

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED  
JAN 06 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Roberts Building

Other Name/Site Number: City Cafe, Site No. 221

2. Location

Street & Number: 216 E. Pilar St.

Not for Publication: N/A

City/town: Nacogdoches

State: TX County: Nacogdoches

Code: 347

Zip Code: 75961

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing		Noncontributing		
1		0		buildings
0		0		sites
0		0		structures
0		0		objects
1		0		Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Nacogdoches, Texas

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Curtis J. Russell  
Signature of certifying official

30 Dec. 1991  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

Alonzo Ryan

2/14/92

determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Commerce/Trade

Sub: Business

Current : Commerce/Trade

Sub: Business



=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: One-Part Commercial Block

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	Brick
	walls	Brick
	roof	Asphalt
	other	N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

  X   See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1904

Significant Dates: ca. 1904

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

  X   See continuation sheet.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Roberts Building is a 1-story commercial building that is classified as a one-part commercial block. It has a rectangular plan and, because it is on a lot that slopes sharply to the south, has a partial basement to the rear. The walls are of brick, although a shed-roofed addition on the rear is sheathed with metal siding. The building is modestly detailed; however, its most distinctive features are the segmental-arched openings on the front and side elevations. The building occupies a corner lot at the southwest corner of Pilar and Fredonia streets in Nacogdoches' central business district.

The front, which faces north onto Pilar Street, has a three-bay configuration. Each of the bays has double doors, although those in the outer bays are blocked by benches which prevent their use as entrances. Each bay has a fixed, two-light transom set within the segmental arch. The parapet, which repeats the three-part motif, has slightly inset panels.

Because the building occupies a corner lot, the east wall is exposed to the street which partially exposes the basement. Windows at the store level have the segmental arched openings that resemble those on the front; however, they have double-hung windows with 1/1 lights and wood sashes. The segmental arches are echoed in the partial basement. The rear two-thirds of the basement possibly may have a historic addition that, if it is not original, is sympathetic to the structure's design, detailing and materials. A frame shed addition was built on top of the basement and is attached to the store. The addition has metal-covered siding.

The Roberts Building is in good condition, and the only insensitive alteration is the on the rear which mitigates its impact to the building's overall historic character.



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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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The Roberts Building (ca. 1904), one of the least-altered historic buildings fronting on the old Principal Square, is a noteworthy example of an early 20th century commercial building. Although several examples with similar detailing and architectural features survive in the downtown, few retain their historic integrity to such a high degree. Consequently, the Roberts Building is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C, and because it is indicative of local commercial expansion during the early 20th century, the structure is associated with *Community Planning and Development in Nacogdoches: 1830-1940*.

Ever since a formal town plan was established in 1779, land around the Principal Square or Public Square has traditionally been considered some of the most valuable property in Nacogdoches. Merchants erected their stores nearby to take advantage of the almost constant flow of people who were drawn to the square. After the arrival of the railroad in 1883, the central business district expanded primarily along Main Street; however, property around the square remained the most prestigious and important. In about 1904, the Roberts family erected this building on the site of the old homestead of John S. Roberts, a prominent figure in early Nacogdoches and a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Although the Roberts family was responsible for the building's construction, they apparently never used it themselves and instead leased it to others. Past tenants have included a grocery store, a warehouse, a plumbing shop, a barber shop, and an automotive repair shop. The building is best known as the City Cafe, where reportedly Bonnie Parker worked as a waitress before taking up a life of crime with Clyde Barrow.

The building, which anchors the east corner of the block immediately south of the Principal or Public Square, is a finely crafted structure that has changed little since its construction in about 1904. Nacogdoches at one time had many similar buildings but almost all have had false facades applied to the storefronts or have had important architectural fabric removed.



9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context List of References.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	15	343020	3497320	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Addition: Original Town  
 Block: 23  
 Lot: 6

Boundary Justification:

Property includes area historically associated with building being nominated.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Edward A. Galloway/Research Assistant  
(with assistance from Dwayne Jones, THC)

Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore

Date: June 1990

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande

Telephone: 512-478-8014

City or Town: Austin

State: TX Zip: 78705

1/6/92

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Nacogdoches MPS  
TEXAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
92000014	Blount, Eugene H., House	2/14/92
92000008	Cotton Exchange Building, Old	2/14/92
92000009	Davidson, Maria A., Apartments	2/14/92
92000010	Hayter Office Building	2/14/92
92000015	Hoya Land Office Building	2/14/92
92000007	Jones, Roland, House Substantive Review	2/14/92
92000011	Post Office Building, Old Substantive Review	2/14/92
92000016	Roberts Building	2/14/92
92000013	Southern Pacific Railroad Depot	2/14/92
92000017	Sterne--Hoya Historic District	2/14/92
92000018	Virginia Avenue Historic District	2/14/92
92000019	Washington Square Historic District Substantive Review	2/14/92
92000012	Woodmen of the World Building	2/14/92



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Roberts Building

MULTIPLE NAME: Nacogdoches MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Nacogdoches

DATE RECEIVED: 1/06/92      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/06/92      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000016

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/14/92 DATE    Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_summary paragraph
- \_\_\_completeness
- \_\_\_clarity
- \_\_\_applicable criteria
- \_\_\_justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_context
- \_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_justification of exception
- \_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





ROBERTS BUILDING  
NACOGDOCHES CO., TEXAS  
10 OF 30





Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500647