

**NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 28, 2024 - 11:00 AM**  
**State Library of Louisiana**  
**701 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Dr. Robert Carriker called the March 28, 2024, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:07 AM. In addition to Dr. Carriker, members present included Dr. Fallon Aidoo, Ava Alltmont, Guy Carwile, Turry Flucker, Peggy Lowe, Martha Salomon, Dr. Rebecca Saunders, Dr. Matthew Savage, and John Sykes.

Dr. Carriker then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Matthew Savage so moved, and Rebecca Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bailey Hall welcomed the audience and committee members. Division of Historic Preservation staff in attendance included Bailey Hall (National Register Coordinator).

Dr. Carriker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May's meeting. Rebecca Saunders so moved, and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Carriker then announced the nomination period for new chair was open. Rebecca Saunders nominated Robert Carriker to continue as chair. Dr. Carriker asked for other nominations. There were none. The nomination for Robert Carriker to continue as chair passed unanimously.

Dr. Carriker then announced the nomination period for new vice chair was open. Rebecca Saunders nominated Turry Flucker to continue as vice chair. Dr. Carriker asked for other nominations. There were none. The nomination for Turry Flucker to continue as vice chair passed unanimously.

After this item, 12 nominations were presented to the committee.

Barret Elementary School, Caddo Parish

Presented by Bailey Hall, National Register Coordinator

Barret Elementary School meets the Register's significance and integrity requirements. This 5.69-acre property consists of a multi-floor school built in 1916 with physical expansion overtime allowing greater student capacity and expected facilities for a complete elementary school experience. The intent of its original construction was to be a neighborhood school and even with its physical expansions in 1939, 1966 and 1989; the original intent was kept. Two contiguous expansions – an auditorium and two storied building of classrooms in 1939 and cafeteria in 1989 as seen from the primary street view denotes the same architectural style and details, use of the same materials, workmanship, look, and reflects the master architect's intent from 1916. The third building – a combination kindergarten / library was constructed in 1966 and is connected to the original building by sidewalks and cannot be seen from the primary street view. The property with a total square footage of 43,688 was an active elementary school until 2016 thus keeping its feeling and association even with its enlargement over time. Its 100-year service has not subtracted from its historic integrity of the original Neo-Classical Revival public school building opened in 1916.

Barret Elementary School reflects the larger public education history and heritage of Caddo Parish and the City of Shreveport as explained in detail below in the Narrative Statement of Significance. The level of significance is Local. The school for 100 years participated in the public education of children in its assigned neighborhood school zone. The Period of Significance begins with the school's construction in 1916 and runs through to its closure in 2016. The design is the work of noted architect, Edward F. Neild, Sr. who made a difference in Shreveport and Caddo Parish in his design of numerous buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Quite a few of these National Register-listed historic properties are public schools. He became known

as a master architect. Barret Elementary added to the ongoing development of public schools in Caddo Parish and to the academic success of several generations of Shreveport and Caddo Parish families.

**Criterion C:** The design of Barret Elementary School was the results of a noted local architect from Shreveport who would become a master architect with a nation-wide reputation. Edward F. Neild, Sr., FAIA (December 3, 1884 - July 6, 1955), made a difference and positive influence in designing the built heritage of present-day City of Shreveport. Many of his designed public and commercial buildings and residential dwellings in Shreveport, especially school houses are still in use with many on the National Register of Historic Places. Although residing in Shreveport, Mr. Neild was also known for designing “numerous civic, parish, and federal buildings, mostly in northwest Louisiana.” He also designed or influenced educational buildings constructed on several college and university campuses as well as designing or providing architectural advice to civic, public and private buildings in other states besides Louisiana. In 1948, Neild was “among twenty architects selected as fellows of the American Institute of Architects.” A more complete listing of his designed buildings is provided further below.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Fallon Aidoo asked why the school closed and what the future use of the building would be. John Sykes questioned the period of significance. A correction to the nomination would be made reflecting the period of construction with a separate period for Education. Guy Carwile suggested corrections to the architectural description of the building’s features. He suggested calling the building Neoclassical rather than Neoclassical Revival. Fallon Aidoo suggested developing the argument for community development area of significance to better understand the development of the surrounding community and why the school was needed. She also suggested adding more information about how segregation and desegregation affected the school and surrounding neighborhood. Dr. Carriker seconded the suggestion. Matthew Savage voiced concerns that the nomination does not provide enough information to move forward to the National Park Service.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comment. No comments were made.

John Sykes then moved that the nomination be deferred to the next meeting pending additional information, and Matthew Savage seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

#### Cross Lake Pumping and Filtration Plant, Caddo Parish Presented by Bailey Hall, National Register Coordinator

The Cross Lake Pumping and Filtration Plant meets the Register’s significance and integrity requirements. The property consists of a single pump building integrated with settling pools. The building and pools were built as one unit starting in mid-1930 with dedication in June 1931. At the time, this state-of-the-art waterworks facility was to take advantage of the clean, potable supply of water made available in 1926 by the creation of the Cross Lake reservoir. The history making events of Shreveport creating this water reservoir and physical waterworks infrastructure plant in the early decades of the Twentieth Century created a holistic dynamic solution that is still relevant today to the City of Shreveport and its residents. The physical exterior and much of the interior part of this building including much of the water piping and machinery inside this singular building has been little altered since the close of the historic period. The basic shape of the settling pools, integrated with but exterior to the building has had minor changes that do not impact the property’s significance and integrity.

The Cross Lake Pumping and Filtration Plant has a local level of significance in making a positive contribution to the growth, well-being, and safety of the residents and businesses within the City of Shreveport. Beginning with its construction on April 1, 1930, the physical plant was an engineering fact in its application of scientific principles in design, construction, and operations. The plant utilized state-of-the-art engineering structures and machinery that when dedicated on June 6, 1931 directly and positively impacted on human needs of clean water and for fire protection within a growing City of Shreveport. This specific water plant served the City of Shreveport as a multiplier to further utilized and maximize Shreveport’s earlier investment in creating the Cross

Lake reservoir. The period of significance begins with its dedication on June 6, 1931 and continues through this present day since the plant is still in use for water work operations by and for the City of Shreveport.

**Criterion A:** Two events joined together making a significant and defining historical pattern as Shreveport developed from a small to large urban area. The first event was creating the Cross Lake reservoir in 1926 to overcome local persistent weakness within Shreveport of not having a consistent source of clean, potable water. The second event was the construction of the Cross Lake Pumping and Filtration Plant in 1930-31 to efficiently tap into the Cross Lake reservoir for the benefit of a growing Shreveport urban area. Although both events happened during the Twentieth Century, they still constitute local historical significance and remain directly relevant to the modern life and well-being of the City of Shreveport.

**Criterion C:** The plant's design and function were the results of a master waterworks engineering firm, the J.N. Chester Engineers, having an international reputation for sound judgement and practical experience. J.N. Chester not only oversaw the design and construction of the Cross Lake plant but as well gave advice on having a reliable source of water and urging as early as 1898 to create a reservoir at the Cross Lake site. Mr. Chester also assisted the Shreveport effort with the McNeil Street Water Works, the first organized waterworks in Shreveport. Having a professional relationship and long-term friendship with Thomas L. Amiss, a Shreveport civic leader and local waterworks master, added to the combination of creating a source (Cross Lake reservoir) and the means (Cross Lake Pumping and Filtration Plant) to efficiently utilize the reliable water source efficiently. Today's water purification complex for the City of Shreveport is named Thomas L. Amiss Plant, in honor and recognition of the long service of Mr. Amiss as the city's waterworks superintendent and the decisive part he played in creating and utilizing both the reservoir and the then newly constructed pumping and filtration plant.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile asked if the plant will remain in use as a filtration and pump station. Ms. Hall explained that it will continue to be utilized as part of the larger Amiss Water Treatment Plant complex. Mr. Carwile then made suggestions to edit the architectural description of the plant. Fallon Aidoo noted that the nomination should include the engineering record of the community development that occurred during this time by the same firm.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. The Superintendent of Water Purification for the City of Shreveport and the Director of the Water and Sewage Department of Shreveport spoke in support of the nomination and explained the pump station will continue to serve the community.

Martha Salomon then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Price's Beauty Shop, Ouachita Parish  
Presented by Kim Ross, owner

Price's Beauty Shop is located in the Stubbs Young Bayou Addition of Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, at the corner of S. 21st Street and Grammont Street and just one block away from being a part of the Don Juan Filhiol National Register Historic District. The building is a simple, one room wooden frame beauty shop with a pyramidal asphalt shingle roof. The shop was built c. 1957 in the middle of a thriving African American working-class community including its former neighbor, Dr. S. D. Hill (one of the first highly respected Black medical doctors), eponymous founder of the Dr. Hill's Clinic at 2001 Grammont Street (the corner of 20th Street and Grammont Street), which has now been demolished. It is also located roughly one block south of Desiard Street, which formerly served as the main thoroughfare of the African American Business District, which was anchored around the 1000 block of Desiard. The area where Price's is located is more residential, but the residents of this area would have done business in this commercial area while also working in the area, either at local businesses or at the various industrial plants (oil and ice) and the railroads that formed boundaries of the neighborhood. There have been minor alterations to the building with the updating of the interior cabinetry and exterior with corrugated siding along the foundation. With minor alterations and the inevitable deterioration

due to the passage of time, Price's Beauty Shop maintains a sound structure and historic integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Price's Beauty Shop is eligible under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with Ethnic Heritage: Black and Social History. From the time of its construction in 1957 through 1994, the building was operated by Annie Mae Ford Price as a beauty shop that served Monroe's African American residents. Price's Beauty Shop is an intact and prime example of the midcentury beauty shops in Monroe and across the state of Louisiana that served African American residents and cultivated African American beauty culture at a time of strict segregation and discrimination against African American women due to white beauty standards as well as disenfranchisement in Monroe in 1956. African American beauty shops like Price's not only provided beauty services to the city's residents, but it also provided a safe space for social and political activism within the city and parish. Additionally, the building represents a critical time in African American history when female entrepreneurs and the beauty shop experience was extremely significant to the African American community in Monroe and Ouachita Parish. The period of significance for Price's is 1957 through 1974, the current 50-year guideline. Price's continued to operate until 1994. During this time, Price's Beauty Shop served as a private place to create economic autonomy as well as a public place for local African American women from domestic workers to school teachers to meet, freely communicate, receive quality beauty care, and enjoy convenient service without fear of harsh harassment and intimidation that often greeted them in the white-controlled streets and spaces in the segregated south of the small urban area in northern Louisiana.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Peggy Lowe asked if the original sign was still extant. The family members explained it had been lost. Turry Flucker asked if there were any other businesses operating in the third ward area. Ms. Ross explained there were several African American businesses down the corridor of commerce in this neighborhood. Ms. Ross clarified that this is the last remaining structure from that commercial corridor. Dr. Aidoo suggested adding a sketch map that identifies where those businesses were located in relations to what remains now. Guy Carwile asked what future plans are for the building and offered suggestions to improve the architectural description in the nomination. Ms. Ross explained her plans to make it a museum dedicated to the African American community.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Jessica Richardson, Brian Davis, and Annie Mae Price's son spoke in support of the nomination.

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

The committee paused for a 10 minute break, no time stated. Dr. Carriker called the meeting back to order, no time stated.

#### Shiloh Baptist Church, Rapides Parish

Presented by Sarah Mason, nomination preparer

Shiloh Baptist Church is an early 20th century wood frame brick masonry church designed in the Renaissance Revival style with Romanesque elements. Its construction began in 1904 and was completed by 1909 as a place of worship for one of the oldest African American Baptist congregations in Alexandria. The church sits on the southwestern border of Downtown Alexandria, adjacent to Interstate-49, one of the last remaining buildings representative of the historic African American community that once thrived in the vicinity of downtown Lee Street. The building is oriented on a Northwest-Southeast, Southwest-Northeast grid due to the layout of the original town of Alexandria along the Northwest-Southeast flow of the Red River. It is located at the busy corner of 10th and Washington Streets, at the gateway of Alexandria's downtown area, and is one of the first buildings seen after taking the M. L. King Dr./Downtown Alexandria exit from I-49, heading North. The exterior of the church consists of red brick masonry in Scottish bond with thin mortar joints, in contrast with the white stucco of its large round arches and the lower portion of the brick masonry walls of two of its exterior facades and belfry. Set into three gable ends are large arched window frames, two of which feature large rectangular windows below the arches. The main entrance is in the corner tower/belfry which is partially set into the

southern corner of the structure and extends upward above the peaks of the gable roofs to 50 feet high. The tripartite round arches expressed in all four sides of the square corner tower (belfry), large round arches in three of the gables and its dense massing are nods to the Romanesque Revival style. Steeply pitched cross-gabled roofs allow the extension of all four brick facades to the roofline, adding greatly to the visual massing of the structure. The overall layout of the building originally measured 67 x 85 feet, before the 1985 CMU addition to the Northeast façade extended it about 24 feet to the northeast. The height of the church is 44 feet 8 inches, and the height of the roofline is 16 feet 2 inches. The floor plan of the church is basically square with two wings or projections: one towards the Northwest, consisting of the apse/pulpit, and one towards the Southeast, consisting of a loft and space for offices and bathrooms. The main interior configuration resembles that of a standard Baptist auditorium plan, with an apse separated from the large open space of the room by a rise in the floor level, the platform, and its separation by a low, curved, balustrade. The condition of the structure is fair. The roof has deteriorated in several areas and rain has entered the structure for years. The effects are obvious throughout the structure in the form of buckled floors, sagging frames, broken windows, crumbling plaster and falling ceilings. Despite this condition, the structure has retained its overall historic exterior appearance, as well as original interior features. The majority of the original material of the structure and architectural features remain despite damage and alterations. Plans are also in place to rehabilitate the structure, repairing damage and replacing missing or damaged architectural elements with historically appropriate materials. Thus, it retains its historic integrity and is eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Shiloh Baptist Church is significant under Criterion A: History for local significance in Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black. As the site of an early African American church in Alexandria, Shiloh Baptist Church is a significant element of Alexandria's local Downtown Historic District. It was built by the third Black congregation in the city, and it is one of the few surviving structures that represent the historic African American community that once thrived in the original town of Alexandria and in the vicinity of Lee Street. This church stands as a testament to the degree of organization and prosperity of the congregation only four decades after the abolition of slavery. Shiloh also represents the push for African Americans to remain a united front through their church, beliefs, and community during the 20th century and the difficult period of Jim Crow laws and segregation. In addition to religious services, many of the programs presented at Shiloh sought to find alternatives to systems set in place by whites and worked to encourage a positive relationship with the white community, promote mutual support between blacks and whites, and reject social antagonism. The period of significance is 1909 – 1973 because construction on the church ended in 1909 and historic use of the building as a church and recreational space for the local African American community continued through the early 21st century. Although the church continued to serve the community through 2006, 1973 is the closing date of the period of significance because that is the current historic “50 years ago” cut-off date.

Shiloh Baptist Church is also significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of Late Victorian/Romanesque Revival style as applied to an early 20th century African American Baptist church. In addition to its social and religious significance, Shiloh is one of the last remaining examples of Romanesque Revival style architecture in Alexandria, contributing to the character of the downtown area that represents Alexandria's original town boundaries. The brick masonry used in its construction and restrained, yet monumental Romanesque style are congruous with urban African American churches of this period, as many were outgrowing the one-room wood frame churches in which they started in the late 1800s after moving from plantations to begin new lives as free Americans. The architect of the church was J. D. Bragg, a local architect, who also designed the Sherman Cook house in Alexandria. The contractor, A. J. Toussaint, was a famous local brick mason of Cuban and Moroccan descent, who built several other prominent historic structures in Alexandria, including St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The period of significance is 1909, the year construction on the church ended.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile inquired about the future plans of the building. Ms. Mason explained that the building will be turned into a museum. Mr. Carwile made suggestions to improve the architectural description of the building.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Brian Davis spoke in support of the nomination.

Fallon Aidoo then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Dr. Rebecca Saunders seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jones Creek Rosenwald School, Washington Parish

Presented by Brian Davis, Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation

The Jones Creek Rosenwald School is a former school constructed in 1923-34 as the “Three Teacher” type of Rosenwald school built to serve the surrounding African American community around Varnado in Washington Parish, Louisiana. The school was constructed to the east of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and over time, additional buildings were constructed on the site. By 1954, there was a second building on the site, east of the Rosenwald School. Within five years, in 1959, all five buildings that are extant today were in place. Known as the Jones Creek School from 1923 through 1969, the school was renamed Varnado Elementary School when it was desegregated and operated as such through 2010. The property has been vacant since then and while the building is not in use, it still retains integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Jones Creek Rosenwald School, constructed in 1923-24, is significant on the local level under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage and Education for the role it played in educating the African American students in this section of Washington Parish. It is also significant on the state level under Criterion C: Architecture as a prime example of the Rosenwald Community School Plan: Three Teacher Type school building. It has direct associations with the historic contexts defined in the Rosenwald Schools in Louisiana, 1917-1932 Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). It meets the registration requirements of the Rosenwald School Property Type, particularly Subtype II: Community School Plans found in Section F of the MPDF. The Jones Creek School is eligible under Criterion A and C as it retains many original design features, materials, and examples of craftsmanship used on the Rosenwald Community school plans. The period of significance under Criterion A is 1923-1969 encompassing the years that the school educated only African American students. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1923-24, encompassing the years that the school was constructed.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile asked what the future plans for the school are. Mr. Davis explained that a member of the community proposed the purchase and rehabilitation of the school to the school board at their last meeting to create a functional community space. Mr. Carwile offered suggestions to improve the architectural description of the building.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. No comments were made.

John Sykes then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Peggy Lowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hammond High School, Tangipahoa Parish

Presented by Beth Jacob, nomination preparer

The Hammond High School Gymnasium occupies the 300 block of West Morris Avenue and is bounded by South Magnolia Street to the east, Edwin Neill Way to the south, and South Pine Street to the west. Constructed in 1930 as an addition to Hammond High School, the gymnasium served as a recreational center for students as well as a community-wide venue for a variety of sporting and cultural events. The main school (now demolished except for two extant one-story wings) was built in 1924 in response to increased student enrollment in the parish. The dedicated gymnasium was added in 1930. In 1949, a U-shaped one-story classroom and stage addition wrapping the gymnasium’s west, north and east sides was built to meet the school’s continued expansion needs. The gymnasium has a steel-framed long-span curved roof and is clad in brick. It is adjacent on the north side to the remaining one-story brick wings of the school, accessible via a covered breezeway. The gymnasium’s Classical Revival style, which incorporates Beaux Arts influences, was commonly used for institutional buildings in the 1920s. The gymnasium portion is currently unoccupied, while the 1949 addition and 1924 wings are used as a daycare and salon training center. The property consists of

three interconnected resources: the 1930 gymnasium building with its 1949 historic addition; the remaining east wing of the 1924 school; and the remaining west wing of the 1924 school. The primary gymnasium and the smaller secondary school wings all retain sufficient integrity to communicate the property's historic and architectural significance.

The 1930 Hammond High School Gymnasium is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Entertainment/Recreation for its role within the city's school system and for its importance to the surrounding community which utilized the gymnasium for a variety of events. It was the first purpose-built gymnasium constructed for the growing Hammond school district during the first half of the twentieth century. In addition to hosting events for the high school itself, the gym also hosted events for nearby Southeastern Louisiana University as well as recitals, concerts, and meetings for the general public. Even after the high school moved to a new campus in 1969 and the former school building was later demolished in 1976, with the exception of the two extant c.1924 wings, the gymnasium remained in use. In addition to its historic significance, the gym is also locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture, as a prime example of the Classical Revival/Beaux Arts style within Hammond. The period of significance under Criterion A is 1924-1973, beginning with the construction date of the extant school wings and ending at the current fifty-year cut-off. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1930, the year the gymnasium was constructed.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. John Sykes asked for clarification on the period of significance and the 50 year guideline. Guy Carwile asked about the future plans for the building. Mr. Carwile made suggestions to improve the architectural description of the building. Fallon Aidoo asked for clarification on the influences which led to the chosen architectural style of the building. Martha Salomon asked if the cracking in the exterior façade would be addressed in the rehabilitation project.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Dixon Jelich of Williams Architects explained the tax credit rehabilitation project to create a cosmetology school in the building. Mr. Jelich also addressed Ms. Salomons questions that the cracked façade will be part of the rehabilitation effort.

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

#### Saint Claude General Hospital, Orleans Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, nomination preparer

St. Claude General Hospital, 3419 St. Claude Avenue, is a small former community hospital that occupies most of a city block bounded by St. Claude Avenue, Gallier Street, Marais Street, and Desire Street in the Bywater neighborhood of New Orleans, Louisiana. It is located in the Bywater National Register Historic District but dates outside the district's period of significance. Constructed between 1971 and 1973, the hospital provided general medical services to the surrounding community until the hospital's closure in 2005. It fronts on St. Claude Avenue, a busy four-lane thoroughfare characterized by a mix of modest historic residences and low-rise commercial structures, with densely developed residential streets to the avenue's north and south. The four-story building, designed by Richard Mouledous and Associates, is constructed of reinforced concrete and faced with brick on the first floor and smooth stucco on the upper floors. It has a rectangular footprint and a flat roof with a monumental form and massing. The building's style is consistent with the modernist trends of the 1960s and 1970s, particularly elements of the Brutalist style such as a monochromatic palette, rough heavy exterior, and distinctive window enframements. The hospital was converted into an assisted living facility in 2006 and has been vacant since 2013. It includes one non-contributing electrical building as noted on Map 2. This building does not contribute to the health/medicine area of significance. Despite interior alterations and vandalism, St. Claude General Hospital retains integrity to communicate its historic significance as part of a city-wide hospital building boom and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register.

St. Claude General is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Health/Medicine for its association with an unprecedented hospital building boom that occurred in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area from 1965-1975, when major population increases, advances in medical treatment, and the implementation of the

Medicare program led to a citywide crisis of hospital bed shortages. Following studies and extensive press coverage, private and public hospitals invested \$100 million to expand, renovate, or build new facilities, transforming the landscape of New Orleans' healthcare system. The 130-bed, privately owned St. Claude General Hospital, which was formally announced in 1968 and constructed in 1971-1973, replaced D'Inganni Medical Foundation, an overcrowded, 35-bed hospital that had operated in a nearby converted residence since 1948. It was determined that this downriver section of the city, where an estimated 40 percent of the city's population lived at the time, was "badly in need of a new hospital" since the nearest major hospital, Charity Hospital, was three miles away. The new St. Claude General Hospital also served parts of neighboring St. Bernard Parish. The period of significance is 1971-1973, encompassing the years that the building was constructed through the 50-year cut-off.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile asked what the future plans are for the building. Ms. Richardson read a letter from the owner explaining that the rehabilitation project will result in a new hotel for the New Orleans area. Mr. Carwile suggested improvements for the architectural description of the building regarding the building's style. Fallon Aidoo asked for clarification on how the building has responded to flooding over the years. Ms. Richardson explained that flooding has not been a concern for the building and the building has maintained constant occupancy up until its closure in 2016.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Kelly Wittie of Row10 spoke in support of the nomination.

Fallon Aidoo then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Matthew Savage seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Towles Musso House, Iberville Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, nomination preparer

The Towles-Musso House is located on a point along the east bank of the Mississippi River known historically as Plaquemine Point in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. The house, constructed c. 1830, is a classic French Creole plantation house exhibiting many characteristics of the style. The two-story house is clad in wood clapboard and brick on the first floor and stucco clad brick on the second floor. Situated on a 4-acre lot with large live oaks at the front of the property and other trees surrounding the boundaries of the property, the property also includes a c. 1815 doctor's office (then farm worker housing), now used as storage, a c. 1989 storage shed, and a 1989 barn with living quarters. Of these, the main house and the doctor's office are contributing for their architectural characteristics. The storage shed and barn are non-contributing due to their age. The house was originally set just a few feet off River Road due to the moving of the Mississippi River levee in the 1860s. In 2018, the house was moved about 150 feet back on the property as part of a state-certified rehabilitation project to help further preserve the house as there have been automobile accidents that have threatened the house. Sometime prior to 1953, the house was altered with the removal of the second-floor gallery on the façade, shortening of the two central openings on the second floor from doors to windows, and alteration of the four columns on the façade to four two-story height brick columns. During the 2018 rehabilitation of the house, the original façade features were rebuilt utilizing historic photographs. As there are only a few homes of this type in existence in Iberville Parish and it retains historic integrity, the Towles-Musso House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Towles-Musso House is locally significant under Criterion A: History as a surviving example of Iberville Parish's 19th century sugar plantation. The period of significance under Criterion C: Architecture as a rare and important example of the Creole architectural style. Its period of significance is 1830, its estimated date of construction. As one of three Creole architecture houses in the parish (both other examples are listed on the National Register), the Towles-Musso House is a prime example of the style retaining many original details including a full width gallery on the façade, chamfered second floor columns, French doors, a brick first floor, interior brick floors, wraparound fireplaces on the second floor, exposed interior ceiling beams, an asymmetrical plan, and an exterior staircase. The Towles-Musso House is eligible for listing on the National Register as its setting embodies what was once common all along the east bank of the Mississippi River in Iberville Parish and embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Creole architectural style.



Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile spoke in support of the rehabilitation effort that took place in rebuilding the double gallery porch. He also suggested clarifying the Creole style in the nomination to differentiate it from Creole styles found in New Orleans. Peggy Lowe questioned why the area of significance for medicine was not chosen. Ms. Richardson explained that there were limited sources available to support the argument necessary for the nomination. The committee discussed the architectural changes that occurred over time and how that affects the building's integrity. Fallon Aidoo asked how the setting has been changed with the building's move further back on the property and how other ancillary structures were affected. Ms. Richardson explained that there were no other confirmed ancillary buildings on the property. Mr. Flucker asked for clarification that the nomination will only be considered under Criterion C for architecture.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. The owner voiced their support of the nomination.

Rebecca Saunders then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and John Sykes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Travelodge Motel, Lafayette Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, nomination preparer

Located at 1101 Pinhook Road in Lafayette, the Travelodge Motel was built in 1963 in the midcentury style to serve businesspeople and guests visiting the nearby bustling Oil Center and the growing suburban area in south Lafayette. The motel sits at the northeast corner of West Pinhook Road and Audubon Boulevard directly across Pinhook from the Oil Center. The building has an L shape with a parking lot on the south and western sides. There is a restaurant/barber shop in the parking lot that was built separately from the hotel itself. The property also has a pool area with a concrete block fence around it. In 1995, all of the original mid-century details, including the flat and chevron roof, the original metal railings, and concrete block screens, were covered with stucco panels. In 2022, these panels were removed revealing that all of the original architectural features remain. The only major alterations of note are in the interiors of the hotel rooms with updated carpeting and wall finished. Original Travelodge tiles with the teddy bear logo remain in the bathrooms. This distinctively mid-century motel with pool retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Travelodge Motel is significant on the local level under Criterion C: Architecture, as an excellent representation of a mid-century modern hotel complex. Furthermore, it is also eligible under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development for its relation to the nearby Oil Center and suburban development of south Lafayette. The hotel was purposefully planned in reaction to the success of the Oil Center and as a way to serve the businesspeople and other guests that were coming to the area. While there were two other hotels in the area, one was demolished by 1976 and the other was demolished in 2004, leaving the Travelodge Motel as the only remaining hotel related to the heyday of the Oil Center. The motel retains a high degree of architectural integrity and has a period of significance of 1963-1974, reflecting the years it was built as well as the years it served the Oil Center by providing a place for Oil Center guests to stay within walking distance.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Rebecca Saunders asked how it was known that the chevron façade was underneath the 90s stucco façade. James Rolf of Rolf Preservation works clarified that the chevron overhang could still be seen from the roof before demolition occurred. Guy Carwile offered suggestions to improve the architectural description of the building. Fallon Aidoo explained the similarities between international modernism.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Kelly Wittie read a letter of support from the Lafayette Consolidated Government.

Turry Flucker then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Ava Alltmont seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Baton Rouge Main Library, East Baton Rouge Parish  
Presented by Faye Phillips, nomination preparer

Located within the Certified Local Government (CLG) designated area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana at 700 Laurel Street, this building was the first freestanding and government supported public library in Baton Rouge. It was built in 1939 with city funding and Federal Works Progress Administration funding in the WPA Modern/Art Deco style which is reflected on the limestone exterior and in the interior. The building was erected by local workers under the supervision of Architect Louis A. Grotz, foundation contractor L. W. Eaton, and builder Pittman Brothers' Construction of New Orleans. The two story, flat roof building has a basement under the entire ground main level. The seventy-five feet deep (west to east) and ninety-five feet wide (north to south), thirty foot tall building sits in the northwest corner of the block of Laurel Street, North 7th Street, 9th Street and Florida Bld., on a lot originally measuring 116 feet on North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, by 222.4 feet on Laurel Street (currently 195.4 feet). In 1989, 27 feet on the east side of the lot was given by the City of Baton Rouge to the Federal government for a service drive to the Russell B. Long Federal Building and Courthouse which opened in 1993 in the middle of the block spanning north to south. This block was the former site of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, 1832-1917. The only remaining Penitentiary building is the 1830 Warden's House north across Laurel Street, a National Register building. The historic, and National Register, three story Art Deco (WPA modern style) United States Post Office and Courthouse opened in 1934 at the southwest corner of the block and it is significant that the Art Deco library building was positioned adjacent. Necessitated by the growing population, from 14,897 in 1910 to 34,719 in 1940, the new Art Deco post office/courthouse at Florida and North 7th Streets, was situated in a convenient and very accessible location to the citizens of the city and the parish. Locating the Art Deco East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library at the corner of Laurel and North 7th streets afforded it the same convenience and accessibility. Those familiar with the United Daughters of the Confederacy's volunteer library at the former courthouse/post office building at 4th St. and North Blvd., impatiently waited for an East Baton Rouge Parish public library, as shown by newspaper comments. Families unaware of public library services would be introduced through the library building that they passed on their way to and from the post office. Citizens were aided by the vital services of post office, courthouse and library being physically located together.

Seven Hundred Laurel Street has had only two long-term occupants. From 1939 until 1978 it was the library for East Baton Rouge Parish. In 1982 it became the headquarters of the Capital Area United Way. The original, contributing elements of the Art Deco exterior features and interior features remain. The building is in fair condition. As one of only "six examples of Art Deco architecture from the 1930s in downtown Baton Rouge: the Kress building, the State Capitol and State Capitol Annex, a small former library building (700 Laurel Street), the Federal Building, and a neo-classical bank with an Art Deco interior," the 700 Laurel Street, East Baton Rouge Parish library building retains a high degree of integrity and is a legitimate candidate for a National Register listing of architectural integrity and significance. The building and the "Old Downtown Library site," remain the property of the East Baton Rouge City/Parish government and are leased to the Capital Area United Way.

Art Deco architecture in public buildings was first introduced to Baton Rouge with the completion of the "new" State Capitol. "The Louisiana Capitol is an excellent example of the combination of a greatly simplified classicism with Art Deco details which were in vogue for monumental buildings in the late 1920's." The East Baton Rouge Parish Library was only the fourth Art Deco public building constructed in Baton Rouge, at the Northwest corner of Laurel and North 7th Streets. It was significantly positioned adjacent to the easily accessible Art Deco U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, built in 1932. Its significance as an educational institution is part of the social history "public library movement" which began in Louisiana in the 1920s. On July 8, 1920, Act 225 of the Louisiana Civil Code authorized the Louisiana Library Commission. Until 1978 when it closed as a library, the East Baton Rouge Library held its position as an educational leader in the community. In 1982 the Capital Area United Way, an affiliate of the United Way, an international network of local nonprofit fundraising affiliates, rented the building. From its headquarters in the East Baton Rouge Parish Library building, Capital Area United Way provides community assistance services throughout ten parishes (counties).

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile offered suggestions to improve the architectural description of the building. He also confirmed that the building will remain in use by the Capital Area United Way group. Turry Flucker confirmed that the nomination is for Criterion C architecture and Criterion A for Education and Social History. Ms. Phillips also explained that it was the only library in the area for a time with public accessibility for all. Rebecca Saunders explained her familiarity with the children's section located in the basement of public libraries during this time period.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Amy with Capital Area United Way explained their plans for renovations to the building and her support in recognizing the building's historic significance.

Guy Carwile then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Martha Salomon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Old South Baton Rouge Historic District, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Kelly Sellers Wittie and Brittany Marshall, nomination preparers

Old South Baton Rouge occupies the roughly 400 acres south of downtown Baton Rouge and north of West Roosevelt Street, generally east of Highland Road and west of Interstate 10/Buchanan Elementary School. The area once was known as "South Baton Rouge," as it was south of downtown and the southern boundary of the original city. It gained the "Old" moniker as the city of Baton Rouge expanded south of Louisiana State University. Today, Interstate 10 forms the northern and eastern boundaries of the community, but South Baton Rouge once was a singular and thriving neighborhood that extended from the Mississippi River east to approximately Park Boulevard/City park Lake/Dalrymple Drive and south as far as Chimes Street (now within the campus of Louisiana State University). The construction of Interstate 10 in the 1950s/60s bisected the neighborhood and the expansion of Louisiana State University in the late 20th century has replaced once-residential streets with dorms and classroom buildings. Despite these pressures, the core of Old South Baton Rouge remains intact and reflects the neighborhood's working-class roots.

Old South Baton Rouge was developed on land that once was part of Magnolia Plantation. Baton Rouge mayor Robert A. Hart purchased 800 acres of the former plantation in 1898 and over the next three decades sold all but 75 acres to developers. In the early 1900s, many of the area's homes were owned Black laborers that worked at the factories and docks along the Mississippi River. Planned residential subdivisions flourished from the 1890s through 1960s resulting in at least fourteen distinct subdivisions with a commercial/professional thoroughfare (East Boulevard, today known as Thomas H. Delpit Drive, with numerous community touchstones such as churches and schools. The area is primarily residential but also has businesses, churches, and schools mixed in throughout the area. The district includes nearly 1,400 residences (n=1383), though some former residences have been converted to stores, offices, or community gathering spaces. Residences are generally modest, most a form of a shotgun, bungalow, or ranch. In keeping with the working-class character of the residents, few residences display high-style ornamentation, though Craftsman features such as exposed rafter tails and tapered columns and Victorian elements such as brackets are common. Wood, brick, and vinyl are the most common sidings, and most of the foundations are today concrete piers. Several small churches of various denominations are scattered throughout the neighborhood. Neighborhood children today attend schools constructed in the 1960s, but the hallmark of the neighborhood is the former McKinley High School, Louisiana's first brick high school for African American students. It was constructed in 1926 and today is used as a community center. The former McKinley HS is the largest and most elaborately styled building in Old South Baton Rouge. Despite the pressures on the geographic boundaries of the neighborhood and the demolition of several neighborhood buildings, the community identity associated with the former McKinley HS and the surrounding built environment define an intact neighborhood that retains integrity.

The Old South Baton Rouge ("OSBR") Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: Black and European and Community Planning and Development and Social History at the local level. The district is significant as an example of a successful and self-sustaining multicultural

neighborhood in the early to mid-20th century, and its affiliations with the Civil Rights Movement. Between 1890 and 1920, the population and the economy of the neighborhood boomed with the establishment of neighborhoods, businesses, churches, and segregated schools. Between the 1920s and 1940s, segregation intensified throughout Baton Rouge, with South Baton Rouge labeled as predominantly Black, the newer subdivisions on the edges of the district were predominantly White, with a small number of mixed neighborhoods, including a small area populated by Italians. Due to the self-contained nature of the district, OSBR was mostly unaffected by the Depression and Black businesses flourished. Because of how successful their businesses were, Baton Rouge's black middle class had a stronger ability to negotiate with local government. From the 1940s through the 1960s, the district was instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement in Baton Rouge, including the earliest successful bus boycott in the country in 1953. In 1958 construction began on the expansion of Interstate 10 to the east and north of the district, cutting through the district and necessitated that hundreds of homes be demolished and many residents left OSBR. The period of significance begins in 1890 and ends in 1968 and covers early development of the area through the completion of Interstate 10 through the neighborhood.

Although not formally listed in the National Register, as part of a consultation effort in 2018 pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 306108 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the OSBR Survey Area was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage for African American and Italian American lifeways.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Committee members expressed suggestions to extend the period of significance to 1974 and include additional information about the 1960s and East Blvd. John Sykes suggested a change to the Magnolia Mound image within the nomination packet and requested clarification on the sale of the Magnolia Mound Plantation lots.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Gennie Graham of the Old South Baton Rouge Economic Redevelopment Group and resident of Old South Baton Rouge voiced her support for the nomination.

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

#### Kean's Apartment Building, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, nomination preparer

Constructed in 1934, the Kean's Apartment Building in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, has been an important architectural and historical landmark for the community in and around Louisiana State University (LSU) for almost a century. This three-story Art Deco apartment building, with an early 1960's one story commercial addition at the facade, is a prime example of its architectural style within the city of Baton Rouge. Designed by the local architecture firm of Bodman and Murrell, the building is located across Chimes Street from the LSU Campus in the historic North Gates district (also known as Tiger Town). The only alteration to the building is the addition of the one-story commercial section at the front. The rest of the interior and exterior of the building retains of its historic integrity and it would be easily recognizable to former residents of the building as well as former LSU students and staff who frequented the business establishments of Tiger Town ever since LSU moved to its new campus in 1926.

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of the building as well as former LSU students and staff who frequented the business establishments of Tiger Town ever since LSU moved to its new campus in 1926.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Discussions regarding the boundary, architectural style, and inclusion of reconstructed gates occurred.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. No comments were made.

Turkey Flucker then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Matthew Savage seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Closing Announcements:

Ms. Hall announced that the next National Register Review Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024. Ms. Hall reminded committee members of the required trainings due by September 30<sup>th</sup>. An announcement regarding potential training for committee members from the National Park Service was made as well. Ms. Hall announced the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation Conference will be April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> with committee members and members of the public welcome to attend. There will be several staff members from the Division of Historic Preservation offering training sessions at the conference. A request for recommendations to fill the vacant seat on the committee was made as well.

Adjournment: 2:57 PM