

LAFAYETTE HARDWARE
121 West Vermilion Street
Lafayette
Lafayette Parish
Louisiana

HABS LA-200
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LAFAYETTE HARDWARE STORE

HABS No. LA-200

Location: 121 West Vermilion St., Lafayette, Louisiana, 70501.

The coordinates for the Lafayette Hardware Store are 92.019651 W and 30.223933 N. They were obtained in September 2012 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public

Significance: Lafayette Hardware is an excellent commercial typology example of the late nineteenth century. It is a two-story building that retains much of its Italianate décor, both on the interior and exterior. The construction method of pressed tin, corrugated metal, and cast iron is one of the finest, most preserved in the Lafayette area. In addition Lafayette Hardware is one of the oldest surviving buildings of its kind in the city and still remains occupied, only today as an architectural office.

Description: Lafayette Hardware is a two-story, false front example of Italianate commercial construction of the late nineteenth century. Presently little of the building varies from the original construction. An architecture office currently occupies the hardware store and has installed office partition walls, a front desk, bathroom, and conference room. The false front is sheathed with pressed metal in patterns ranging from stone, brincade, and ornament. The storefront is still intact with an extended fixed awning covering the front and part of the sidewalk. The storefront is composed of large plate glass windows, Italianate cast-iron columns, multiple molded skirting boards, transoms, and sets of double glass doors.

History: 121 West Vermilion St., now referred to as Lafayette Hardware, was first built in 1890 by Mr. and Mrs. George Hopkins of Lafayette. Through an act of exchange on February 3, 1891, Theodule Hebert, Jr. acquired the property. The building originally housed two stores separated by a central wall. The wall was removed in 1915 and replaced by bracketed columns. At that time Lafayette Hardware began operation. In addition to the previous changes mentioned, a rear lean-to was added for storage and loading. In this addition there is a wide door for freight loading, an elevator for freight lifting, and a stairwell to a mezzanine opening to the second story. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 14, 1984. Partition walls were then added for individual offices for an architecture firm that presently occupies and maintains the property.

Disclaimer: This project has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior through the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior.

Sources: Historical sketch of property prepared by City of Lafayette, copy in Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

Lafayette Hardware National Register of Historic Places Nomination.