

**NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 3, 2023 - 11:00 AM**  
**State Library of Louisiana**  
**701 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Dr. Robert Carriker called the August 3, 2023, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:13 AM. In addition to Dr. Carriker, members present included Ava Allmont, Turry Flucker, Brian McGowan, Dr. Matthew Savage, and John Sykes.

Dr. Carriker then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Brian McGowan so moved, and Ava Allmont 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), Karen McKinney (Tax Credit Reviewer), and Kristin Sanders (SHPO).

Dr. Carriker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May's meeting. Brian McGowan so moved, and Ava Allmont seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1661 Canal Street, Orleans Parish

Presented by Beth Jacobs, nomination preparer

Canal Ford, the three-story former Ford dealership and service center located at 1661 Canal Street, sits on the northern edge of New Orleans' central business district. The building occupies just over one-half of a city block, with frontage on Canal Street, North Claiborne Avenue, and Iberville Street. Completed in 1968, the building was designed in the Brutalist style by the noted Louisiana architectural firm of Curtis and Davis. The building's style is manifested most clearly in the screen of closely-spaced vertical concrete channels that wrap the upper floors on street-facing elevations. These vertical fins—undoubtedly the building's most distinctive and prominent architectural feature—remain remarkably intact. While the building's conversion to offices in 1982 involved a reconfiguration of interior spaces as well as some changes to exterior elevations, the alterations did not impact the building's overall Brutalist expression. The building remains an excellent example of Brutalist architecture in New Orleans.

Canal Ford, at 1661 Canal Street, is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent local example of Brutalism, an architectural style with limited representation in New Orleans. While Brutalism began to appear in the city in the late-1960s, it was most often associated with civic and institutional buildings. Local Modernist architects Curtis and Davis adapted the style for their commission for Ford, resulting in a bold, eye-catching, and unique design for an automobile dealership. The modern multi-story building stood out from its competition. Built at a time when many local automobile dealers were opting for sprawling one-story buildings on suburban sites, the Ford Motor Company's decision to build a three-story downtown sales and service center was remarkable. It represented an optimistic investment in downtown New Orleans and the upper Canal Street corridor, an area that was being rapidly transformed by the construction of a new interstate (the Claiborne Avenue Expressway), new office buildings, and urban renewal efforts that favored large-scale development. The building meets the registration requirements of "Non-Residential Mid-Century Modern Architecture in New Orleans, 1935-1975" Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). The period of significance is 1968, the year the building was completed and opened to the public.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Dr. Matthew Savage inquired about the future use of the buildings. Architect, Walter Antin spoke about the plans to convert the building into a hotel with a ten year lease plan. He spoke on the economic opportunities this rehabilitation would provide the area and informed the committee that the individual listing is necessary to fund the project. Brian McGowan asked

what was demolished in order to construct this building and what role did this building play in urban renewal and displacement. Beth Jacobs explained that this area had already lost a large portion of its residential use and became primarily commercial prior to the construction of this building. Turry Flucker inquired about how the original auto dealership functioned in relation to the areas infrastructure. Ms. Jacobs explained that the building was geared completely towards those with vehicles with access to drive your car directly into the building for access to the parking garage before proceeding to the service areas or office spaces. Dr. Matthew Savage asked how the original characteristics of the building are being maintained in the proposed hotel rehabilitation. Ms. Jacobs explained that the character defining features of the building would be maintained and similar tax credit projects have been consulted in the development of the new architectural plans. The architect explained that the new plans are a retrofit to the original floorplan of the building.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comment. Ariana, architectural partner of Mr. Antin, spoke on the economic development opportunities this project would open for the community, as well as mentioning other projects they have rehabilitated.

Ava Allmont then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Dr. Matthew Savage seconded. The motion passed with one opposition from Turry Flucker.

### Castle Family House, Orleans Parish

Presented by Robin Smith, nomination preparer

The Castle Family House at 917-919 North Tonti Street in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana is locally and nationally eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black, due to the vital role that the Castle family and their house played in the civil rights movement. The house is a single story, rectilinear, two bay, double shotgun in the Craftsman style. The home is a wood framed structure with an integrated front porch, raised on masonry piers, covered by a gabled roof. The porch is framed by three masonry pedestals each topped by two tapered wooden columns extending to the roof line of the porch. The house at one point had a metal awning on the façade which was not original and has been removed. Other than the removal of the awning, and an updated bathroom on the 919 side, the house is substantially the same as during the Castle Family's residency. The house sits on a rectangular lot that measures 33' x 125'. There is a non-contributing outbuilding at the rear of the property approximately 15 feet from the house, which is the width of the property and extends to the rear lot line. The house is set within the city of New Orleans' Tremé local historic district boundaries. The house is also situated within the Esplanade Ridge National Historic District. The Castle family were deeply involved in both the local and national civil rights movement of the late fifties and early sixties. Their house was the birthplace of the New Orleans Congress on Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.). Throughout this period the Castle House remained a refuge and safe house for participants in the Civil Rights movement from all over the country. Despite superficial alterations like window changes and removal of the awning, the property remains eligible for National Register listing.

The Castle Family House is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black due to the role of the Castle family and their house in the local and national civil rights movement. The Castle family includes the patriarch and matriarch Johnnie and Virgie Castle, and their daughters Oretha Castle Haley and Doris Jean Castle. The Castle Family House served as headquarters, meeting place, and safe house for local and national civil rights leaders. It is where the New Orleans Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded in 1960. The Castle Family House functioned as a general meeting house and community hub for civil rights work through 1964. Oretha Castle Haley served as the President of CORE from 1961-1964. The period of significance, 1960-1964, encompasses the period in which the Castle Family House was used as a place to plan sit-ins and boycotts against segregated business in New Orleans; when it was the site of the founding of CORE New Orleans as well as the regular meeting house for its membership; and the time during which the house was most actively used to feed and shelter participants in the local and national civil rights movement, including the 1961 Freedom Rides. In 1964 Oretha Castle relinquished her role as CORE president and moved out of Orleans Parish. While there is oral history indicating that the Castle house continued to play an important role in the civil rights movement through 1967, documentation is most clear for

the period beginning in 1960 and ending in 1964. Oretta Castle Haley's impact on the civil rights movement has been recognized by the city of New Orleans which renamed a section of Dryades Street in her honor. The efforts of New Orleans civil rights activists ultimately helped push the nation toward desegregation one painful step at a time. Recognition of the role of the Castle Family and their home in the pursuit of civil rights will allow the house to stand again as it did in the 1960s, as a source of education and community connection, and will elucidate the Castle family's and of the City of New Orleans' vital role in the National Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Brian McGowan asked what the current and future use of the property is. Ms. Smith explained that the property is currently a private residence and deferred to the owner in the audience to answer that question. Ava Allmont requested a map showing the location of the property in the city.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Candice Hendersen, owner, explained that the house is in use as a residence but it has been opened for public use. Her work on the property has brought it back to its original use as a meeting place and safe house. The future of the property will include creating a museum. Nathan Lott, with the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, spoke in support of the owner's efforts and the importance of recognizing the history of this property.

Turry Flucker then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Ava Allmont 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.

#### St John Cathedral Boundary Increase, Lafayette Parish

Presented by Kristi Guillory Munzing, nomination preparer

The Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist campus is located on Saint John Street in downtown Lafayette in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. The Saint John the Evangelist church campus consists of a Cathedral, L'Évêché (the rectory), the Cathedral Center (parish offices) and the Cemetery on approximately 10.5 acres. The Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist was constructed in 1916 in the Romanesque Revival stylistically popular in Germany and the Netherlands. L'Évêché, formerly called the bishop's residence, was constructed in 1921 commemorating the Centennial of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist. L'Évêché is an Italianate building. The Cathedral Center is connected to the Cathedral church across the natural stone plaza. This building, formerly known as the Chancery, is a 1964 post-modern office building. The Cemetery is the oldest in the city of Lafayette. The Cathedral, L'Évêché, St. John's Cemetery (placed on the National Historic Register in 1977), and the Cathedral Center, a new nomination, all have a high degree of architectural integrity. All buildings under consideration have undergone minor renovations and none that have dramatically altered the architectural integrity of each. When the post-modern, Cathedral Center was added in 1964, a plaza was built to connect the two buildings to the cemetery. Further, the Chancery building connects to L'Évêché by a raised hallway. This boundary increase adds the 1964 Cathedral Center on the south side of the property. It also increases in the northeast corner to incorporate an oak tree, locally called Saint John's Oak, (photo 1) considered a significant part of the historic setting.

The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its important examples of Romanesque Revival (Cathedral, Bishop's Residence) and Postmodernism (Chancery Building). The columns, rounded windows, octagonal turrets, and decorative brick dentil molding are typical of Romanesque churches in the Netherlands. The campus is already listed at the local level under Criterion C based on the architectural significance of the Cathedral and Bishop's Residence; this nomination adds the 1964 Chancery Building (now called Cathedral Center) for architectural significance as an early postmodern building. The period of significance begins in 1821, the year of the earliest burial in the cemetery, and ends in 1964, the year the Chancery Building (now Cathedral Center) was constructed.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. John Sykes asked for clarification on Ms. Munzing's role with the church as the tourism coordinator. Dr. Carriker asked why the church would like to see a boundary increase. Ms. Munzing explained that increasing the boundary would open opportunities for grants to help restore and maintain the chancery building. Turry Flucker asked what additional historic context would be provided to explain the significance of the chancery building and why it should be included. Ms. Munzing explained that this nomination is merely for architecture and not for the history of the church. Dr. Carriker asked for clarification on which buildings have been included. A map was provided and Ms. Munzing identified which buildings on the map were included. John Sykes inquired about what the land was used for prior to the construction of the church, the answer is unknown.

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

John Sykes then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Dr. Matthew Savage seconded. The motion passed with one opposition from Turry Flucker.

Freetown Lil' Brooklyn, Iberia Parish  
Presented by Bailey Hall

The Freetown-Lil' Brooklyn Historic District is a residential neighborhood that spans approximately 15.8 acres on the east bank of the Bayou Teche in New Iberia, Louisiana. The boundary of the neighborhood comprises only the northeastern sections of Rosier Street, Johnson Alley, and (partially) Hortense Street (all dead-end streets). These northeastern sections connected to Freetown-Lil' Brooklyn embodying both a distinct approach to community development by African Americans in early Twentieth Century Louisiana, and the racially discriminating practices of the Twentieth Century creating an ethnic enclave surrounded by white-only subdivisions. The earliest residential building (commonly referred to as the Fontenette House) in Freetown-Lil' Brooklyn traces its early history to the 1890s, and the neighborhood continued to develop from small family-led farmsteads into a predominantly working-class neighborhood beginning in the 1920s. The development patterns of the neighborhood often followed the purchasing of land by individuals or family members, the subsequent subdividing of lots as inheritance, and the construction of single-family, wood-frame dwellings. Many of the early residents of the neighborhood owned their residences or rented from various property owners. It is important to also note, that all the contributing buildings were designed and constructed by various individuals and their family members and portray an eclectic array of vernacular styles spanning the 1920s to the early 1970s influenced by Craftsman, Ranch, and Minimal Tradition architectural movements. Material used to construct the residential buildings range from wood siding to more contemporary alterations of aluminum siding. Despite the demolition and alteration of various properties over the decades, the historic integrity, built environment, and community-oriented identity that has defined Freetown-Lil' Brooklyn as a distinct neighborhood in New Iberia remains intact.

The Freetown-Lil' Brooklyn Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A (Ethnic Heritage Black, and Social History) because it intertwines a social and physical development of a neighborhood by African Americans following the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction in New Iberia, Louisiana. The period of significance is sixty-four years beginning in 1906 and includes the impact of Jim Crow on the built environment, the spreading of Jazz into southwest Louisiana in the 1920s, challenging anti-Black policies in the 1940s, and the rise of newer of Black musical expression in the 1960s. The district has been home for countless generations of families and several figures, both locally and nationally renowned, including Gus Fontenette & the Banner Band, Dr. Viola Johnson Coleman, and Soko Richardson of the Ike & Tina Turner Revue.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Turry Flucker asked who currently occupies the area. Bailey explained that the neighborhood is still owned by the several generations of families that originated there and referred to a home owner in the audience for further comment.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Mr. Jake Durrall, a current resident of the neighborhood spoke on the neighborhood's history and the influential figures who lived there including musicians, doctors, and lawyers.

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

Mooringsport Masonic Lodge, Caddo Parish  
Presented by Bailey Hall

The single building stands on a bluff, with the rear of the building overlooking scenic Caddo Lake to the north with the property extending to the lake's bank. The property is a rather narrow rectangular lot that runs north/south in length, with the front of the building facing south towards West Croom Street, the "Main Street" of the village's remaining business district. The Mooringsport Masonic Lodge is a two-story brick religious, fraternal, and social facility that was built in 1916 for the local Brotherhood of Freemasons Lodge No. 342 F. & A.M. and the Lakeside Order of the Eastern Star No. 97 for Mooringsport and the neighboring communities of Hoss Mills, Longwood, and Oil City. The Early Classical Revival styled building stands on the edge of what was once the commercial/business district of the small community of Mooringsport, located on the south shore of Caddo Lake. Despite a few alterations, such as replaced front and rear entrance doors, and slate composite roof, the lodge retains most of its historic appearance to convey its significance as a structural advancement and one of the first professionally designed masonry constructed commercial structures in the town's downtown business district. The building was designed by nationally renowned architect Edward F. Neild, Sr. from Shreveport, who was later hired by President Truman to oversee the restoration of the White House. Neild also designed the Truman Presidential Library and Museum in Independence, MO. During his long career, he designed many surviving structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places as architecturally significant.

The Mooringsport Masonic Lodge is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion C as a locally significant example of the Early Classical Revival style in Mooringsport. Since its construction in 1916, the building has been an iconic property in north Caddo Parish due to its grandeur, which far exceeds other structures in the area and is the only example of Early Classical Revival in Mooringsport. With the building standing on a bluff overlooking the bank of Caddo Lake, it has also served as a beacon to maritime traffic. It was designed by Louisiana native architect Edward F. Neild, Sr. to function as a social meeting hall for the local Brotherhood of Freemasons and Order of the Eastern Star fraternal organizations. The building is an excellent example of Early Classical Revival architecture and represents one of Edward F. Neild, Sr's earlier works during his fifty-year career. Due to minimum alterations, the integrity level of this 107-year-old building is exceptionally high. The period of significance for the Mooringsport Masonic Lodge under Criterion C begins in 1916 with the completion of the building. The building has continually served as the focal point for significant activities for the Mooringsport and Oil City Masons and Eastern Stars, the period of significance extends to 1973, the 50-year threshold for National Register properties.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. John Sykes commented that it was interesting that gas was still being used in the building so late in the period. Ava Allmont asked that the original blueprints be included in the nomination as figures.

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

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

Daboval Residence, Acadia Parish  
Presented by Karen McKinney, nomination preparer

The Emile L. Daboval Residence is typical of the Victorian Eastlake/Gingerbread Folk style with a front double gallery and a bay on the left side. The galleries have doors into the house on both floors with turned columns. It is currently occupied as a bed-and-breakfast. It has a two-story portion near the front (street) and a single-story section at the rear. The house consists of four guest suites, parlor, receiving room, laundry, and guest kitchen,

and a separate owner apartment with living, kitchen, dining, bedroom, bathroom, and dressing area. A rear door leads from the owner apartment to the detached garage via a covered walkway. The oldest portion of the house (two-story areas) has halls on both floors and wood bead board wainscots that extend along the wall side of the elaborately detailed wood staircase. Other original details include paneled doors with transoms, wood divided lite windows, wood floors, fireplace mantels, and chandeliers. The house maintains a high level of historic integrity with many original features on both interior and exterior.

The historic Emile L. Daboval, Jr. Residence, circa 1890s, is located in the City of Rayne, Louisiana. It is located on Block 17, bounded by Cunningham Street, Parkerson Street, Louisiana Avenue, and Edwards Street. It is next door to the original Rayne town hall on the north side of Louisiana Avenue and two blocks away from the Rayne Rice Mill. The house faces the railroad tracks that run through the historic downtown. Following the story of the Daboval Residence gives a unique view of the development of a rural city in south-central Louisiana. Over the lifespan of the house, a tiny rural community, primarily focused on agriculture, took advantage of the proximity to the railroad and developed that single asset into a regionally successful city. The combined stories of the Daboval family, Rayne Sanitorium, and Besse Boardinghouse are an important part of the City of Rayne's history and development. The Daboval Residence has survived over a hundred years and retains a high level of historic integrity. It is an example of the Eastlake Victorian/Carpenter Folk style as interpreted by rural prairie communities.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. John Sykes asked what the original nomination criterion was. Ms. McKinney explained that the original nomination was written for criterion B, but that nomination was lacking the argument necessary for listing, however NPS explained that an argument for criterion C should be made.

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

Dr. Matthew Savage then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO, and Ava Allmont seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Closing Announcements:

Ms. Hall announced that the next National Register Review Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Adjournment: 1:31 PM