

Louisiana National Register Review Committee Meeting

August 13, 2015, 1:30pm
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 N. River Rd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

Chairwoman Dr. Rebecca Saunders called the August 13, 2015 regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 1:31 p.m. In addition to Dr. Saunders, members present included Kelly Rich, Turry Flucker, Lynn Lewis, Martha Saloman, John Sykes, Sue Turner, Dr. Robert Carriker, and Tarah Arcuri. Dr. Matthew Savage, Sam Kincade, and Peggy Lower were unable to attend.

Dr. Saunders announced that the Superdome has been removed from today's agenda, but will be on the December meeting agenda. Dr. Saunders asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Lynn Lewis so moved, with Tarah Arcuri seconding. This motion passed unanimously.

Division Director, Nicole Hobson-Morris, welcome the audience and Committee members.

National Register Coordinator Jessica Richardson then introduced all Review Committee members present to the audience.

Dr. Saunders asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April's meeting. Lynn Lewis so moved, with Dr. Carriker seconding. This motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the election of a new chair and vice chair. According to the by laws for the committee, a new chair and vice chair should be elected at the fall meeting. Ballots were given to each committee member with the names of the candidates interested in each position. After tallying the votes, there was a clear winner for chair, but there was a tie for the vice chair. At that time, Martha Saloman had not arrived and the vote to decide vice chair was moved to the end of the meeting.

Under New Business, the Committee considered nine new National Register nominations.

Routhwood Elementary School, Tensas Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator (preparer Edena McDaniel lives in Houston)

The Routhwood Elementary school is located in Newellton, a small rural town west of the Mississippi River on Lake St Joseph in northeast Louisiana in Tensas Parish. The school is located at 217 Lombardo St and is positioned on 6.2 acres of land. The western border of its 6.2 acre site is Jacoby St., which connects Lombardo Street, and runs northeast to the corner of Burnside St. The site consists of cleared land with two mature Oak Trees on the center front lawn. The existing buildings are situated in a rectangular T shaped position. The primary resources are the classroom and administrative building, cafeteria/auditorium building and kitchen building, the library building, and the gymnasium. The classroom and administrative building and the cafeteria/auditorium and kitchen building were constructed in 1957. The library building and the gymnasium were constructed in 1967. These one story buildings are plain in style and material. Covered walk ways connect the library and cafeteria to the classroom and administrative building. The gymnasium is connected to the original classroom and administrative building as one unit, although they were constructed independently. Closed since 2002, the school retains a high degree of integrity with some roof deterioration due to weather. The original buildings of the school have had no alterations since their construction in 1957, retain all original features, and remain very much familiar and recognizable to their alumnus who attended during the 1958-1969 period of significance, and remains eligible for listing in the National Register.

The Routhwood Elementary School is significant under Criterion A in the areas of education and ethnic heritage: black because it provided very important educational opportunities for African American Students in Newellton, Louisiana. Most significantly, it was the first school for many years to offer education to African

American students in Newellton, Louisiana. Routhwood provided students with a well rounded education from grades one to eight providing a foundation that enabled them to progress to higher education for learning and to complete their high school education. The period of significance for the school begins in 1957 with the construction of the classroom-administration building and the cafeteria-auditorium building, includes the construction dates of the gym and library, and ends in 1970, the year the school was desegregated. Criteria Considerations A and G are applicable as the school is currently owned by a church, although it is not being nominated with any tie to religious significance, and the period of significance extends to a date that is less than 50 years old.

Pastor Anthony Guice, pastor of the church that occupies the school and an alumni, was in attendance and spoke in favor of the nomination. They would like to turn the school into a community center for Newellton.

Lynn Lewis moved that the nomination be recommended to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Turry Flucker seconded. There were 8 yays and 1 nay. The motion passed.

Houma Historic District Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase I, Boundary Decrease I, Terrebonne Parish, LA

Presented by Donna Fricker, nomination preparer

This is a proposal to add eight buildings to the Houma Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1983, with a period of significance ending in 1933. It is predicated on additional documentation to the district updating the period of significance to 1965 (the present 50 year cutoff). The existing National Register district includes commercial, institutional, and residential buildings as contributing buildings. Seven of the buildings in the two proposed areas of boundary increase (labeled Boundary Increase A and Boundary Increase B) were historically in commercial use; one was residential. Inventory numbers pick up from those used in the additional documentation submission.

The Houma Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1983 based on local significance in the area of commerce – specifically because it represented the prosperity brought by the seafood industry in the early twentieth century. The period of significance was c.1910 to 1933. This additional documentation proposal will add another case under Criterion A (commerce) for downtown Houma as the center of commerce for Terrebonne Parish (for goods and services). The end of downtown Houma's commercial preeminence corresponds roughly to the present fifty year cutoff of 1965; so that date will be used as the ending date of the period of significance under commerce. Until supplanted by strip centers and later malls, downtown Houma was the place to shop for goods and services for the large parish of Terrebonne. It was and is the only town of any size in a geographically isolated and decidedly rural parish.

There were no questions from the committee or audience. Mr. Sykes then moved that the property be recommended to the State Historic Preservation Officer and Lynn Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Beard Congregational Church, Vermilion Parish

Presented by Dana Comeaux, nomination preparer

Beard Congregational Church is located on Granger Street within the southwestern portion of the city of Erath in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. Built in 1916, this one story simply designed frame church is clad in original wood siding, has two over two wood windows with decorative pointed frames, a central entry with double doors and two lite transom, and a front gabled metal roof. The interior is one large room with some minor cosmetic updates that still features its original beaded board half walls, chair rail, and six panel wooden doors. There is a non-contributing addition attached to the rear of the church that has been used as a recreational hall and storage space. Overall, Beard Congregational Church retains a high degree of integrity despite some minor cosmetic updates dating from the last 40 years or so and remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

Beard Congregational Church is locally significant under Criterion A: History, in the areas of education and ethnic history: black. It represents a major phenomenon in the development of educational facility for African American students during a time when segregation was alive and well. The building represents the only opportunity for local African American children to receive an education beginning in 1916, when the home of

Robert and Frances Dozier could no longer adequately house the growing number of students, and ending in 1941 when a modern elementary school was built for African American children in Erath.

Ms. Comeaux added that they have already incorporated the history of the church locally and have made it a local landmark.

Turry Flucker moved that the property be recommended and Tarah Arcuri seconded that the property be recommended to the SHPO. The motion passed unanimously.

Henry Jones Cottage, Orleans Parish, LA

Presented by Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator (nomination preparer was unable to attend)

The Henry Jones Cottage is located at 2409-11 D'Abadie Street in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. It is a four room, galleried Creole Cottage constructed c. 1855. Built by Henry Jones, a free person of color, the cottage is a one and a half story house clad in wood siding with a façade of four evenly spaced openings. Located just outside of the Esplanade Ridge Historic District, this house features decorative turned gallery columns, Queen Anne style frieze and spandrels (added by Mr. Jones c. 1880), lap siding on the façade, six over six and four over six wood windows, arched façade openings, and detailed cornices on the façade openings. While the interior has lost the plaster walls, the floor plan has only received minor changes to the rear portion and retains the significant characteristics that make this home a Creole Cottage. The interior and exterior integrity of this home is intact and thus, it is eligible for listing on the National Register.

Jones Cottage is locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture as a good example of a Creole Cottage, reflecting an important era of construction and architecture in the city of New Orleans, and as one of the last surviving structures from an earlier period of development, Faubourg Gueno. The period of significance for the Jones Cottage is 1855, which is when it is believed, based on property transfers and architectural form and style, that this house was constructed.

There were no questions from the audience. Mrs. Turner asked if the house would ever be open for others to see it. Jessica responded that she wasn't sure, but knew that it was being rehabilitated using historic tax credits.

Lynn Lewis then moved that the property be recommended to the SHPO and Dr. Saunders seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There were 8 yays and 1 nay. The motion passed.

10 Minute Break

Standard Coffee Company Warehouse and Factory, Orleans Parish

Presented by Daniel Winkert, project architect (nomination preparer, Hilary Irvin, was not in attendance)

The Standard Coffee Company Warehouse and Factory (herein referred to as Standard Coffee), located at 450 Mandeville Street, occupies an entire block on the upriver edge of the Faubourg Marigny, adjacent to the Mississippi River's water front and the Public Belt Railway tracks (Figure 1). Designed in 1949-50 by the preeminent New Orleans preservationist/architect, Richard Koch, the building is constructed of concrete block and brick walls, with continuous windows surrounding the entire structure. Its design, as seen to observers today, is in the International Style. The rectilinear one-story warehouse occupies approximately 71,000 square feet. The one-story block on the north side, which has a mezzanine, designed for the packaging and manufacturing of the firm's products, comprises around 9000 square feet. The architect's sophisticated use of modern materials (aluminum panels, steel windows and doors, glazed ceramic tile) in a functional and utilitarian, but highly aesthetic manner, attests to the designer's talent and ingenuity. Standard Coffee remains today as a rare example of a design by Koch in a modernist, non-traditional style. Remaining essentially intact and only until recently still in use, the building retains a high degree of integrity and remains eligible for listing on the National Register. Fortunately, Koch's original drawings remain to document this fact.

Standard Coffee Company Warehouse and Factory (1949-50) is eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level. This building is one of the earliest expressions of the International Style in New Orleans, or what Louisianan architectural historians, Donna and Jonathan Fricker, called the "Holdover International Style." More significantly, the subject building is the only remaining example of the International Style designed by architect Richard Koch. His slightly earlier Lafayette, Louisiana, Charity Hospital Tuberculosis Unit, (1947-1949) was demolished (Figure 7). The period of significance for Standard Coffee is 1949- 54, during which years Koch produced several designs that evinced an active interest in combining up-to-date mid-20th century stylistic trends and materials with post-World War II societal demands. In this period, his professional output included the subject industrial building as well as several medical and educational facilities, all in varying modernist forms and styles. Standard Coffee, however, is the sole, surviving example of a building designed by Koch in the International Style and is the only example of an industrial building in New Orleans fashioned according to the tenets of the International Style.

Mrs. Turner asked about the plans for the building. Mr. Winkert stated that the plans are to make it a cultural center of sorts. There was some discussion on how this building was eligible under architecture. Jessica Richardson added that it was being nominated because it is Koch's only remaining mid-century style when he is well known for being a traditional, preservation architect.

Dr. Saunders moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Martha Saloman seconded. There were 7 yays and 2 nays. The motion passed.

US Army Supply Base New Orleans, Orleans Parish

Presented by Mary Lane Carleton, nomination preparer, and Carlos Garcia, project architect

Constructed between 1918 and 1919, the U.S. Army Supply Base is a collection of three identically-designed six-story concrete warehouse buildings occupying the majority of the central portion of an irregularly-shaped 25.33 acre lot in the southeastern-most edge abutting the Bywater or Upper Ninth Ward neighborhood of New Orleans. Situated between Dauphine Street and the Mississippi River, Poland Avenue and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, the character of the surrounding area is largely residential and low-scale commercial. The buildings are adjacent to and just outside of the Bywater National Register Historic District of New Orleans. The three building subjects for this district nomination were built within one year from 1918 to 1919. They are largely devoid of style but could be considered "stripped Classical" as was popular with government buildings in the early 20th century. The façade elevation of building 603 is nearly flush with Poland Avenue. It is this most public façade that features the later addition metal screen and Brutalist cladding, added in the 1970s. In addition to the three warehouses, the Switching Building, also circa 1919, is a contributing element. Still extant on the property, it features the same rough-cast concrete detailing as the warehouses. There are five contributing structures in addition to the Switching Building; a circa 1932 service station canopy; the circa 1919 cargo ramp still extant on building 601; and the three circa 1919 water towers on top of each warehouse. There are eight non-contributing buildings and 15 non-contributing structures on the site. Despite these 23 non-contributing resources, the three original warehouse buildings along with the Switching Building, service station canopy, cargo ramp and water towers would be easily recognizable to anyone familiar with the U.S. Army Supply Base during the period of significance and the property remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

The US Army Supply Base New Orleans is significant on the local, state, and national level in the areas of military and industry under Criterion A because it was one of three such Army storage facilities built nationwide at the end of WWI. The other two such bases, still extant, are located in Brooklyn and South Boston. One of these, the Brooklyn Army Base, is individually listed on the National Register. The three original warehouses are largely intact on the exterior; however building 603 has been altered in a 1970s renovation, the alterations could be removed to the building's original exterior matching the other two buildings. In its capacity as a US Army Quartermaster/supply base, the three large warehouses stored supplies and munitions that were sent nationwide as well as to Central and South America. Built also to be used when not actively in wartime, the warehouses were leased to commercial ventures needing both storage and fast access to rail and the port on the Mississippi. The period of significance begins in 1918, the year the base began construction and ends in 1945 at the end of World War II.

The committee was interested in the proposed new use for the facility and Carlos stated that the goal is to make it an emergency preparedness facility for the city.

Martha Saloman moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Lynn Lewis seconded. There were 8 yays and 1 nay. The motion passed.

Freetown-Port Rico Historic District, Lafayette Parish

Presented by Laura Ewen Blokker, nomination preparer

The Freetown-Port Rico Historic District is located in Lafayette, Louisiana, on the Vermillion River in the southwestern part of the state and is situated in the central part of the city, nestled at the intersection of route 167/Johnston Street and the Louisiana & Delta Railroad line, just southwest of route 90. Developed as a residential subdivision in the late 1800s, Freetown – Port Rico is primarily residential, but historic property uses interspersed through the district include specialty stores, religious facilities, industrial facilities, recreational space and a cemetery. The extant buildings reflect nearly the full span of development with the earliest dating to the 1890s and the later buildings carrying through the 1965 period of significance terminus. Building lots are modest in size with buildings typically set close to the front of the lot. Vegetation is typical of southwest Louisiana: occasional mature trees and cultivated specimens like azaleas, gardenias, crepe myrtles, and camellias, appear along with volunteer ferns and vines and grass yards to create a verdant setting. Late-nineteenth century to early-twentieth century side gable cottages and bungalows are the dominant building forms, with a scattering of L-front Folk Victorian, Tudor Revival, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch homes, plus religious, industrial, and commercial facilities. Most buildings are vernacular in their stylistic influences and wood weatherboards are the prevalent exterior material. Most houses are raised on piers, though some sit on slabs. Common alterations include synthetic siding, replacement windows and doors, additions, and enclosed porches. Despite the presence of non-historic fabric, the rhythm and massing of the district is overwhelmingly maintained and cumulatively there is a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship.

The Freetown-Port Rico Historic District is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development; Ethnic Heritage: Black, European, and Other; Social History; and Architecture. It is believed that people may have been residing in the Freetown area as early as 1863; however, it was not until 1881 that the area was surveyed for subdivision and today's Freetown-Port Rico neighborhood truly took shape. Therefore, the period of significance commences in 1881. Although the neighborhood was substantially developed by WWII, building, community development, and significant ethnic heritage and social history continued through the following decades. Therefore the terminus of the period of significance is set at 1965, fifty years from the present year.

Mrs. Turner asked if there was a neighborhood association for Freetown-Port Rico. Corey Saft, audience member and professor at ULL who helped coordinate the project, stated that there was, called the Freetown-Port Rico Coterie, and that they were very involved with the nomination of the district and support it. Mike Varnado, DHP staff, also added that this project was made possible through the HPF grant.

Turry FLucker moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Tarah Arcuri seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Brown Hotel and Café, Livingston Parish

Presented by Florence Crowder, nomination preparer

The former Brown Hotel and Café was built by Mr. W. F. Brown in 1927 and is located at 114 North Range Avenue, Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, Louisiana. The building is a two story masonry commercial style building set along Range Avenue, which developed following the establishment of the Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Eastern Railroad live, presently the Illinois Central Railroad. Following its use as a hotel and café, the building served as law offices, a department store, and an antique store. Through its many uses, it did receive some alterations, primarily in the form of storefront changes and cosmetic changes on the second floor interior. The storefronts were altered to a more mid-century style after 1955, but in 2006, they were restored to

a more historic looking appearance. Despite these alterations, there is still enough integrity on the exterior and interior to convey this building's historic use and significance. Thus, the Brown Hotel and Café remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

The Brown Hotel and Café is significant at the local level under Criterion A: Commerce and Social History because of its role as a center of social and business activity in Denham Springs. It served as the city's principal and only hotel from its 1927 construction date until it closed in 1955. The period of significance covers its years of operation, 1927-1955.

Lynn Lewis moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and John Sykes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kleinpeter, John and Amelia Sharp, House, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Laurie Kleinpeter Laville and Bob Obier, nomination preparers

The John and Amelia Sharp Kleinpeter House is located in the heart of an upscale, modern neighborhood, *The Settlement at Willow Grove*, in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The home, circa 1820, is a classic French Creole Plantation house exhibiting many characteristics of the genre. The two story, clapboard and masonry home sits on a large 2 acre lot surrounded by significant contributing resources such as an original Cypress outbuilding, the original hand dug brick-lined well and 7 majestic century Live Oaks. Having been unoccupied for almost ten years, the residence has fallen into decline. Under the supervision of the State Historic Preservation Office, the house is undergoing a complete restoration, which will reverse some alterations that were made over the years including the removal of a rear addition and complete restoration of the upper gallery. This work will reflect the architectural significance of the home and return its original appearance. As there are only a few homes of this type in existence in East Baton Rouge Parish, The Kleinpeter House – Willow Grove is deserving of placement on the National Registry.

The John and Amelia Sharp Kleinpeter House is of local significance under Criterion C: Architecture as a rare and important example of the Creole architectural style. Its period of significance is 1820, its estimated date of construction. As one of only five known examples of Creole architecture in East Baton Rouge Parish, the Kleinpeter House -Willow Grove stands out among the others (all listed on the National Register) as it is a two story plantation home with many original details including Federal mantels, punkah, beaded ceiling beams, chamfered columns, two story full length galleries, Bousillage walls, asymmetrical hall-less plan with cabinet/loggia range, and an exterior staircase. The Kleinpeter House - Willow Grove is eligible for listing on the National Register as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Creole architectural style.

Dr. Saunders moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Kelly Rich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After the last nomination was voted on, a second vote for the new vice chair was taken as the first vote resulted in a tie and did not include Martha Saloman's vote. The committee voted on new ballots. The new chair for the next year is J. Lynn Lewis and the new vice chair is John Sykes.

Ms. Richardson had no further announcements.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.