Main Street, proceed along the northern property line to Main Street and proceed south along Main Street to a point that is parallel with the northwest corner of 1110 Main Street. Proceed across Main Street and follow the property lines of 1110 Main Street to a point on the southern property line that is even with the rear property line (lat/long point 9) of 1106 Main Street. At this point, cross over the neighboring plot of land (Parcel #2894341176) and follow the eastern and southern property lines of 1106 Main Street. At the southwest corner of 1106 Main Street, where it meets Main Street, the boundary crosses Main Street to meet at the southeast corner of 1107 Main Street. Follow the southern, western, and a portion of the northern property lines of 1107 Main Street to a point that is even with the rear elevation of 1109 Main Street (lat/long points 15 to 1). Follow the rear elevation of 1109 Main Street to the point of origin, the northwest corner of 1109 Main Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries selected reflect the majority of the property lines surrounding the four contributing buildings. The only alterations in this are for 1110 Main Street where the boundary line does not follow the property line to Main Street, but rather cuts over to include 1106 Main Street; and at 1107 Main Street where the boundary does not follow the property lines back to Main Street, but stops and follows the rear elevation of 1109 Main Street. This was done to include all of the contributing buildings and to leave out two non-contributing buildings located to the rear of 1109 Main Street. The lot containing 1109 Main Street is rather large and it is most appropriate to only include the contributing historic structure within the boundaries of the district. These four buildings represent the most cohesive grouping of historic buildings from the period of significance in the city of Patterson. Others do remain, but they are separated geographically by large vacant lots and new construction.

9. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jan Felterman
organization: N/A
street & number: 147 McGee Drive
city or town: Patterson state: LA zip code: 70392
e-mail: janlee3@cox.net
telephone: 985 395 2130
date: September 22, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Patterson Commercial Historic District
City or Vicinity: Patterson
County: St. Mary Parish
State: LA
Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson
Date of Photographs: August 20, 2015

1 of 10: View of 1106 Main St; camera facing northeast.
2 of 10: Close up view of first floor window on 1106 Main Street ('stained' glass is just decorated paper, not original); camera facing east.
3 of 10: View of 1110 Main St; camera facing northeast.
4 of 10: Northern elevation of 1106 Main St; camera facing southeast.
5 of 10: View looking at 1107 and 1109 Main St; camera facing northwest.
6 of 10: View of 1110 Main Street façade; camera facing northeast.
7 of 10: Close up view of first floor window on 1110 Main Street; camera facing east.
8 of 10: View of rear of 1106 and part of 1110 Main Street; camera facing southwest.
9 of 10: View of rear of the one story section of 1110 Main Street; camera facing west.
10 of 10: View of rear of the two story, theater section of 1110 Main Street; camera facing west.

FIGURES

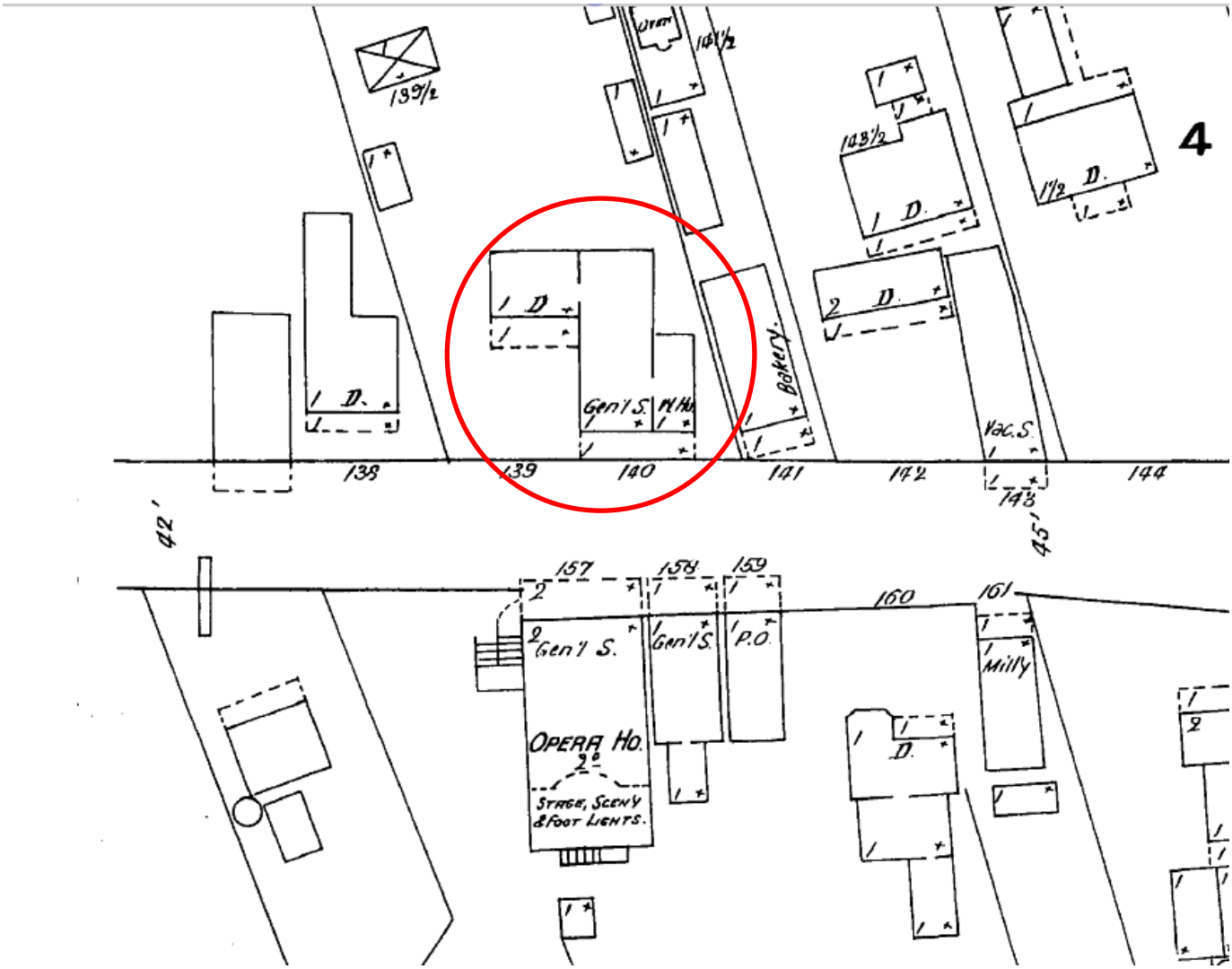


Figure 1. 1895 Sanborn map – Only the building at 1109 Main Street today is visible on this map as 140 Main St. An older 2 story opera house stands where the extant opera house is today. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

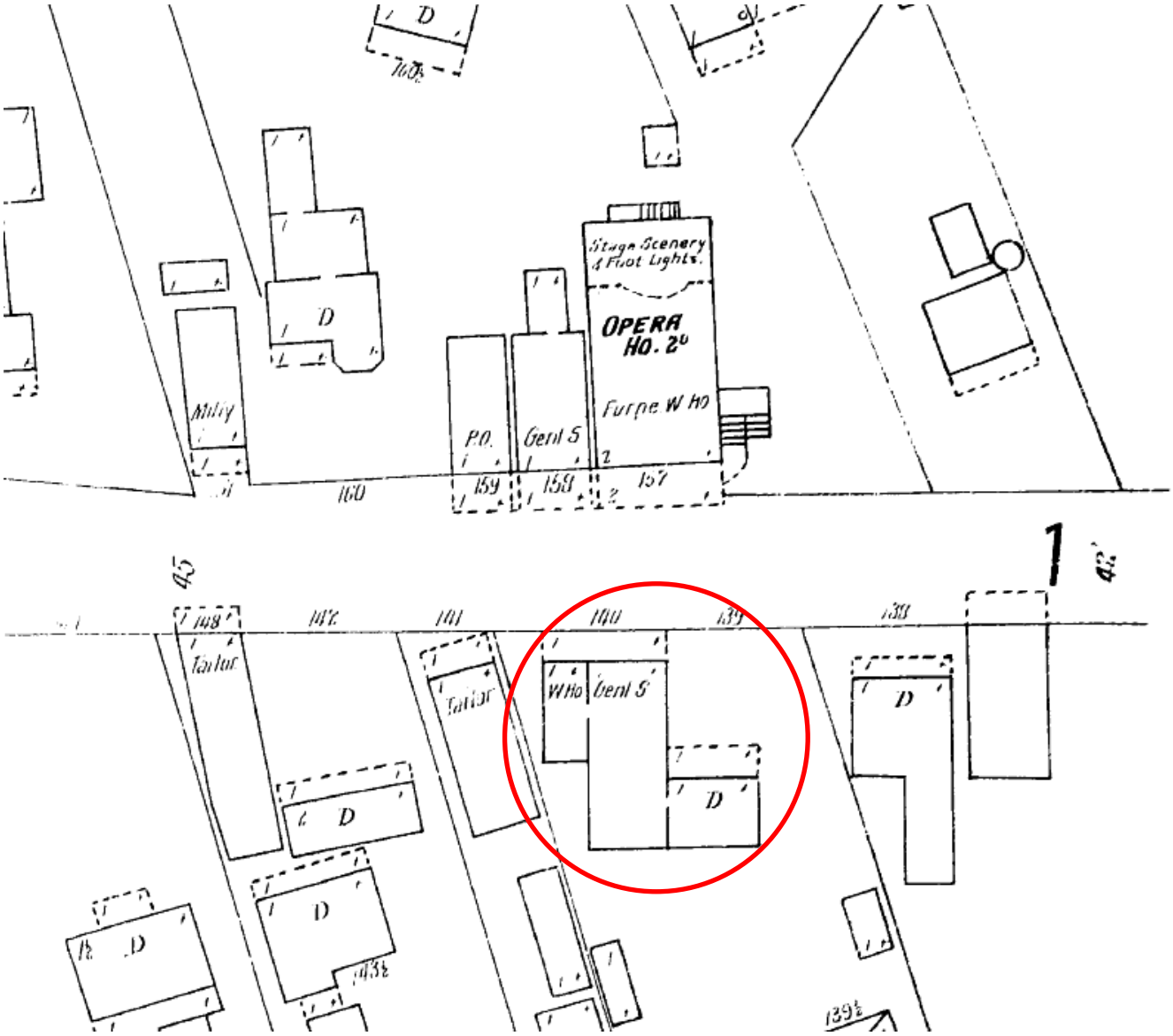


Figure 2. 1899 Sanborn map – again, only the property at 1109 (140) Main Street is in place in 1899. The one story warehouse to the left of the building is no longer there today. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

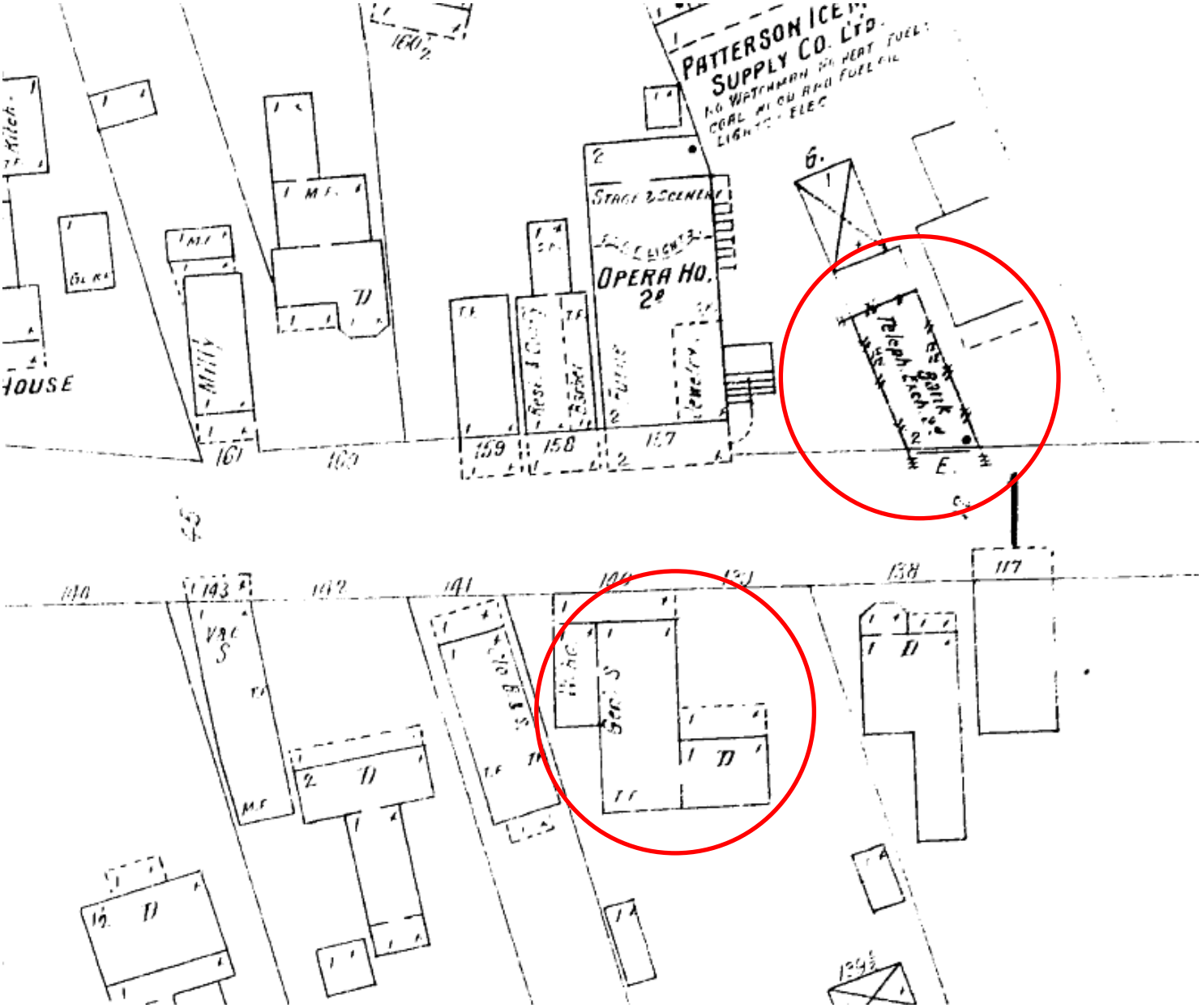


Figure 3. 1906 Sanborn Map – By this year, the building at 1106 (156 across from 117) Main Street has been constructed. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

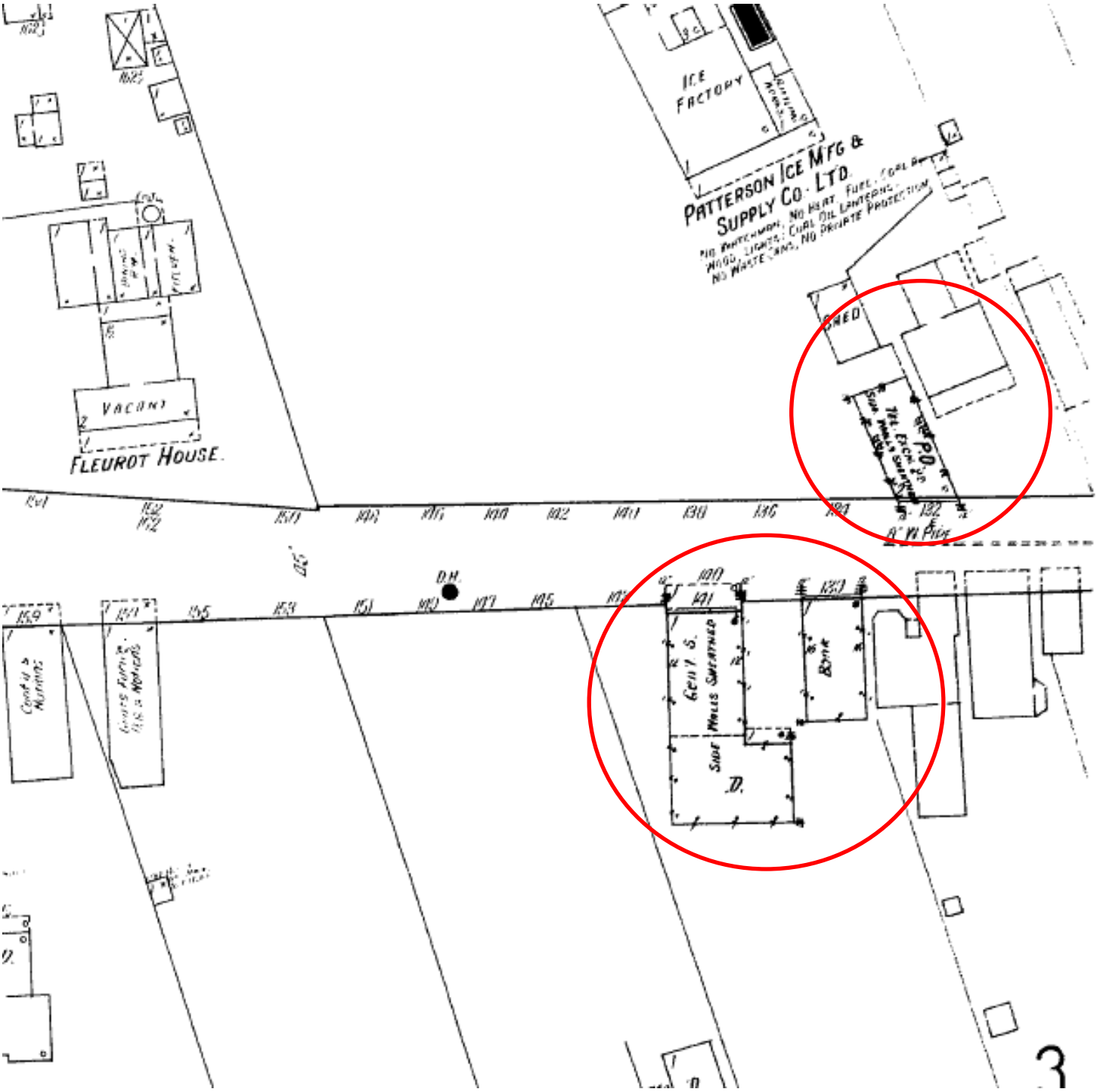


Figure 4. 1912 Sanborn – 3 of the 4 buildings in the district are in place by 1912 (140/141, 139, and 132). Between 1906 and 1912, the one story addition on 1109 Main Street is gone and the side walls are marked as sheathed. It seems like they covered the brick with some sort of sheathing, but that is long gone today, leaving the original brick in place. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

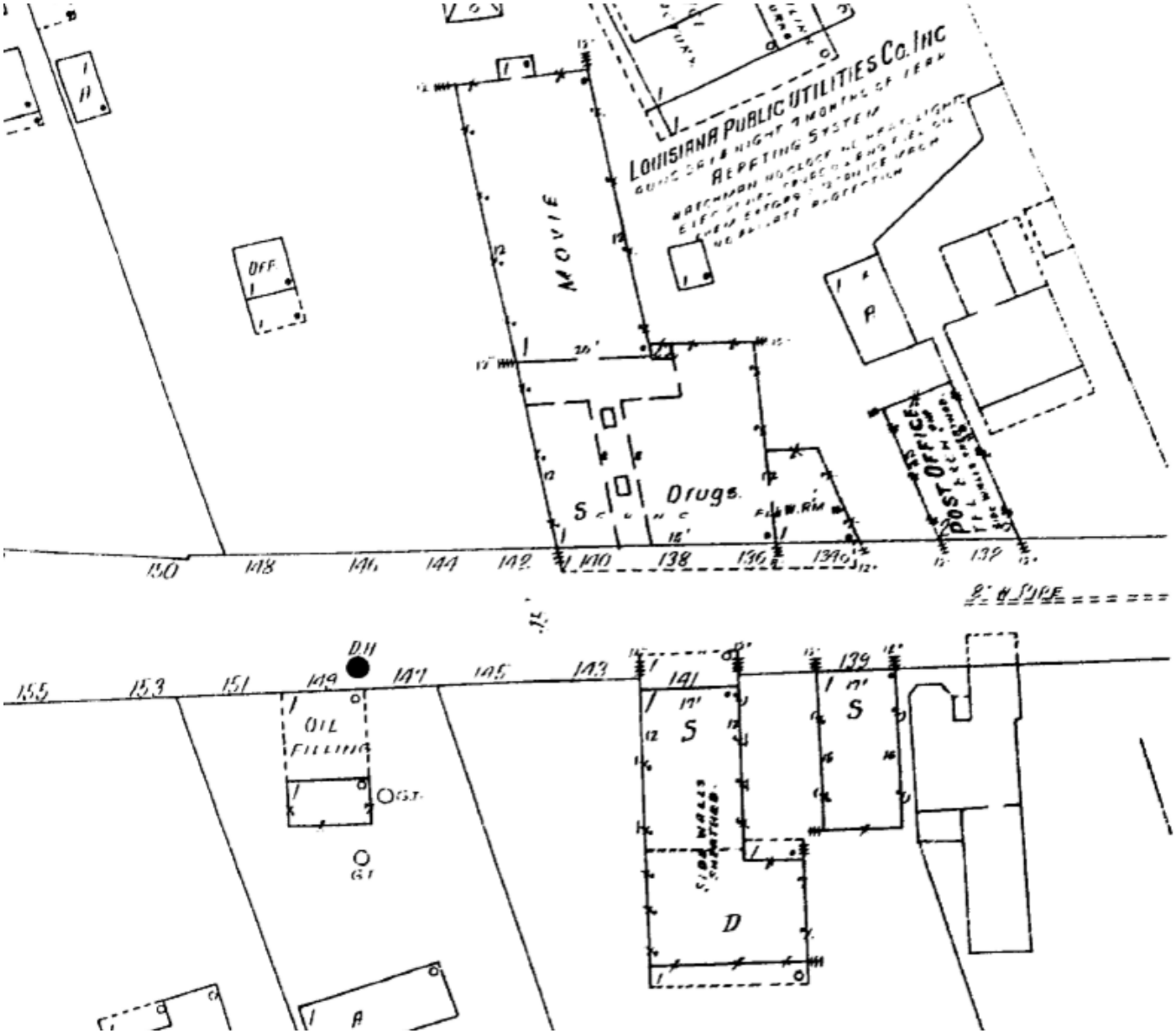


Figure 5. 1927 Sanborn – By 1927, all 4 buildings are in place (136-140, 132, 139, 141). Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

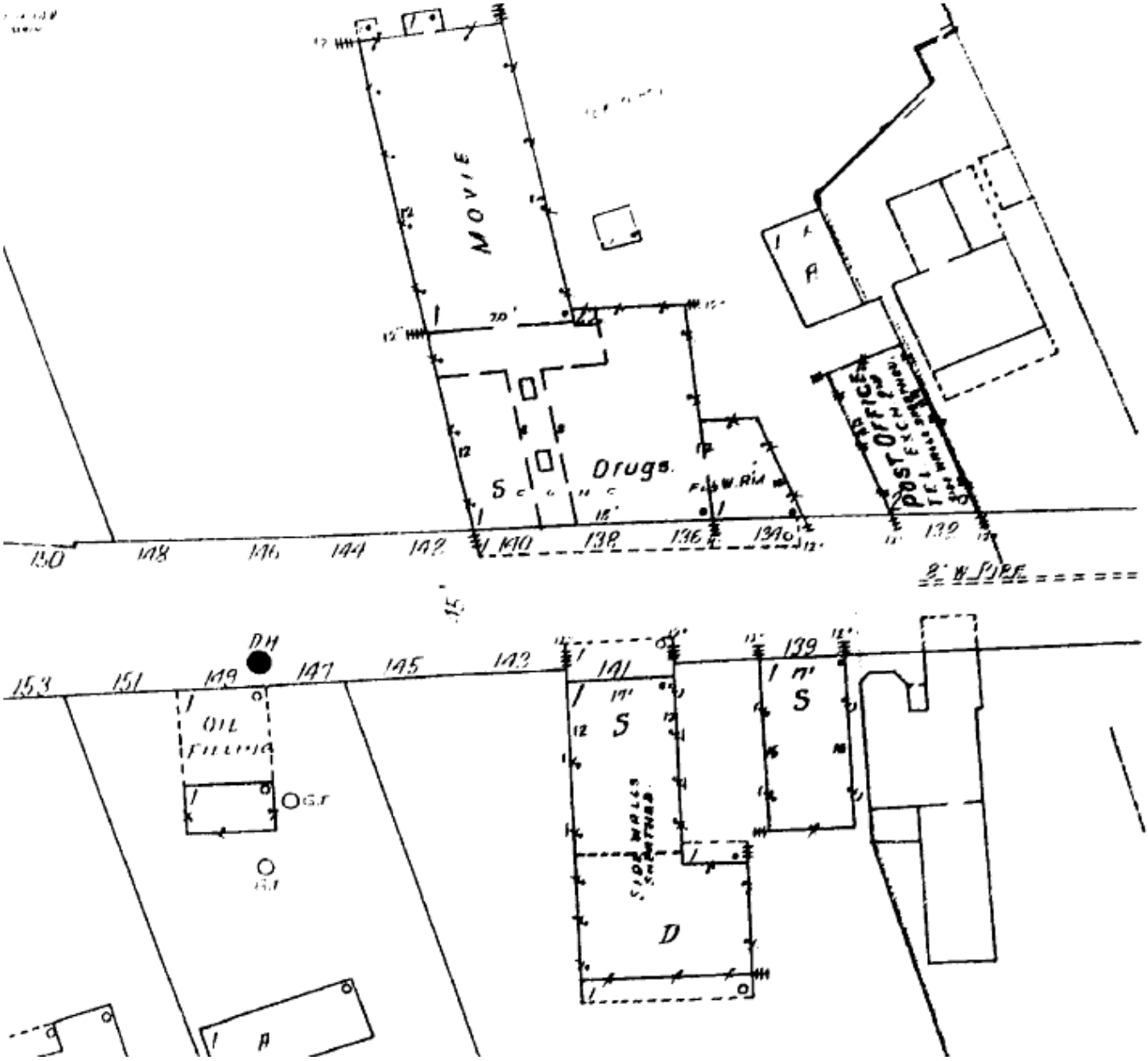


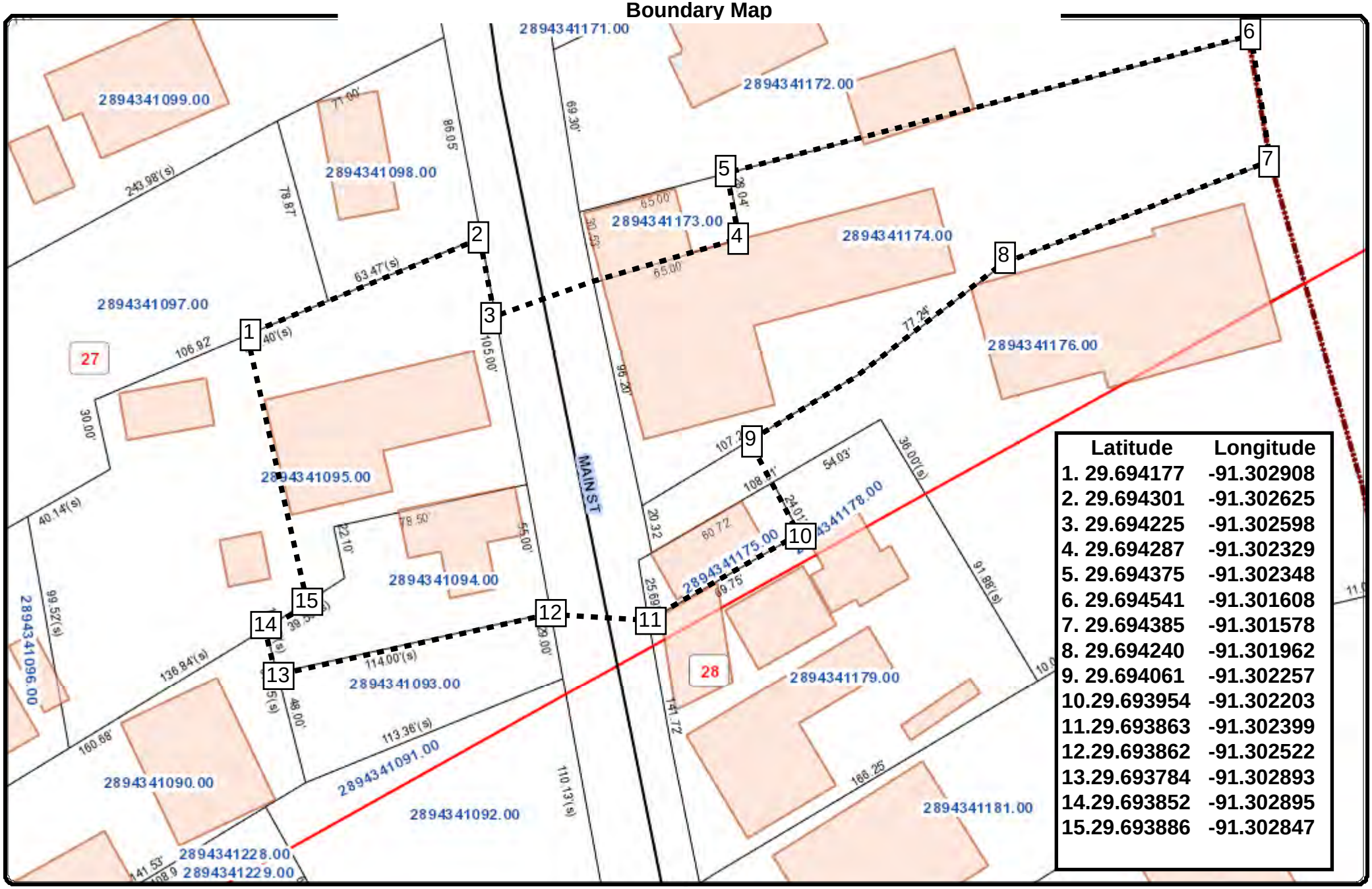
Figure 6. 1932 Sanborn – All 4 are still in place in 1932. Sometime after 1932, most likely more recently, the house to the left of the building marked as 139 Main St was demolished. This is now a vacant lot. Image courtesy of the State Library of Louisiana.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Patterson Commercial Historic District, St. Mary Parish, LA

Latitude: 29.694129 Longitude: -91.302360

Patterson Commercial Historic District - St. Mary Parish, LA
Boundary Map



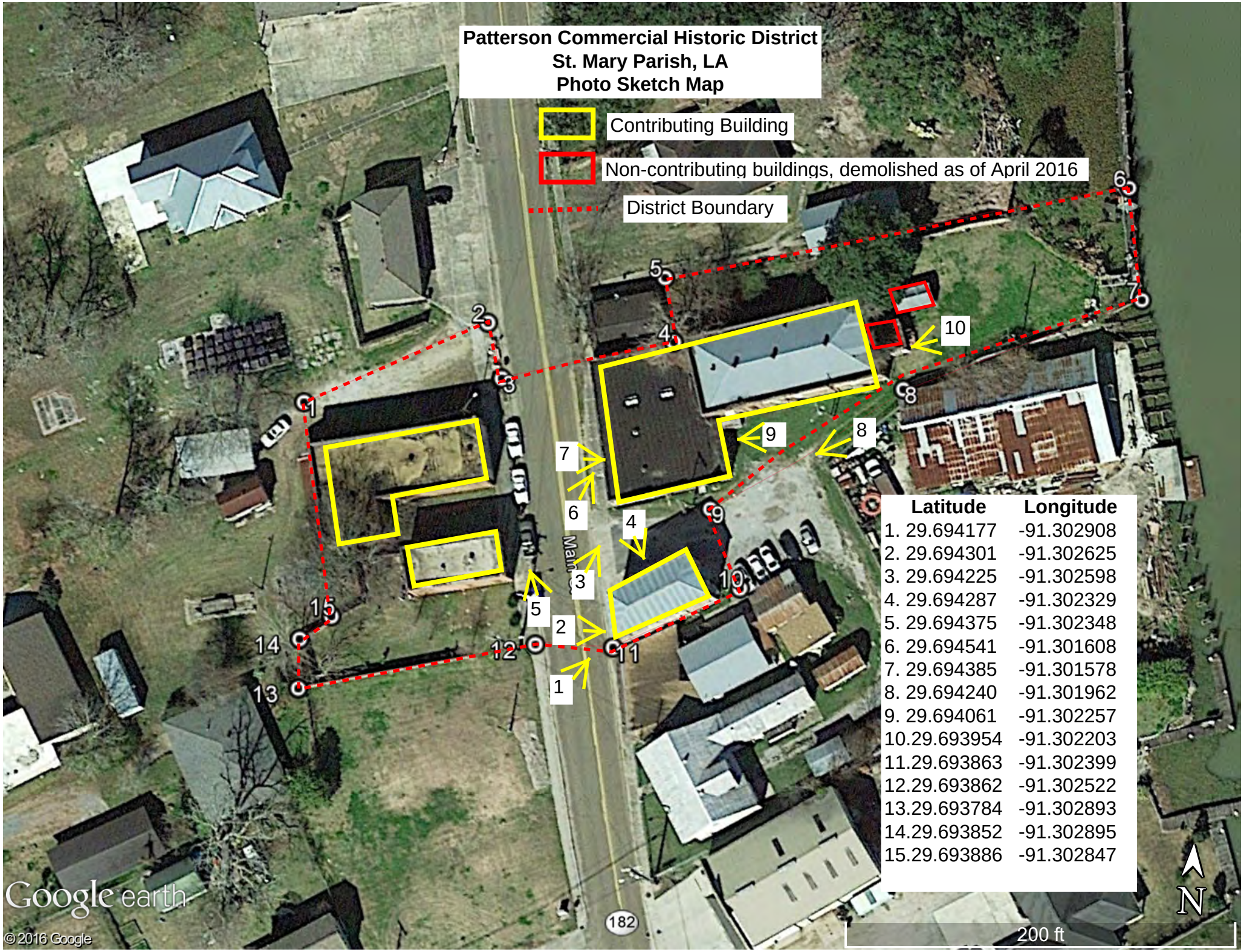
Latitude	Longitude
1. 29.694177	-91.302908
2. 29.694301	-91.302625
3. 29.694225	-91.302598
4. 29.694287	-91.302329
5. 29.694375	-91.302348
6. 29.694541	-91.301608
7. 29.694385	-91.301578
8. 29.694240	-91.301962
9. 29.694061	-91.302257
10.29.693954	-91.302203
11.29.693863	-91.302399
12.29.693862	-91.302522
13.29.693784	-91.302893
14.29.693852	-91.302895
15.29.693886	-91.302847

February 26, 2016

1 inch = 53 feet

0 25 50 75 100 Feet

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the data presented. The Assessor of St. Mary Parish makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding the completeness, reliability or suitability of the site data and assumes no liability associated with the use or misuse of said data. The Assessor retains the right to make changes and update data on this site at anytime, without notification. The parcel data on the base map is used to locate, identify and inventory parcels of land in St. Mary Parish for assessment purposes only and is not to be used or interpreted as a legal survey or legal document. Additional data layers not originating in the Assessor's Offices are also presented for informational purposes only. Before proceeding in any legal matter, all data should be verified by contacting the appropriate county or municipal office.



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