



BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KRISTIN P. SANDERS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: July 11, 2023

TO: Ms. Michelle Diedrich
National Park Service Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

FROM: Bailey Hall, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I, Acadia Parish, LA

Hi Michelle,

The included files contain the true and corrected copy of the National Register Documentation for the Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I nomination to be placed in the National Register of Historic Places. The files are modified for electronic submission following NPS guidance effective April 10, 2020. Should you have questions, please contact me at bhall@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Bailey Hall
Bailey

Enclosures:

<u> X </u>	PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
<u> X </u>	PDF with 7 photos
<u> X </u>	Electronic Transmission Letter

Comments:

<u> </u>	Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
<u> </u>	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
<u> </u>	The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do <u> </u> do not <u> </u>
<u> </u>	constitute a majority of property owners.
<u> </u>	Other:

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

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: Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I

Other Names/Site Number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: Roughly bounded by W. 7th Street, the rear property lines of properties in the 600 block of N. Parkerson Avenue, W. 6th Street, N. Avenue F, the existing northern National Register boundary, and N. Avenue G.

City or town: Crowley

State: LA

County: Acadia

Not for Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐

Boundary Increase Addresses: 601 North Parkerson Avenue, 609 North Parkerson Avenue, 627 North Parkerson Avenue, 602 North Parkerson Avenue, 612 North Parkerson Avenue, 616-18 North Parkerson Avenue, 620 North Parkerson Avenue, 626-30 North Parkerson Avenue, 576 North Parkerson Avenue, 570 Court Circle

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 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





Signature of certifying official/Title: Kristin Sanders, 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

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

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
☐ 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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
9	1	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
9	1	Total

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

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: single dwelling;
Commerce/Trade: business, specialty store, Education: education-related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce/Trade: business,
professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): Late Victorian: Queen Anne,
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman; Modern Movement

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete, brick

walls: brick, wood, glass

roof: asphalt

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

This is a proposal to add 10 buildings (9 contributing and 1 non-contributing) to the Crowley Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1982 with a period of significance ending in 1931. This boundary increase is predicated on additional documentation to the district updating the period of significance to 1966. The existing National Register district includes commercial and residential buildings and is generally characterized by one- and two-story commercial buildings with some larger landmark commercial buildings from the early to mid-20th century. The main thoroughfares in Crowley are N. Parkerson Avenue and Hutchinson Avenue. Western, Northern, and Eastern Avenues border each side of the town. North Parkerson Avenue has always served as the historic commercial thoroughfare in Crowley. As the 20th century entered the 1950s, commercial growth on North Parkerson grew north past the Acadia Parish Courthouse. By 1966, when Interstate 10 was completed, businesses began to move to be adjacent to the interstate. This meant that there is a logical gap in historic construction between North 7th Street and the interstate in terms of historic commercial architecture.

Narrative Description

The Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I encompasses 10 commercial buildings adjacent to the existing Crowley Historic District listed in 1982. Nine of the buildings are considered contributing and one is non-contributing with the extended period of significance through 1966.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

Boundary Increase Area

The 10 buildings listed below have historically been used commercially and one was used residentially (though it has been used commercially for decades as a lawyer's office).

Architectural Styles within the Boundary Increase Area

Architectural styles in the boundary increase area include mid-century modern, moderne, and Craftsman. The majority of the buildings in the boundary increase are in the mid-century commercial style (see the boundary increase inventory for further discussion of each building).

Contributing/Non-contributing Resources

The one non-contributing resource, 616-18 North Parkerson Avenue, is considered so as it has been significantly altered within the last couple of decades so that its façade is no longer recognizable as historic. The building was constructed c. 1955, likely in a mid-century modern style, but has been altered to have a much more modern look.

The inventory on the next page includes information about all 10 buildings in the district. For full architectural descriptions and photos of each resources, please see the corresponding Louisiana Historic Resource Inventory (LHRI) forms here:

<https://laocd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d6b1d2a16f214aaf9339064bc0f26312>. Each LHRI form in the table below is also hyperlinked to the individual LHRI form.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I

Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA

County and State

Boundary Increase I Inventory

Inventory #	LHRI #	Historic Name	Street	National Register Status	Type of Resource	Construction Date	Date of Alterations	Form	Style
1	01-00528		601 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1940		Freestanding Commercial	Other
2	01-00530		609 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1935		Freestanding Commercial	Bungalow/Craftsman
3	01-00535		627 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1935		Bungalow	Queen Anne
4	01-00533		626-30 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1940		Freestanding Commercial	Other
5	01-00532		620 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1965		Freestanding Commercial	Other
6	01-00529		602 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1955		Freestanding Commercial	Other
7	01-00531		616-18 North Parkerson Avenue	Non-Contributing	Building	c. 1955	2000s	Freestanding Commercial	Other
8	01-00566		612 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	c. 1955		Freestanding Commercial	Other
9	01-00578	Reggie Building	576 North Parkerson Avenue	Contributing	Building	1958		Freestanding Commercial	Other
10	01-00527		570 Court Circle	Contributing	Building	c. 1920		Wood Frame Vernacular	Other

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia 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.)

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

Period of Significance: 1887-1966

Significant Dates: 1966

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): N/A

Period of Significance (justification): The period of significance for the district is 1887, the year Crowley was founded, through 1966, when Interstate 10 was completed on both sides of Crowley and development began to grow towards the new interstate and away from the main downtown core.

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.)

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

The Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I is significant in the area of commerce as supporting resources which tell a continued story of development on the main commercial thoroughfare in Crowley's historic core. The boundary increase represents the economic and architectural growth of Crowley between 1931 and 1966 along North Parkerson prior to when development moved to the newly opened Interstate 10. There are multiple resources showing that the commercial businesses north of the courthouse are significant in showing the city's continued growth until commercial development moved to a distinctly new area.

The Crowley Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1982 under Criteria A: History, in the areas of agriculture, commerce, and community planning, and C: Architecture for its large collection of late 19th to early 20th century architectural styles. The period of significance for the district was 1887-1931, encompassing the years that Crowley was first created through that 50-year guideline. The listed district includes the commercial district and the two earliest residential districts (though it is key to point out that there are structures dating to the early and significant years of Crowley in West and North Crowley outside of the existing district).

Additional documentation has been submitted expanding the period of significance through 1966 based on the city's development. The end of the new period of significance is 1966, which is when Interstate 10 (which runs from the west to east coast of the United States) was completed on both sides of Crowley and development began to grow towards the new interstate. This boundary increase will aim to include more historic commercial buildings in the city that help to tell the story of Crowley's continued growth through 1966.

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

Criterion A: Commerce and Criterion C: Architecture

From the Crowley Historic District 1982 nomination: "The Crowley Historic District is significant in architecture as the largest, most complete, architecturally pretentious and visually impressive example of a late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century town in a 7-parish area. These include the parishes of Acadia, Lafayette, Jefferson Davis, Allen, Alien, Evangeline, St. Landry and Vermilion. It is the only historic town in this region in which the residential area and the commercial area are both well preserved and impressive."

History of Crowley as a Commercial Center and its Architectural Heritage

History of Acadia Parish

Per a Crowley *Signal* "Then and Now" article from May 1898, "To the homeseekerhome seeker, Acadia Parish stands invitingly open – all such are welcome, and all such, almost without exception, find here that which they came to seek."¹ Acadia Parish and its cities, including Crowley, grew out of neighboring St. Landry Parish as a result of growth due to the arrival of railroads in the 1870s and the increase of settlers from the Midwest.

After the settlement and inhabitation of the area now known as Acadia Parish by the Attakapas, white settlers likely first arrived c. 1757 with the French-Canadians, or Acadians. Later white settlers came to the area in the 1870s to establish permanent settlements. Most of these settlers chose the banks of the Mermentau River at the western edge of the current parish and included Joseph Fabacher, from New Orleans, who set up a German colony from 1870-71.² At that time, all of this area was included as part of St. Landry Parish, which is now located to the northeast of Acadia Parish. Washington, located approximately 50 miles northeast of Crowley, was the main port in the parish then and with the addition of railroads in St. Landry Parish, the town began to lose its hold on being the center of trade in the parish. Additionally, residents living in the southwestern portion of the parish found that it was a very long trip to do personal or commercial business in Washington and Opelousas (the parish seat). Voters in the southern section of St. Landry Parish began to ask for the creation of a new parish and in March 1886, men from the town of Washington met in Rayne to gauge

¹ "Then and Now." Crowley *Signal*, May 1898.

² Mildred Duson Cossey "Vision of Founders Realized in Acadia, St. Landry's Godchild", Crowley Daily Signal, 50th Anniversary Edition, 51.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

the interest in person. Just one month later, over 1500 men met in Rayne and unofficially created the new Acadia Parish. A house bill was introduced on May 19, 1886, creating Nicholls and Acadia parishes.³ In October, a vote was held and Acadia Parish was officially born with a vote of 2516 in favor and 1521 opposed.⁴

With the creation of the new parish, it was now time to select a parish seat. Rayne, Prairie Hayes, and Mermentau all put in bids to be considered. While these towns were putting bids in, Crowley was just being created by the Duson Brothers. W.W. and C.C. Duson were children of Mermentau River settlers and grew up poor, working odd jobs including herding cattle, mail carriers, and working in a sawmill. In 1884, W.W. started a small real estate business in Rayne and he was very interested in developing the land near where the brothers had grown up. After he purchased the local newspaper, the Rayne *Signal*, W.W. used his newspaper to help advertise the area as a "garden spot of the world."⁵ He and his brother, through the creation of the Southwest Louisiana Land Company, with a headquarters in Opelousas, purchased 174 acres for \$80 on what is now the City of Crowley. Because of its large acreage and location, Crowley now became a fourth contender for the Acadia Parish seat. The Duson brothers launched major advertising campaigns to entice settlers to the Crowley area including such claims as:

*"There are many reasons that can be given why a farmer should locate in Southwest Louisiana. In the first place, a complete crop failure is almost unknown, since a drought, the greatest of all the disasters to the Western farmer, practically never occurs. There are no long winters here during which the farmer has to sit with folded hands and kill time till spring rolls around again, but on the other hand the climate is so mild that he can work out doors almost constantly. And not the least of the reasons is the greater opportunity for profitable investments. All of these advantages combine to make Southwest Louisiana the most desirable home for the man looking for a new location."*⁶

Rayne claimed its convenience and economy would make it the most logical choice. Prairie Hayes noted that it had already donated land for a parish courthouse. Despite their individual campaigns, the newly created Crowley and its platted planned town ended up winning out and became the parish seat in March of 1887 with 698 votes over Rayne's 560 votes and Prairie Hayes' 519 votes.⁷

History of Crowley

As noted above, the land that would become Crowley was purchased by the Southwest Louisiana Land Company in 1886 for \$80. Naturally, one would think that because it was bought and planned by the Duson Brothers, the town would be called Duson. This was not the case. Instead, the town was named for Patrick Crowley, who had a railroad switch adjacent to the 80 acres and was urged to help convince the bosses of his railroad line to run a line through the newly laid out tract of land. Thus, Crowley was born.⁸

The Duson brothers hired Leon V. Fremaux to survey and lay out the town. In doing so, streets were all carefully planned. Streets ~~ran~~ ran west-east and were numbered. Avenues ran south-north and were named with letters. The main boulevards – Parkerson and Hutchinson, ran through the center of town and where they intersected, a courthouse was planned. Western, Northern, and Eastern Avenues bordered their respective sides of town. The railroad served as the natural southern border of the original one square mile town. Per Crowley: A Louisiana Romance, published in 1919: "Crowley was laid out with an eye to beauty and uniformity, as well as to the comfort of those who live within her boundaries; and, therefore, instead of a network of crooked streets which so often disfigure ~~out-our~~ cities, Crowley boasts of a beauty of arrangement in her streets that no small Southern city can approach."

³ Ibid.

⁴ Velma Lea Hair, *History of Crowley*, (October 1944), pg. 5.

⁵ Cossey, 51.

⁶ "Then and Now." *Crowley Signal*, May 1898.

⁷ Cossey, 51.

⁸ Ibid.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I

Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA

County and State

On February 11-12, 1887, an auction was held at 3:00 pm both days, specifically planned to take place just after the train from New Orleans had arrived. Terms for the auction were “one-half in cash and the balance in twelve months without interest, with the privilege of two lots at the price bid for one.”⁹ Prior to the auctions, some businesses had already been located in town included J.N. Foote’s lumberyard, a depot, a schoolhouse, blacksmith, livery stable, company store, coffeehouse, and cottage were all under construction. Workers had also been digging ditches and streets had been laid out and leveled just in time for the big days.

The lots auctioned off were 50’x100’ in size (for the most part) and Henry Rose of New Orleans purchased the first lot for \$50. On the first day of the auction, 99 lots were sold for a total of \$9600. The second day total was nearly double at \$17,000 including a lot that had an unfinished hotel (the future Crowley House) selling for \$2500. A quote from the days following the auction helps to illustrate just how quickly the town of Crowley had been created:

“The Crowley Boom which started a thriving village on an open prairie in a few ~~days~~ ~~time~~ ~~days’~~ time, mainly through the liberal use of printer’s ink and the determined energy of its projectors, bounced the embryo town into the staid dignity of a parish site last Tuesday. This gives the place a permanent habitation and a name which will not prove, the evanescent bubble that many predicted it would be. As a matter of course, its success is now assured and Crowley will take its stand among the sisterhood of the parish capitals and march on the road of rapid progress and prosperity.”¹⁰

Crowley certainly was started on a road of rapid progress. Over the next 30 years, Crowley steadily grew. In 1886, Crowley had one store; by 1892, there were over 50 commercial businesses. The first (of three) courthouses was completed in June of 1888. Incorporated as a town in 1899, Crowley became a city in 1906.¹¹

Spurring the growth of Crowley was the construction of five rice mills between 1893 and 1898. Irrigation canal companies were also booming with five also built during those five years and by 1904, there were over 600 miles of canals in the parish. Settlers from Indiana, John B. Wright and his brother Samuel Lusk Wright, would introduce new rice varieties to the area.¹² What was formerly several rice mills today is just one large rice mill – Supreme Rice. By 1919, 1/3 of the rice raised in the United States was grown within a thirty mile radius of Crowley.¹³ Rice became and still is what Crowley is known for.

In addition to the rice industry, Crowley prospered and grew with the discovery of oil in 1901 in the Mamou Field. Within the next two years, twenty oil and mineral companies were chartered in response to this discovery.¹⁴ Over the next thirty years, three more oil fields were discovered in the area. With the growth of the city due to rice and oil (as well as cattle, cotton, and truck farming), construction in Crowley expanded from just the commercial area on N. Parkerson and residential areas to the east and south, to areas west of N. Parkerson and north of E. Hutchinson.

By 1927, Crowley had residential, commercial, and industrial districts zoned, and by 1939, the boundaries of the city were expanded to include all land between N. Parkerson Avenue and N. Avenue I. In 1940, a catastrophic flood, which damaged many buildings in town, helped to spur city officials to improve drainage in the area, primarily through cleaning out the many miles of irrigation canals constructed in the late 1800s to early 1900s.¹⁵

⁹ Hair, pg. 8.

¹⁰ Hair, pg. 9.

¹¹ Cossey, 51; the population of Crowley in 1900 was 4,214.

¹² Prier B. Wright “Crowley Owes Much to Parke County of Indiana for Contributing Many Families and Northern Capital for Early Progress”

¹³ Crowley: A Louisiana Romance, 1886-1919

¹⁴ Hair, pg. 18.

¹⁵ Hair, pg. 25-26.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

Crowley continued to grow through the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s at a steady rate. After World War II, with the return of servicemen, additional housing was needed. In many cases, particularly in South Crowley, this resulted in smaller residences being moved to make room for new construction (see architectural styles for more discussion of minimal traditional cottages in the existing district).

It wasn't until the construction of Interstate 10, approximately 2 miles northwest of the courthouse, in 1963-66, that construction in the existing National Register Historic District slowed. There was not as much available land in the original boundaries of Crowley platted in 1886 and with the new interstate passing by just north of the original boundaries, growth was focused on this new interchange. Thus, like many other American cities, Crowley experienced suburban sprawl, primarily to the north.

Neighborhoods of Crowley

As discussed above, Crowley's original neighborhoods included the commercial district along N. Parkerson Avenue, the residential district located in the southeastern quadrant of the city (referred to locally as the "Historic District"), and South Crowley, south of the railroad tracks.

South Crowley lots started to be sold in December of 1897. This area of town developed along with the rice mills served mostly to house mill workers. There are a range of houses in the area including larger houses, for mill managers and other wealthy business owners, with the majority of houses being smaller residences. In just 3 hours in December 1897, 350 lots were sold at an average price of \$75 each, totaling over \$25,000.¹⁶

The area to the west of N. Parkerson, both north and south of Hutchinson, is referred to as West Crowley. There was a spattering of construction in the area dating back to Crowley's earliest days; however, the area wasn't heavily populated until the 1910s when electric lights were extended to the area and new residential areas were constructed by the high school (by the current Crowley Kindergarten School) in 1919.¹⁷ This area further grew in the 1940s and 1950s with the construction of more schools in the area and naturally, more residences near these schools.

Crowley's Growth through 1966

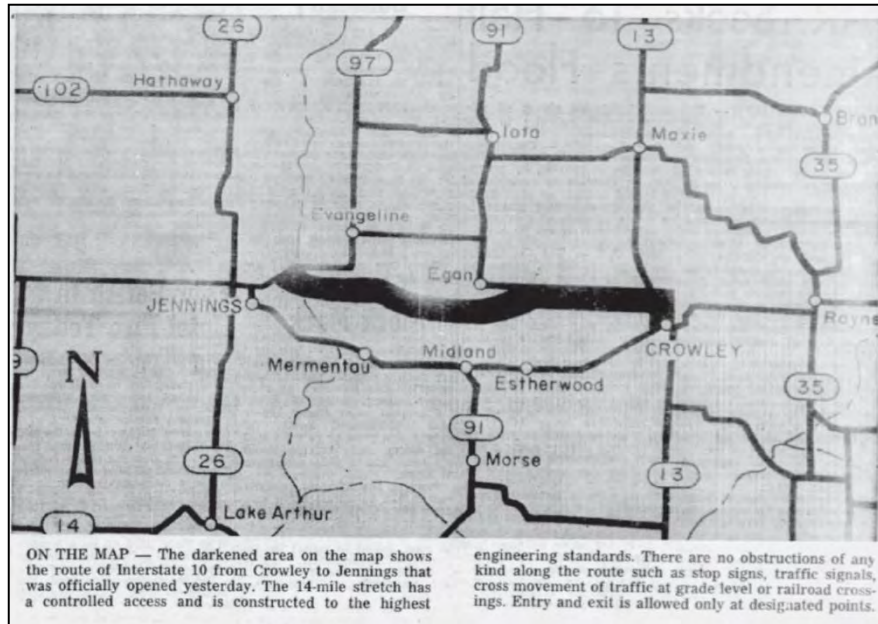
The 2021 survey revealed that the district remains quite intact and that there are many historic resources previously counted as non-contributing that could be considered contributing if the period of significance is expanded beyond 1931. The current 50-year guideline ends in 1972; however, the survey results and the history of Crowley's development support a more logical end to an updated Period of Significance of 1966, when Interstate 10 (which runs from the west to east coast of the United States) was completed on both sides of Crowley and development began to grow towards the new interstate.

¹⁶ Hair, pg. 13.

¹⁷ Hair, pg. 32.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State



Map showing the Interstate 10 link between Jennings and Crowley, which was opened in March of 1963. Image courtesy of the Crowley *Post-Signal*.

The 15-mile segment connecting Crowley to Jennings on the west was formerly dedicated on March 28, 1963. At that time, it was the longest stretch of superhighway constructed at one time at the cost of \$4,746,000.¹⁸ Later that same year, the Louisiana Department of Highways announced that proposed road projects in Acadia Parish totaled \$5,728,639.67. The largest bid for road projects related to the Interstate 10 link between Crowley and Rayne to the east.

In July of 1966, this second stretch of Interstate 10 opened. This stretch cost \$5.1 million dollars and gave “travelers a straight interstate shot from beyond the Louisiana-Texas border to a point 15 miles west of Lafayette.”¹⁹ The sections connecting Lafayette across the Atchafalaya Basin were not finished until 1969. Despite this, Crowley’s development had already started to shift north towards the interstate. This was also a time that parts of the original town of Crowley say demolitions of historic resources [beginbegan](#), a phenomenon common across many American cities during this time of rapid growth and expansion of the interstate highway systems. Based on the completion of Interstate 10, and the building counts seen in the table below, updating the period of significance for the district through 1966 is a logical termini.

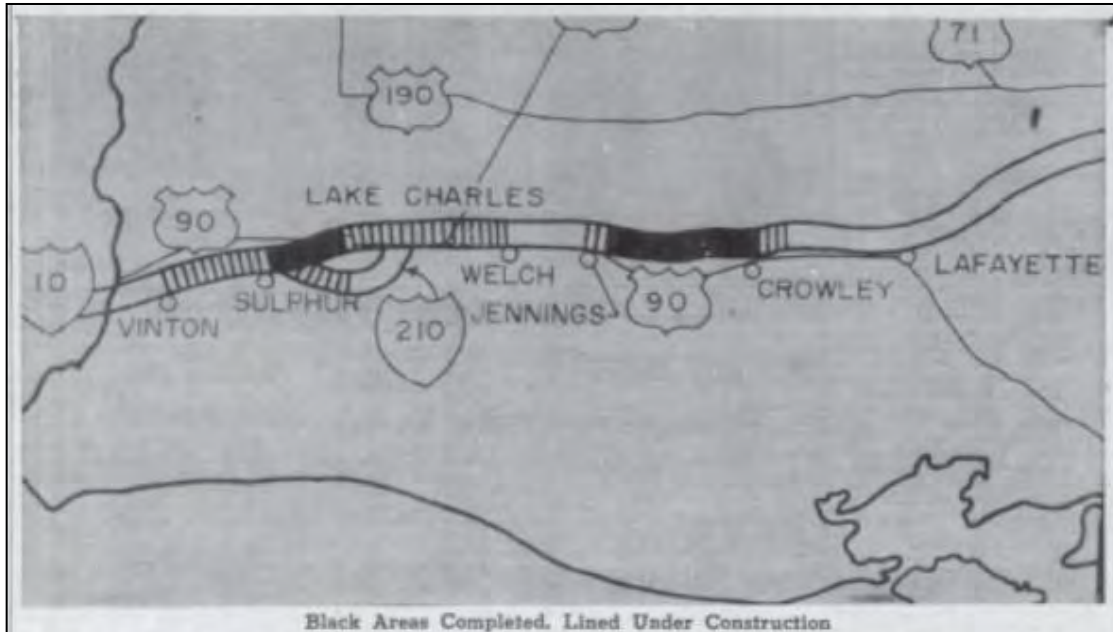
Buildings Constructed after 1966 in Crowley Historic District	
Year	Number of Resources Built
1967-70	2
1970-80	15
1980-90	4
1990-2000	3
2000-10	8
2010-present	1
Unknown Construction Dates	1
Total	34 (8.8% of the district)

¹⁸ Crowley Post-Signal, 3/28/1963, pg. 1.

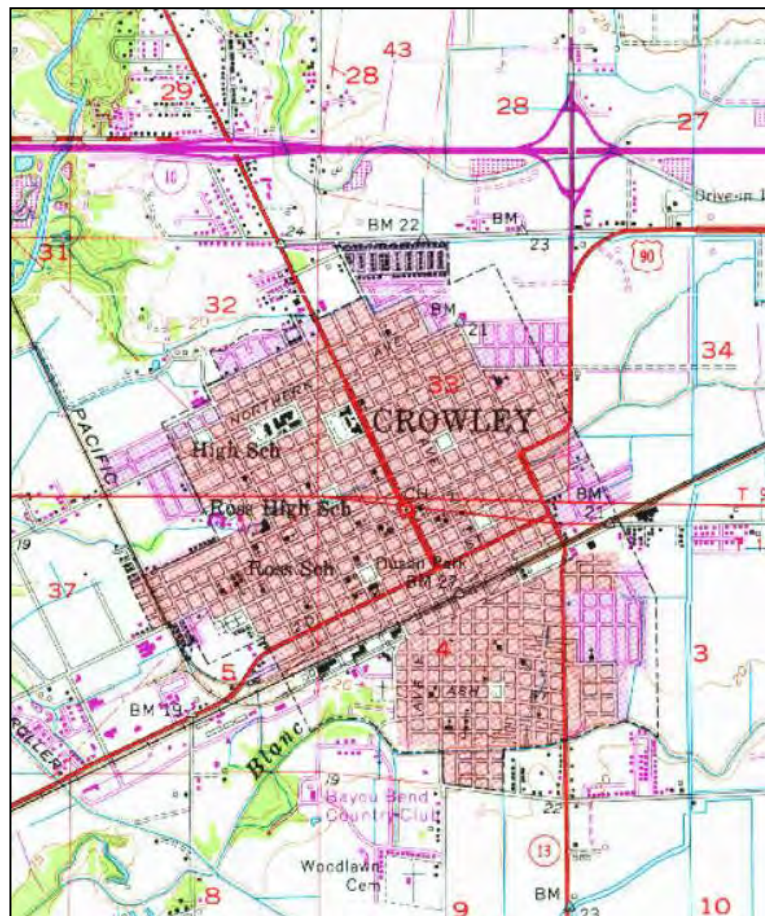
¹⁹ “Crowley-Rayne Road to Open.” Crowley *Post-Signal*, July 16, 1966. Accessed via newspapers.com. February 16, 2022.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State



Map showing the Interstate 10 link between Crowley and Rayne, which was completed between 1963 and 1966. Image courtesy of the Crowley Post-Signal.



1971 USGS Topographic Map of Crowley. Image courtesy of Historic Aerials by NETRonline.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

The topographic map above from 1971 shows how Crowley grew between 1955 and 1971. The fuchsia-colored lines indicated elements constructed after 1955, including the two stretches of Interstate 10. The expansion of the city's boundaries can be seen on all sides as well, with targeted growth between the original city boundaries and the interstate to the north.

Justification for Boundary Increase

The Crowley National Register Historic District was listed in 1981. At this time, district boundaries often ended up looking a bit jagged and would often go around properties that were not yet historic or cut through portions of blocks. Today, National Register districts aim to keep these boundaries more regular and cutting out only portions that are clearly non-contributing.

From the National Register Bulletin "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties," it is recommended to:

- Select boundaries to encompass but not exceed the extent of the significant resources and land areas comprising the property.
- Include all historic features of the property, but do not include buffer zones or acreage not directly contributing to the significance of the property.
- Exclude peripheral areas that no longer retain integrity due to alterations in physical conditions or setting caused by human forces, such as development, or natural forces, such as erosion.
- Include small areas that are disturbed or lack significance when they are completely surrounded by eligible resources. "Donut holes" are not allowed.

In 1981, the focus on creating the Crowley National Register Historic District was on documenting the original commercial district along North Parkerson and the two oldest residential neighborhoods of Crowley – the "historic district" and South Crowley. What is interesting, however, is that the residential section of Crowley located just north of E. Hutchinson Avenue also includes some very old residential structures. While it is not known how the final boundaries were selected at that time, moving forward, there can be some clear goals for investigating more National Register Historic Districts in Crowley. In communication with the National Park Service, guidance was offered in reference to either updating the existing district, in both period of significance and boundaries, or in creating new districts. The driver of either of this is survey. The survey work for the existing district has stated above that the period of significance should logically be expanded through 1966.

Keeping all these factors in mind, it is recommended to expand the existing National Register District to include a few commercial buildings along North Parkerson Avenue as there is not a secondary distinctive historic commercial corridor in Crowley. As the submitted map shows, the recommended boundary expansion includes the rest of the Courthouse square, and one block to the north along North Parkerson. Buildings in these areas were surveyed as part of the resurvey project to verify their age. The proposed boundary expansion would follow the rear property lines of all buildings in the blocks along North Parkerson Avenue from the Courthouse Square to West 7th Street.

Conclusion

From its first days as a town born from the southwestern Louisiana prairies, Crowley has had a unique and interesting history. That continues to this day with a rich culture represented by its people and its historic resources as documented by this additional documentation. Based on the above information and the passage of time since the district was first listed, it is logical to expand the period of significance for the Crowley Historic District through 1966 and update the contributing/non-contributing statuses of each resource.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

9. Major Bibliographical Resources

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

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

1971 USGS Topographic Map of Crowley Historic Aerials by NETRonline. <https://www.historicaerials.com/>. Accessed April 15, 2022.

"An Editorial: Another Improvement." Crowley *Daily Signal*, December 5, 1950, pg. 4. Accessed via www.newspapers.com.

"Art Deco." Chicago Architecture Center. <https://www.architecture.org/learn/resources/architecture-dictionary/entry/art-deco/>. Accessed March 21, 2022.

"Chicago School Commercial Style." Buffalo as an Architectural Museum website. <https://buffaloah.com/a/archsty/chicago/chi.html>. Accessed April 15, 2022.

Cossey, Mildred Duson. "Vision of Founders Realized in Acadia, St. Landry's Godchild", *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

Cox, Byron B. "First Baptists in Crowley Erect New Building." *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

Crowley: A Louisiana Romance, 1886-1919.

"Crowley-Rayne Road to Open." Crowley *Post-Signal*, July 16, 1966. Accessed via newspapers.com. February 16, 2022.

Freeland, Rev. Paul B. "Presbyterians Organized Here in Year 1890." *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

Fricker, Jonathan; Donna Fricker, and Patricia L. Duncan. *Louisiana Architecture: A Handbook on Styles*. The Center for Louisiana Studies: Lafayette, LA, 1998.

Fricker, Jonathan, and Donna. "Louisiana Architecture 1945-65: Modernism Triumphant – Commercial and Institutional Buildings." September 2009 Historic Context.

Fricker, Jonathan, and Donna. "Louisiana Architecture 1945 – 1965: The Past as Inspiration" September 2009 Historic Context.

Golden Anniversary Edition of the Crowley Daily Signal: 1899-1949. An album of Acadia Parish and Neighboring Communities.

Hair, Velma Lea. *The History of Crowley, Louisiana*. The Louisiana Historical Quarterly, Volume 27, No. 4; October 1944.

Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. *Crowley Historic District Design Guidelines*. Prepared for the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation. April 2012.

History of Acadia Parish Public Schools, 1887-1987: One Hundred Years of Educational Progress. Crowley, LA, Acadia Parish Library, 1987.

Image of Interstate 10 Construction between Jennings and Crowley. *Crowley Post-Signal*, 3/28/1963.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

"Large Catholic Parish Has Grown from Little St. Michael's Mission." *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

Maurer, J. Dean. "Modest Mission of 1893 is Now Trinity Episcopal, Crowley." *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

McAlester, Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred Knopf: New York, 2013.

"Miller Stadium" The Historical Marker Database website. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=125823>. Accessed April 18, 2022.

Mire, Ann. *Images of America: Crowley*. Mount Pleasant, SC.; Arcadia Publishing, 2014.

"Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church May be Most Modern and Unique in Entire State." *Crowley Post-Signal*, November 19, 1960, page 3.

National Register of Historic Places, David L. and Jeannette Ross May House, Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, Reference # 100003380.

National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

National Register of Historic Places, St. Theresa Catholic Church and School, Crowley, Acadia Parish, Louisiana, Reference # 100002576.

National Register of Historic Places, Teddy Avenue Residential Historic District, Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Reference # 100006725.

"One Room School Was Used for Methodist Church Prior to 1888." *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

"Peoples Investment Company, Inc. One Hundred Year Celebration 1902-2002." Unpublished booklet about the history of the organization written by members.

"Romanesque Revival Style 1840-1900." Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Website. <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/romanesque-revival.html>; Accessed March 14, 2022.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Crowley, LA. 1895, 1898, 1902, 1909, 1915, 1925, 1931, 1948. Accessed via the State Library of Louisiana Digital Sanborn Collection.

"Then and Now." *The Crowley Signal*, May 1898.

"*The Crowley Handbook*." The Rice Belt Printing Co., Crowley, LA, 1903.

"The Daily Signal Illustrated 'Buy-it-at-home' Trade Edition." December 24, 1909.

Wright, Prier B. "Crowley Owes Much to Parke County of Indiana for Contributing Many Families and Northern Capital for Early Progress." *Crowley Daily Signal*, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1949.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia 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): 01-00527, 01-00528, 01-00529, 01-00530, 01-00531, 01-00532, 01-00533, 01-00535, 01-00566, 01-00578

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 5.25 Acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Point Number	Latitude	Longitude
1	30.214571	-92.375137
2	30.214954	-92.375367
3	30.215235	-92.374634
4	30.216116	-92.375145
5	30.216467	-92.374298
6	30.215614	-92.373779
7	30.215940	-92.373070
8	30.215540	-92.372856

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

The boundary increase area is bounded by N. Avenue F on the west, W. 6th Street, the rear property lines of the buildings in the 600 block (west side) of N. Parkerson Avenue, W. 7th Street on the north, the rear property lines of the buildings in the 600 block of N. Parkerson Avenue (east side), E. 6th Street, and N. Avenue G on the east.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries chosen reflect the historic commercial buildings constructed through 1966 that represent the commercial growth of Crowley's historic commercial downtown area prior to the construction of Interstate 10 in 1966.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Richardson
organization: Richardson Preservation Consulting, LLC
street & number:
city or town: Baton Rouge state: LA zip code:
e-mail: richpresconsulting@gmail.com
telephone:
date: December 2, 2022

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: Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
City or Vicinity: Crowley
County: Acadia Parish
State: LA
Name of Photographer: Jessica Richardson
Date of Photographs: September 2021, December 5, 2022

- 1 of 7: View of Iberia Bank at N. Parkerson Avenue and E. 6th Street; view northwest.
2 of 7: View of resources on the west side of N. Parkerson Avenue; view northwest.
3 of 7: View of resources in the 600 block of the west side of N. Parkerson Avenue; view northwest.
4 of 7: View of resources in the 600 block of the east side of N. Parkerson Avenue; view southeast.

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Name of Property

Acadia Parish, LA
County and State

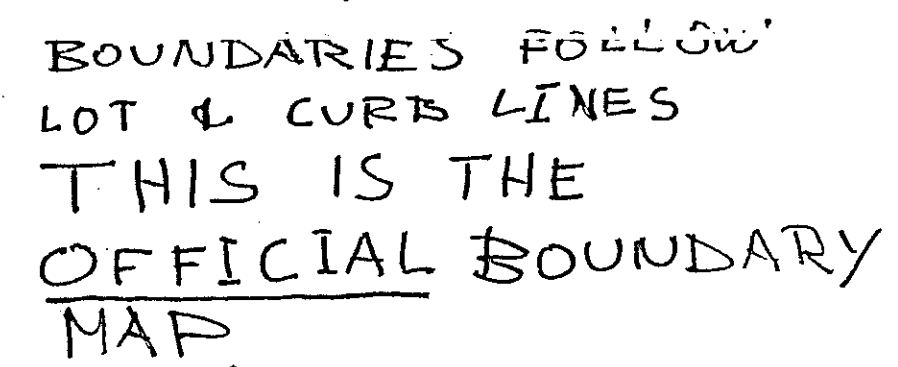
5 of 7: View of the resources in the 600 block of the west side of N. Parkerson Avenue; view southeast.

6 of 7: View of the resources in the 600 block of the east side of N. Parkerson Avenue; view southeast.

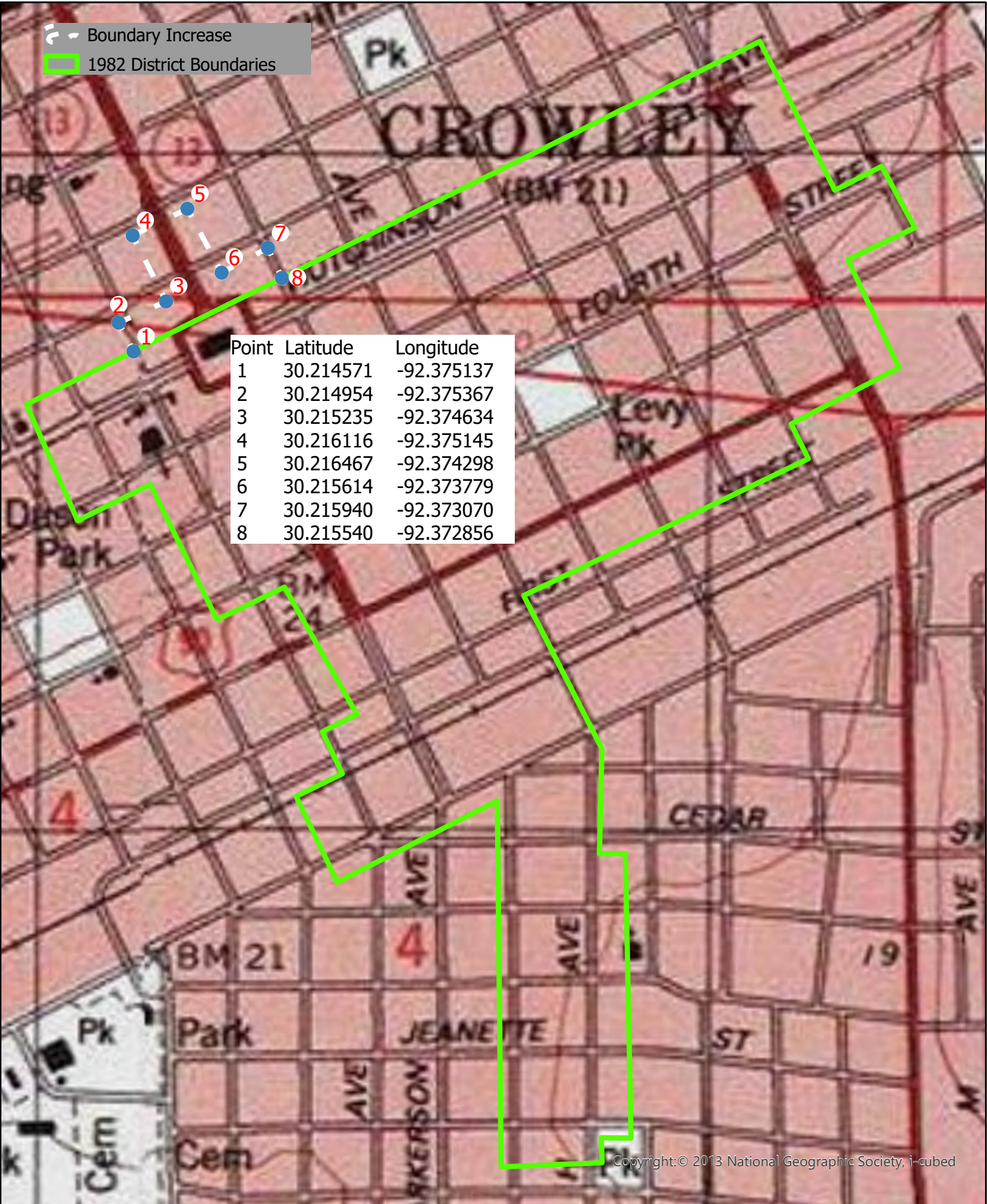
7 of 7: View of the rear elevation of the Acadia Parish Courthouse; view southeast.

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.).

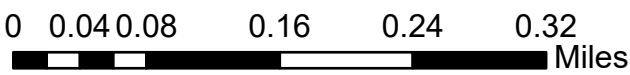
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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



scale:
1 1/2 in. approx. equals 331 feet



Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Acadia Parish, LA
Boundary Map with Lat/Longs







Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I
Acadia Parish, LA
Photo Key

0 0.01 0.01 0.03 0.04 0.06
Miles



-  Boundary Increase I Boundary
-  Crowley Historic District Boundary











CLAY LEUNE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

WEIGHT
LIMIT
2 1/2
TONS



