The Lafayette Preservation Commission, which grew out of such an advisory committee, is ending the year with some progress in preserving historic buildings and landmarks in Lafayette. The commission is trying out its power granted by a City Council ordinance, by first trying to extend city historic preservation status to the 17 properties already listed on the National Register.

At the top of the list is the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, which only recently was the object of a successful campaign to save it from demolition.

The commission has been slowed because the properties must go through the entire process of designation of landmark status, says chairwoman Ethel Goodstein, an associate professor of architecture at USL and one of the leaders of the preservation movement in Lafayette.

The commission had hoped to be able to grandfather in those properties on the National Register through the ordinance, but was given a legal opinion that it would be denying due process to the owners of the structures, Goodstein says. When it held a public hearing earlier this month, the owners were primarily interested in what limitations would be placed on uses of the structures under the city ordinance.

The process now is mainly explanatory, Goodstein says. Representatives of the public school system and St. John's Cathedral, for example, have asked about how the ordinance would affect expansion, renovation, and landscaping work on those properties. The only objections noted have come from the owners of the Daigle Home on South Washington, and there has been no objection whatsoever to the nomination of the Depot.

The properties are scheduled to be considered for nomination by the commission in February.

In addition to the depot, the properties are:
- Cafe Vermilionville, 1304 W. Pinhook Road.
- Daigle Home, 1022 S. Washington St.
- Elrose, 217 W. University Ave.
- First United Methodist Church, 703 Lee Ave.
- Good Hope Hall, 300 Stewart St.
- Gordon Square, 100 E. Vermilion St.
- Lafayette Elementary School, 1301 W. University.
- Lafayette Hardware Store, 121 W. Vermilion St.
- Old City Hall (La Vielle Mairie), 217 W. Main St.
- Old Guaranty Bank, Congress and Jefferson.
- Salles Residence and Office, Acadian Village.
- Lafayette Museum, 1122 Lafayette St.
- Masonic Temple, 116 E. Vermilion St.
- St. John Cathedral and Property, 914 St. John St.
- Charles Mouton Home, 338 N. Sterling St.
- J. Arthur Roy Home, 124 Johnston St. -JANE NICHOLES