

Louisiana National Register Review Committee Meeting

December 5, 2019, 11:00AM
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 N. River Rd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

Chairman Lynn Lewis called the December 5, 2019, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:04AM. In addition to Mr. Lewis, members present included Ava Allmont, Tarah Arcuri, Dr. Robert Carriker, Guy Carwile, Turry Flucker, Peggy Lowe, Brian McGowan, Martha Salomon, Dr. Rebecca Saunders, Dr. Matthew Savage, and John Sykes.

Mr. Lewis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Saunders so moved and Peggy Lowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Emily Ardoin welcomed the audience and committee members to the meeting. She also introduced all of the committee members.

Mr. Lewis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August's meeting. Brian McGowan so moved and Dr. Carriker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Under New Business, it was time to elect a new chair/vice-chair. Dr. Saunders moved to elect John Sykes as the new chair. Tarah Arcuri seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Saunders then moved to elect Dr. Robert Carriker as the new vice chair. Peggy Lowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After this item, 9 nominations were presented to the committee.

Sabine High School, Sabine Parish

Presented by Laura Blokker, nomination preparer

Sabine High School is located one mile northeast of downtown Many in Sabine Parish, Louisiana. The twelve-plus acre site is bordered by Sabine High Street to the south, N. Robinson Street to the east, Highland Avenue to the west, and properties fronting onto San Antonio Avenue to the north. The school complex consists of 8 buildings, 6 of which are arranged in a finger plan, date to 1957 and c. 1960, and are considered a single contributing resource due to their connecting covered walkways. Buildings A, B, C, the Administration/Cafeteria Building, and the Gym were all constructed in 1957. Building D was added shortly thereafter c. 1960. These one-story buildings are designed in the modern style with large banks of steel awning windows set amidst red brick construction. The gym and administration/cafeeteria buildings have low-pitched gabled roofs while the lettered buildings have flat roofs. The school was historically the African American school for the entire parish, serving grades 1 through 12. After desegregation in 1970, the building served as the junior high for all of Many through 2001. The two non-contributing buildings were added after 1970 when the school was used as Many Junior High. The contributing buildings have not changed much, if at all, since they were used as Sabine High School and thus, the campus itself retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Sabine High School is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of education and ethnic heritage because it provided very important educational opportunities for African Americans in Sabine Parish. First founded as the Sabine Parish Training School in 1928, the campus has a long history at its location on Highland Avenue. An eight teacher Rosenwald school had served the African American community of Many and the surrounding parish on this site for almost 40 years when the existing buildings were constructed in 1957. The new school, termed an equalization era school, provided a superb quality education for African American students, many of whom would go on to pursue undergraduate, masters, and doctorate degrees.

The period of significance begins with 1957, the year the current buildings were first constructed, and ends with 1970, the year the school was desegregated.

Guy Carwile recommended technical corrections for terminology in the nomination and suggested adding wall thickness to the floor plans and using dashed lines for awnings and overhangs. Brian McGowan asked whether there was a long-term preservation plan for the building. Connie Howard explained that uses explored in community meetings and a survey include educational training programs, a resource center for community homebuilding, an entertainment venue, a commercial space for banquets and other events, and a senior center. Additional school alumni, including Anita Grace and Sandra Coleman, also spoke in favor of the nomination and the hope that rehabilitating the school would bring hope to the community.

Peggy Lowe then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Louisiana National Bank, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Lee Riccetti, nomination preparer

The Louisiana National Bank Tower is located in downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It is located on a full city block bounded by Florida Street on the south, Laurel Street on the north, 4th Street on the west and 5th Street on the east. The block consists of two buildings sited on an elevated plaza: the first is the South Tower, or the Louisiana National Bank Tower, constructed in 1968. The Louisiana National Bank Tower is a 21-story office tower designed in the Brutalist style by noted Louisiana architects Curtis and Davis. The second building, the North Tower, constructed in 1986, is also 21-stories in height. The North and South Towers are connected at the plaza level by a glazed aluminum connector at the 7th and 8th floors by a sky bridge.

The Louisiana National Bank South Tower is locally significant under Criterion A for Commerce in its association with the Louisiana National Bank, the premier bank of Baton Rouge and a major force of economic development in the city in the mid-twentieth century period. Upon completion, the tower was the tallest commercial office building in Baton Rouge, remaining so until the mid-1970s. The Louisiana National Bank Tower continues to represent the legacy of LNB and the late 20th century vision for Downtown Baton Rouge. The building allowed for the continued growth and expansion of LNB in the 1960s and its position as the premier financial institution in Baton Rouge. The Louisiana National Bank Tower, designed by New Orleans architects Curtis and Davis, is also locally significant under Criterion C as an example of the Brutalist style of architecture in the use of béton brut, expressive geometric forms, the building's siting and plaza, and the use of skylights and atriums.

Guy Carwile recommended technical corrections for terminology in the nomination and recommended adding Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill's work to the historic context for Brutalism. Martha Salomon recused herself from discussion and voting on this item. Lynn Lewis asked who designed the LSU Student Center and noted its similar texture. Dr. Saunders noted the innovative method of construction for the building.

John Sykes then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one recusal.

Humble Worker Camp Housing, Jefferson Parish

Presented by Karen McKinney, nomination preparer

The Humble Oil Worker Housing historic district is located on a single street near the east end of Grand Isle and west of the adjacent Energy XXI (Exxon Corporation) Gulf of Mexico Operations property. The collection of eighteen buildings on one block of Marlin Lane is the only remaining section of a much larger neighborhood, the remains of which can be seen on the adjacent property. The district includes twelve contributing buildings and four noncontributing buildings. The two-story houses, elevated on wood piers with enclosed spaces below, are identical in form but vary somewhat in exterior and interior finishes. The houses have seen some

alterations over the years, mostly to finishes, but retain their overall forms and layout from the original neighborhood. The district has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register.

The Humble Oil Worker Housing historic district is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of industry and community planning and development and Criterion C. The district meets the registration requirements for listing under the existing Multiple Property Listing titled Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle 1780-1968. The extant buildings comprise a rare example of residential housing for the mid-twentieth century offshore petroleum industry.

A property owner in the district asked whether the nomination preparer had spoken to any property owners about the potential nomination. Ms. McKinney responded that she spoke to two property owners who were in favor of the nomination. The property owner also asked about the benefits, including tax credits, and restrictions resulting from listing the properties in the Register. Emily Ardoin explained that owners may apply for tax credits for income-producing properties and that listing does not place restrictions on use or treatment by a private owner. Dr. Saunders pointed out that the nomination is associated with the *Louisiana Coastal Vernacular: Grand Isle, 1780-1968* Multiple-Property Submission. Another attendee who owns property in Grand Isle outside of this district asked whether there were development plans for the vacant portion of the former camp development. Ms. McKinney noted that the adjacent area remains an active industrial facility and she is not aware of development plans for the vacant property. Guy Carwile recommended adding a scale to the plans and suggested technical corrections for terminology in the nomination. Mr. Carwile also suggested clarifying that the development was not an example of French Creole architecture. Ms. McKinney explained that French Creole architecture was one of the architectural styles features in the associated multiple-property submission but was not represented by this district. Lynn Lewis described a similar development in Delhi with different characteristics than this development.

Dr. Saunders then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Martha Salomon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pontchartrain Park, Orleans Parish

Presented by Nathan Lott, Policy and Research Director, Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans

The Pontchartrain Park Historic District is a residential neighborhood in the northeast of the city of New Orleans, Louisiana near the shores of Lake Pontchartrain and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, commonly known as the Industrial Canal. It is near the Gentilly neighborhood of New Orleans, which is named after the elevated Gentilly Ridge that runs to the northeast and southwest almost a mile to the south from the Pontchartrain Park neighborhood. Pontchartrain Park was first opened in 1955, but its development was years in the making, with ties to redlining, segregation, and post-war suburbanization trends. With its development, new suburban tract housing became available to the African-American population of New Orleans, directly adjacent to the similar but whites-only Gentilly Woods neighborhood. The development also included park space that featured the first full-time golfing facilities available to African Americans in the city.

The Pontchartrain Park Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of community planning and development and ethnic heritage: black. The neighborhood embodies the mid-century suburban movement that was seen nationwide in architectural form and urban planning. The history of redlining and other racially motivated public policy, in post-WWII politics generally and housing policy specifically, created a community unique in New Orleans and rare in the United States. Furthermore, the relationship of the City of New Orleans with water, drainage, and land reclamation sets up the background of how such land first became available for speculation and how the city's population expanded to fill it. The period of significance spans from 1955 to 1972, which corresponds to the time period in which the majority of housing stock was constructed in the neighborhood.

Lynn Lewis noted that several residents of the neighborhood were in attendance. Peggy Lowe asked if the neighborhood was already designated as a local historic district. Nathan Lott responded that it was not and noted an earlier effort to list the neighborhood in the National Register before it had reached 50 years of age. Guy Carwile asked whether the central park was always intended to be a golf course. Mr. Lott responded that it

was and added that the park was intended to shore up segregation by introducing public recreational facilities for black residents of New Orleans. Peggy Lowe mentioned that the developer of the neighborhood had a home in Baton Rouge. Dr. Savage asked about the long-term viability of the houses considering the risk of flooding. A neighborhood resident commented on the high quality of construction of the houses, including 16-foot pilings below the slabs. Three additional neighborhood residents expressed support for the nomination and spoke about the strong history and community spirit of the neighborhood and its residents.

Turry Flucker then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Dr. Savage seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vieux Carré Historic District Additional Documentation, Orleans Parish (McCrary's Five-And-Dime)
Presented by Ashley King, project architect

This amendment proposes to reclassify one building in the Vieux Carré Historic District from non-contributing to contributing. The existing exterior appearance dates to 1937, later than the period of significance for the district. In 1937, the McCrary's chain remodeled the c. 1900 building at 1005 Canal Street and expanded into an addition constructed at the same time facing both Iberville and Burgundy Street at 1004-16 Iberville/121-125 Burgundy. A third building component located at the corner of Iberville and Burgundy, 1000 Iberville, dates from 1940. Today 1000 Iberville/121-125 Burgundy and 1000 Iberville function as one building. Because all of these components were part of the McCrary's store during the 1960 sit-ins, the group is proposed to be reclassified from noncontributing to contributing in the Vieux Carré Historic District based on individual National Register eligibility.

The property is individually eligible under Criterion A in the area of ethnic heritage: black for its connection with the lunch counter sit-in at McCrary's on September 17, 1960 by the "CORE Four" and protests which followed between 1960 and 1963, leading to the landmark 1963 Supreme Court decision in *Lombard vs. City of New Orleans*, reversing the students' criminal convictions and affirming their rights to protest. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level as a surviving example of the Modernistic or Art Deco style on Canal Street. This design and the significant role that McCrary's played nationwide in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s are strongly intertwined.

Guy Carwile asked whether the protests occurred in all nominated components of the property. Ms. King responded that the sit-in took place at the lunch counter after an earlier sit-in at the nearby Woolworth's. Turry Flucker asked about development plans for the property. Ms. King responded that the ground floor of 1005 Canal and the adjacent buildings would remain retail space with a hotel or residential use on the upper floors. Mr. Flucker asked for more information about where the protest occurred. Ms. King responded that the protest occurred inside at the lunch counter but that the interior had been destroyed by flooding.

Dr. Savage moved that the additional documentation be recommended to the SHPO and Martha Salomon seconded. The motion passed with one nay.

Norwegian Seamen's Church, Orleans Parish
Presented by Lindsay Butler, nomination preparer

The Norwegian Seamen's Church is a multi-building religious, cultural and social facility that sits on two lots addressed 1758 & 1772 Prytania Street. The principal building (contributing) is a multi-volume building that fronts Prytania Street and was completed in 1968. A pool (noncontributing) and garage (noncontributing) fronting Urania Street were constructed a short time after. The principal building is in a style reflective of its era of construction, and the building fronting Urania mimics this language. The principal building consists of a high-pitched gabled Chapel connected to a two-story low-pitched gabled volume by a single-story low-slope volume. The building fronting Urania is a single story with a gabled roof. The buildings enclose a courtyard and pool not visible from the public right-of-way. The enclosed courtyard has some areas of landscaping, decking, lawn, and exposed pea-gravel aggregate concrete. Some minor alterations have been made to the principal building over the years, but its current form is largely consistent with the original construction documents dated June 1967

and remains eligible for listing in the National Register. The property has a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling, and association.

The Norwegian Seamen's Church is locally significant under Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as the property is a prime example of early Postmodern religious architecture within the context of New Orleans. The period of significance is 1968, the year initial construction was completed. Because the original comprehensive set of construction documents is available as well as photographic evidence within a decade of construction, it is confirmed to have been largely preserved in the original design.

John Sykes asked whether there were additional windows previously due to the appearance of more light in a historic photo of the altar. Ms. Butler responded that there were no windows but that there was plentiful artificial lighting in the space. Guy Carwile asked whether the orientation of the entrance into the chapel was related to the Norwegian tradition. Ms. Butler responded that it was not. Mr. Carwile also suggested removing the Piazza d'Italia as a comparable example and focus on the earlier origins of postmodernism. Ms. Butler commented on the intent of the designer to create a modernist building. Turry Flucker asked about the current size of the congregation and asked about future plans. Ms. Butler responded that it was no longer an active church and that plans were to convert the facility into a health and wellness center while retaining the significant public spaces. Emily Ardoin noted that the rehabilitation was a federal tax credit project.

Dr. Saunders then moved that the nominations be recommended to the SHPO and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Peltier, Harvey Andrew, Sr., House, Lafourche Parish
Presented by John Williams, project architect

The Harvey Andrew Peltier, Sr. House located at 430 East 1st Street is a two-story brick Neoclassical styled, bilaterally symmetrical house set back approximately 150 feet from the street with a large front lawn. The house is constructed of brick, poured-in-place concrete, and clay tile. It is roughly square in plan with porches on each floor, and on each side, extending out east and west from the main body forming an inverted "T" shaped footprint. The house has a five-bay, two-story veranda that extends across the front façade and a hipped roof with slate shingles and attic dormers on all sides. A carport is set behind the house on the west side, behind the porte-cochère. Immediately behind the main house is a series of recently completed elements including a rear annex addition, a swimming pool and cabana, a garage, and a pigeonnier. The house has been recently renovated, but the essential design elements remain intact. The Peltier House has sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to be eligible for the National Register.

The Harvey Peltier, Sr. House is significant at the local level under Criterion C as a significant example of the Neoclassical style within Thibodaux. The house demonstrates the wealth and taste of Harvey Andrew Peltier Sr., a local politician, campaign manager of Huey P. Long, attorney, and businessman who made his wealth in banking, oil and horse breeding. As a Neoclassical styled house, it is one of few in the Thibodaux area and has exceptional details on the interior and exterior, many of which remain intact to this date. The architect is unknown but designed the house as a load-bearing masonry structure with poured in place concrete floor slabs, which is uncommon for residences in the area.

John Sykes noted his surprise that the architect was unknown and noted that the house reminded him of a project for Mrs. Long on Lakeshore Drive. Guy Carwile noted that some awkwardness in the design might suggest that the speculated architect might not have designed the building. Mr. Carwile also suggested technical corrections for terminology in the nomination.

Dr. Saunders then moved that the nominations be recommended to the SHPO and Martha Salomon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Borden Dairy, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Gabrielle Begue, nomination preparer

The Borden Dairy manufacturing and distribution plant at 4743 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, is a large industrial facility constructed between 1942 and c. 1980 in a mixed heavy commercial/light-industrial zone in Baton Rouge's Mid City neighborhood. The low-rise complex of buildings occupies a seven-acre site extending from Florida Boulevard northward to North Street and comprises 1) a 56,000 SF plant constructed in phases between 1942 and the 1970s (contributing); 2) a row of one-story warehouses situated along the site's western boundary constructed between the 1950s and 1980s (contributing and non-contributing); and 3) a one-story service center at the rear of the site constructed in the 1980s (non-contributing). The 1950s and 1960s sections of the facility were designed by noted Baton Rouge architects A. Hays Town and Desmond-Miremont & Associates, respectively. The buildings were expanded and renovated over time as the company strived to keep pace with regional market demand. From 1942 until c. 2006, Borden Dairy manufactured and distributed milk and ice cream products at this location, and the company continued to use the rear of the property as a distribution center until early 2019. The primary Florida Boulevard facade (1942-59), which served as the company's public face, is designed in the Colonial Revival style, while the remainder of the facility is distinctly industrial in appearance. The plant is currently vacant and has suffered from deferred maintenance and water intrusion due to partially collapsed roofs. Nevertheless, the property retains a high degree of exterior and interior integrity overall and remains clearly identifiable as a mid-20th century industrial facility.

The Borden Dairy manufacturing and distribution plant at 4743 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and industry as the primary dairy plant in the parish in the mid-twentieth century, when dairying flourished as an industry both locally and statewide. As the largest milk distributor in the United States, Borden's decision to open one of its first Louisiana plants in Baton Rouge in the early 1940s reflected the city's increasing importance as an industrial hub. In addition to serving the growing Baton Rouge market, the Florida Boulevard plant also became the main dairy supply center for much of Louisiana, and to fulfill this role it underwent major expansions in the 1950s and 1960s. The period of significance begins in 1942, when the plant was placed in service, and ends in 1969, the current fifty-year cut-off.

Guy Carwile asked who was the architect for the 1942 portion and suggested clarifying architect names on the diagrams. Dr. Savage asked about development plans. Owner Andy McCall responded that plans were still being developed but would most likely include commercial and industrial space. John Sykes recused himself from discussion and voting on this item.

Brian McGowen then moved that the nominations be recommended to the SHPO and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one recusal.

Southern University Historic District Boundary Increase I, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Katy Coyle, nomination preparer

Located in Baton Rouge, Southern University is one of the state's two publicly funded African-American colleges. Standing on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River on the far west side of the campus, the new nomination represents a boundary expansion of the original district, encompassing approximately thirty acres. Within the expansion boundaries are 7 buildings, 5 of which (71%) are contributing elements. These include three buildings that originally were dormitories, a gymnasium, an infirmary, a modern administration building, and a dining hall. This nomination is a boundary increase to include the area just east and south of the initial district, and extending the boundary to encompass the entire bluff to the water line (on the western boundary), a significant contributing site. Despite some alterations to the buildings and the loss of other early campus components which once stood in the area, the district retains enough integrity to justify its nomination to the Register, and the extension of the geographic boundary.

As one of only two state African American colleges, the founding and early educational campus are significant on a state level. This amendment expands the geographic boundaries of the campus but retains the original

period of significance. The buildings included as contributing elements in this expansion date from roughly the same period of construction as the initial district, but documentation of their dates of construction was only recently located.

Turry Flucker asked for clarification on whether Southern University was one of two publicly funded schools in the state. Ms. Coyle noted that she was referring to the Southern University system as one school and that Grambling State University was the other. Guy Carwile suggested including objects in the site plan drawing.

John Sykes then moved that the nominations be recommended to the SHPO and Dr. Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Emily Ardoin announced that the 2020 meeting dates will be April 2, August 6, and December 3.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:46 PM.