

Louisiana National Register Review Committee Meeting

April 6, 2017, 1:00pm
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 N. River Rd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

Chairman Lynn Lewis called the April 6, 2017 regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 1:06 p.m. In addition to Mr. Lewis, members present included Martha Saloman, Sue Turner, Dr. Robert Carriker, Peggy Lowe, Dr. Rebecca Saunders, John Sykes and Kelly Rich. Turry Fluker, Dr. Matthew Savage and Tarah Acuri were unable to attend.

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

Nicole Hobson-Morris, Executive Director of the Division of Historic Preservation welcomed the audience and committee members to the meeting and also introduced all Review Committee members present to the audience. Mrs. Hobson-Morris also gave a quick overview of what occurs at the review committee meeting and stated the nomination would then be provided to the Preservation Officer with their recommendation, then forwarded to the Keeper of the Register for a final determination. Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator was not present as she is on maternity leave.

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

Under New Business, 11 new nominations and 4 delisted nominations were presented to the committee.

Oil City School, Caddo Parish

Presented by Tammy Hawks, nomination preparer

The Oil City School is school complex begun in 1925 with the construction of the Oil City High School at the rear of the property and later expanded to include Oil City Elementary at the front of the property in 1929. A gymnasium was added in 1940 and a cafeteria addition was added to the gym in 1949. Both the high and elementary schools were designed by Shreveport architect, Edward F. Neild, Sr. The elementary and high schools (now one school) are two stories and are connected via covered walkways. There is an auditorium projecting out from the elementary school that almost bridges the two buildings. The gym sits between both buildings so that the complex forms a "T" of sorts. There is a large yard in front of the former elementary school building and the original football and baseball field sit behind the high school. There are also tennis courts behind the high school as well. There are six or so temporary buildings constructed for classroom overflow located to the east of the former high school building. These are small in scale and non-contributing due to their contemporary construction. The Oil City School has only had some updates done to it since it was built including replacement windows sometime after 1977, cosmetic updates such as the addition of linoleum floors, and upgrades for central air and heat in 2009. There are also 13 non-contributing resources on the campus; however, all of these are small resources that do not impact the overall historic integrity of the campus. These changes do affect the integrity of materials to a degree, but overall, the Oil City School retains a high degree of integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register.

The Oil City School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its educational history and significance as the only public school in Oil City. The school complex replaced a much smaller earlier complex of four wood frame buildings at a time when across the state, distinctive brick schools were being built as essentially landmarks of education in small towns. It is also eligible under Criterion C: Architecture, as it embodies the characteristics of the Classical Revival style and is the only high style Classical Revival complex in Oil City. The building has been used as a school since it was originally constructed in 1924 and expanded in 1929, 1940, and 1949, and only recently closed in 2015. The period of

significance extends from its initial construction in 1924 through 1967 in compliance with the National Register 50-year guideline.

Mayor James Simms spoke at the end of the presentation and thanked the committee for their consideration of the nomination.

John Sykes moved that the property be recommended to the State Historic Preservation Officer and Kelly Rich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Southern Cotton Oil Mill, Natchitoches Parish
Presented by Gabrielle Begue, nomination preparer

The Southern Cotton Oil Mill, located at 110 Mill Street in Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, is an irregularly shaped industrial site located south of Natchitoches' historic downtown. The site is bordered by Mill Street and Cane River to the east and railroad lines to the west, and consists of 7 contributing buildings: 4 seed houses, a meal and hull house, a machine shop, and a mill office. The buildings range in date from 1945, when the Southern Cotton Oil Company purchased the site and replaced the existing mill, to 1980, when international agricultural processor Archer Daniels Midland purchased the property and constructed the southernmost 2 seed houses (Seed Houses 3 and 4). The mill stayed in operation until 1998. Since c. 2009, it has served as the headquarters of the City of Natchitoches Department of Public Works. Despite the loss of a handful of mill buildings, the property retains a high degree of integrity due to the continuous operation of the site from the WWII period to the end of the 20th century and the City's compatible reuse of the site, and thus it retains eligibility for listing in the National Register.

The Southern Cotton Oil Mill in Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, is significant under Criterion A in the area of industry at the state level for its association with the cottonseed industry in Louisiana. For nearly 200 years, cotton was Louisiana's primary cash crop, and cottonseed was an important component of the state's cotton industry. In the post-World War II period, Louisiana was home to approximately 19 cotton oil mills, most of them located in the central and northern parishes. However, by the end of the 20th century, the Southern Cotton Oil Mill was the last oil mill in operation, and today it is the last substantially intact cotton oil mill site still standing in Louisiana. It is also important as a reflection of the changes that took place in the cottonseed industry in the postwar and late 20th-century periods. The period of significance begins in 1945, when Southern Cotton Oil Company purchased and began rebuilding the mill site, and ends in 1998, when the mill finally ceased production. The period extends beyond the 50-year cut-off because the mill is particularly significant for its continuous operation into the late 20th century, and for its status as the last remaining example of a cotton oil mill in the state supporting the cotton oil industry, thus qualifying the property under Criteria Consideration G.

Mr. Randy LaCaze, Economic Development Director for the City of Natchitoches spoke of how important the site is to the City and also stated they are encouraged by the listing to help promote adaptive reuse of the site and stimulate new business.

Mr. Lewis asked a question about the two 1980s buildings, if in 100 years would anyone be able to differentiate them from the original mill buildings. Gabrielle indicated that National Park Service Review, Mr. Gabbert stated they are identical to the originals, which is why they were determined eligible.

Dr. Carriker moved that the property be recommended to the State Historic Preservation Officer and John Sykes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DeQuincy Colored High School Gym, Calcasieu Parish
Presented by Joseph Eaglin, nomination preparer

The DeQuincy Colored High School Gym is a brick building located at 502 South Grand Avenue in DeQuincy, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The gym was built in 1950 and sits on a concrete foundation and has a flat metal roof. It is a typical mid-century gymnasium and features large metal framed windows at the second level overlooking the main basketball court space. The building also includes locker rooms, a small stage, an office,

and a small kitchen. It sits on the site of the former DeQuincy Colored High School (later renamed Grand Avenue High School in 1957), which was demolished in 1990. Behind the gym sits another original building from the school's campus, which includes a band hall and former shop classroom built in 1954. This building was altered with the addition of metal paneling outside of the period of significance and is considered non-contributing. These are the only two buildings left from the DeQuincy Colored High School's campus. Concrete pads show the outline of the former school. While the gym has some deterioration and damage due to a roof leak, overall, it is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity from the time it served as the only high school gym as well as a community center for African Americans in DeQuincy. Thus, it is eligible for listing on the National Register.

The DeQuincy Colored High School is locally significant under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: Black for its association with African American education in DeQuincy. Built in 1950, the gym and adjacent band hall/shop building are the only two remaining buildings from the school's campus. The school was the only school for African Americans in DeQuincy. As the site of sporting events and other community gatherings, the DeQuincy Colored High School Gym has been an important community center and gathering place for DeQuincy's African American community since it was built.

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

Fish Creek Mounds Site, Grant Parish

Presented by Jeff Girard, Retired Faculty/ Regional Archaeologist, Northwestern State University, LA

The Fish Creek Site is a late prehistoric mound center that includes at least five constructed earthen mounds¹, and extensive habitation areas. The site is comprised of two recorded archaeological sites. The total area encompasses approximately 18 ha (45 acres) stretching about 1 km east-west by 250 m north-south on a rise in the floodplain. Fish Creek is one of two large sites with multiple mounds. Several other prehistoric sites in this region contain smaller and fewer mounds, and numerous habitation sites are dispersed in the floodplain and adjoining hills. The Fish Creek site dates primarily to the Coles Creek² period (ca. A.D. 800 to 1200), but also was occupied during the Late Woodland³ (ca. A.D. 400-800), Middle Woodland (ca. 100 B.C. to A.D. 400), Early Woodland (ca. 800 B.C. to 100 B.C.) and Late Archaic (ca. 3000 B.C. to 800 B.C.) periods. Fish Creek has excellent historical integrity. The site has undergone only minimal impacts from scraping of surface deposits in a limited area, and from shallow treasure hunter's pits. Deposits have not been disturbed from plowing or significant modern residential or commercial developments.

The Fish Creek Site is a late prehistoric ceremonial center that may include burial mounds. The artifacts that were collected from these mounds indicates that the period of significance is between approximately 500 B.C. to approximately A.D. 1200. There is extensive information about the social, economic, and ceremonial components of the Native American life within these mounds and the surrounding areas. The Fish Creek Site has been deemed eligible by the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development Division of Archaeology for placement on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria D.

Mrs. Turner asked if there was anything on the site that provides some explanation of its history. Mr. Girard mentioned there was only pottery that pertained to the early occupations. Dr. Saunders then clarified that Mrs. Turner was referring interpretive signage on the site. Mr. Girard said no. He then indicated that he failed to mention that most of the site is on public land, but a small portion is on private land. Mrs. Turner then asked if placing the property on the Register would bring unwanted attention to it. Mr. Girard indicated he did not believe it would, as it is not an easy location to find. Mrs. Turner expressed that perhaps if it got listed, then the State (Wildlife & Fisheries Dept.) would perhaps take better care of the site. John Fry, private land owner,

¹ *Earthen Mounds are raised banks or hills built by prehistoric humans almost entirely out of soil or earth. Found in many different parts of the world, these mounds vary in size and shape, and most were built by ancient peoples as burial places or to serve some ceremonial purpose.*

² *Coles Creek is a late Woodland archaeological culture in the lower Mississippi valley in the southern United States.*

³ *Woodland period: a label used by archaeologists to designate pre-Columbian Native American Occupations dating between roughly 600 BC and AD 1000 in eastern North America.*

addressed the committee to express his appreciation for the site. He indicated the site has not been impacted by the plow, therefore, it is in pristine condition. Mrs. Turners asked if Wildlife & Fisheries is interested in preserving the site, to which Mr. Girard said yes. They are working with staff there to ensure the site is monitored, preserved and protected. Mr. Lewis asked Ms. Hobson-Morris if she understood Mrs. Turner's concerns. Ms. Hobson-Morris indicated that while the SHPO lists a number of archaeological sites, much of the information, like the location is protected from public view. Dr. Saunders provided Mr. Girard with some editorial comments in writing. Mrs. Hobson-Morris asked if the Division could receive a copy of her notes.

Dr. Saunders then moved that the property be recommended to the SHPO and Martha Salomon seconded. Mrs. Turner opposed the nomination based on her concerns. The motion passed.

Agudath Achim Anshe Sfarid Synagogue, Orleans Parish

Presented by Teva Kaplan, nomination preparer

Agudath Achim Anshe Sfarid, herein referred to as Anshe Sfarid, at 2230 Carondelet Street is a three story Byzantine Romanesque Revival style Orthodox synagogue located within the boundaries of the Garden District National Register Historic District. Built in 1925, the synagogue is listed as part of the district, but it also meets additional criteria for individual listing on the National Register including for its historic significance under Criterion A. Furthermore, its distinctive and highly executed architectural style warrants additional listing under Criterion C, all of which is discussed in Section 8. The building was designed by Emile Weil (1878-1945), one of the South's premier architects, after his Touro Synagogue and Beth Israel commissions.⁴ The building is clad in red brick veneer with accents of stone. It is anchored by a concrete foundation. Anshe Sfarid is sits on an infill site facing Carondelet Street. The main thoroughfare of St. Charles flows by on the south side of the block. Dominant exterior features include two red brick towers, a recessed white stone entrance on the second floor, three sets of Byzantine doors framed by grouped Romanesque column, and concentric arches above the doors with Byzantine details. On the interior, the first floor provides auxiliary space. The second floor holds the sanctuary space and entry vestibule. The third floor opens up to a balcony for women and additional storage rooms in the towers. Anshe Sfarid's most significant feature on the interior is a barrel-vaulted ceiling ribbed with beams studded with electric light bulbs. One-over-one double hung windows light the synagogue from the east and west sides. Tall, narrow, and non-operable stain glass windows allow light into the two towers. Despite the Eastern European congregation demographic, Anshe Sfarid synagogue is designed as a Sephardic synagogue with the bimah in the center of the hall. After a brief but detrimental period of decay following the 1970s, the building required renovations including painting the synagogue's interior and adding a four pipe HVAC system and a 30-ton air handler, while leaving the intact structure and exterior untouched.⁵ The synagogue retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, craftsmanship, and association and is eligible for individual listing on the National Register.

Anshe Sfarid is nominated under Criterion A and C for its significance at the local level as a Byzantine Romanesque Revival synagogue popular in the post-World War I trend of Orthodox Jewish Synagogues around the country.⁶ Moreover, Anshe Sfarid is nominated for its integral role in New Orleans' Jewish community life. In 1896, Hasidic Jews from Russia, Poland, and Lithuania established Agudath Achim Anshe Sfarid as an Orthodox congregation.⁷ Pushed out of Europe by overpopulation, oppressive governance, and poverty, the first wave of Eastern European Jews brought 2 million Jews to America between 1880 and 1924. Built in 1925, Anshe Sfarid was the third synagogue Emil Weil designed in New Orleans.⁸ Anshe Sfarid synagogue followed the building tradition established by the Sephardic Jews first to immigrate to America. The synagogue embraces the popular Byzantine Romanesque Revival style. Built of red brick veneer over a steel structure, the synagogue's sanctuary holds 1,200 members beneath the light bulb studded beams of the barrel vault ceiling.⁹ Weil designed a grand entrance stair for the front of Anshe Sfarid Synagogue. Anshe Sfarid was

⁴ Lachoff, Irwin, and Catherine C. Kahn. *The Jewish Community of New Orleans*. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005: 82

⁵ Sandy Lassen. Personal Interview, October 11, 2016.

⁶ Ira Robinson. "Anshe Sfarid: The Creation of the First Hasidic Congregations in North America." *American Jewish Archives Journal*, 2005, 53-66.

⁷ Eugene Normand. *A Tale of Two Cities' Jewish Architects: Emile Weil of New Orleans and B. Marcus Priteca of Seattle*.

⁸ Joellyn Zollman. "Jewish Immigration to America: Three Waves." My Jewish Learning. Accessed October 26, 2016.

⁹ *ibid*

located in the heart of the vibrantly diverse Garden District neighborhood, and stands as one of the few remnants left of the historic area. The synagogue was built as a religious structure and continues to support the local Orthodox congregation today. The synagogue saw its largest congregation in the 1950-60s with a membership between 300-400 people.¹⁰ The period of significance begins with the date of construction, 1925, and ends with 1967, the fifty-year cutoff.

The Executive Director of the Church (no name given) spoke about the importance of the nomination to the church congregation.

Martha Salomon moved that the property be recommended to the SHPO and Peggy Lowe seconded. Mrs. Turner opposed the nomination. The motion passed. (Mrs. Turner opposed the nomination because she did not understand who nominated the building. Ms. Kaplan indicated that she wrote the nomination along with the congregation.)

John Hancock Building, Orleans Parish

Presented by Beth Jacob, Nomination Preparer

The John Hancock Building, located at the intersection of St. Charles Avenue and Calliope Street in New Orleans, Louisiana, is a seven-story concrete and glass office building completed in 1962. It is situated on a prominent site fronting Lee Circle, and lies just outside of the boundaries of the Upper Central Business District National Register Historic District. The structure was commissioned by the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, which occupied the first floor; upper floors were leased to a variety of commercial tenants. The building was renamed K&B Plaza after the K&B, Incorporated drug store chain acquired the property in 1973. The building sits on a podium elevated approximately 8' feet above the adjacent sidewalk; beneath is a parking garage set partially below grade. Designed by architect Gordon Bunshaft of the New York office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), in association with the New Orleans firm Nolan, Norman & Nolan, the structure is boldly modern in its appearance. A defining feature is the precast concrete frame that wraps the perimeter of the building on the upper levels, providing both structural support and sun shading. The building is a fine expression of the late International Style, and is representative of SOM's prevailing corporate design aesthetic. The building retains a high degree of integrity, and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The John Hancock Building is locally significant under Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as an excellent example of post-WWII International Style modernism in New Orleans. Designed by the internationally renowned architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), it is also a rare example of a high profile out-of-state "name" firm contracted for a local project during the post-war period. Awarded the prestigious American Institute of Architects' Award of Merit in 1963, the John Hancock Building is recognized as an important project within SOM's portfolio of work. The period of significance begins in 1960, when construction started, and ends in 1962 when the building was completed.

Mrs. Turner asked who designed the sculpture. Ms. Jacob responded that Isamu Noguchi designed the sculpture. Peggy Lowe asked why the nomination is referred to as the John Hancock Building, because she knew it as the K&B Building. Ms. Jacob indicated it is being called the Hancock Building for the purpose of the nomination. Mrs. Lowe also asked if the K&B signage is still on the building. Ms. Jacob advised that it is only on one side of the building and the mechanical penthouse. Mr. Lewis asked if K&B still owned the building, which Ms. Jacob confirmed. Mr. Lewis then asked if the moveable partition walls were still extant. Ms. Jacob confirmed they were and they could be situated to support a conference room or small meeting rooms.

Peggy Lowe moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Martha Salomon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bogue Falaya, St. Tammany Parish

Presented by Emily Butler, nomination preparer

¹⁰ Sandy Lassen.

Bogue Falaya Park is located on the eastern side of the city of Covington, Louisiana on the banks of the Falaya River. A thirteen-acre park located at the end of N. New Hampshire Street with a natural boundary of the river to the east and the suburban neighborhood to the west. Within the park are two significant structures, the main being the pavilion situated at the end of the turning circle/ parking lot area within the park. The dominant feature of the park, the current pavilion was constructed in 1915 and has acted continuously as an important community gathering center for the city of Covington. The second are the gates to the park, donated in 1920 by a Dr. Lawrence Stevenson. The remaining features of the gate include brick and mortar posts with marble plaques and three cast iron cannon balls a top each post. Originally larger, they have been receded to allow for vehicle access to the park. In addition to these primary features, there is also an original lifeguard chair dating to approximately the 1950s. A dilapidated concession stand and newer construction wooden playground are also on the site and are non-contributing elements to the park. The park offers a variety of vegetation featuring several live oak and long leaf yellow pine trees throughout. Each of these contributing structures and the landscape retains their integrity and are eligible for listing on the National Register.

The Bogue Falaya Park and its pavilion are significant under Criterion A for recreation and entertainment as the park has provided a recreational space that was not only used by locals, but residents of New Orleans as well, for over 100 years. The historic resources within the park have been continually used by residents and visitors and retain a high degree of integrity. The park itself provides a rural oasis within the city of Covington away from the hustle and bustle of the downtown area. The period of significance for the park is 1909-1967, in accordance with the 50 year cutoff, although the park continues to this day to be a significant recreational resource for the community

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

First Christian Church, Tangipahoa Parish

Presented, nomination preparer

First Christian Church was designed by modernist architect John Desmond and constructed in 1960. In addition to the main church building, the Educational Building (1958) and the Sanctuary (1960) portions of the church complex are all prime examples of Mid-Century Modern architecture. The church is located in Hammond, Louisiana, Desmond's hometown, and home to a number of his most important works. The First Christian Church Complex occupies a half city block bordered by North Holly Street to the east, East Charles Street to the south, and North Cherry Street to the west. The columned arcade and side elevation of the Sanctuary face East Charles Street. The Hammond City Hall Annex is directly across East Charles Street from the church complex. First Christian Church faces a parking lot and some residential properties on its west elevation and is bordered by large trees and residential properties on its north and east elevation. First Christian Church is constructed of wood, brick, stone, stucco, and metal. The church complex is one story throughout, with cathedral ceilings in the Sanctuary. Also on the campus is the Memorial Building, 1950, while not contributing to the nomination, were designed by architects James T. Canizaro and A. Hays Town. The Memorial Building consists of a 252-person auditorium, a fellowship hall and kitchen, a library, a choir robing room, and the minister's study. While the complex consists of these defined spaces, all are interconnected and function as one overall building. Despite slight changes to the interior design and some water stains, John Desmond's First Christian Church still retains a remarkable stylistic integrity and is eligible for National Register listing.

The First Christian Church in Hammond, Louisiana is significant at the local level under Criterion C: Architecture. First Christian Church is significant as it is a work of noted Louisiana Modernist architect, John Desmond, and it is a remarkable, intact example of his work. John Desmond opened the first architectural firm in the Florida Parishes in the city of Hammond, Louisiana.¹¹ There are several John Desmond buildings in Hammond and this is an integral part of the visual fabric of the city. John Desmond, is a well-known Louisiana mid-century architect who could quite easily be considered one of the state's master architects with further scholarly research and recognition.

¹¹ "Preliminary Inventory: January 2004; Revised 2008, 2012." John Desmond Papers, Mss. 4792, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, p. 4.

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

Greater St. James AME Church, Tangipahoa Parish

Presented by Ann Swigart, nomination preparer

The Greater St. James AME Church is located at the corner of East Michigan Street and North Holly Street in Hammond, Louisiana in the parish of Tangipahoa. It sits on the southeast corner of a city block that has several buildings on it, all owned by the church. These buildings include a parsonage built in the 1980's (photo 1); a small building now used for storage, but which once housed a restaurant run by the church called "Mama's House of Soul Food" (photos 2 and 3); and two historic houses named the Randal and Wascom Houses, built in 1896-97 and both listed on the National Register in 2008 (photo 4). The property also includes three old and graciously large oak trees, significant to the history of the church, which were named by past parishioners "Faith," "Hope," and "Charity" (photo 5). The northwest corner of the church's property is open and grassy (photo 6).

The Greater St. James AME Church building constructed on this site (there was a former site for this church, also in Hammond) was built in 1925 and incorporates elements of the Late Gothic Revival architectural style. It is a gable front building with a square castellated tower engaged in the center of the façade. Arched windows are placed symmetrically on either side of the front door and over the door, with a large, round window set in the bell tower. There have been two additions to the church: an educational building added in 1968 with offices, restrooms, and classrooms; and another addition in 2000, consisting of a large meeting hall, kitchen, and more restrooms. An interior renovation to the original section of the church occurred in the 1980's when a choir loft, small restrooms, new lighting, and HVAC systems were added. This building is in good repair. In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, the roofs were repaired; and in 2014 the bell tower was reinforced. The church retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, location, feeling, and association and for these reasons, is eligible for listing on the National Register.

The Greater St. James AME Church is being nominated to the National Register on the local level as it is a prime example of Late Gothic Revival architecture in Hammond. The church, as an entity, was first established in 1867 by newly freed slave Charles Daggs and has been an integral part of the African American community in Hammond since that time. The church building being nominated was built in 1925, a new and larger building for its growing congregation. This new church building was also funded, designed, and built by its members. The period of significance under Criterion C is 1925, the year it was built.¹²

John Sykes asked if there was anything more known about the architect. Ms. Swigart stated she searched but could not locate anything.

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

Miller Memorial Library, Tangipahoa Parish

Presented by John Hauslauden, nomination preparer

Miller Memorial Library, designed by prominent Louisiana architect John Desmond, is a noteworthy example of Modern architecture at the local level of significance. Constructed with steel, glass, concrete, and brick, it retains nearly all of its key architectural features. These features include curtain walls of fixed glass windows and panels arranged in a grid, an open floor plan of public space with a centrally located "pod" of private rooms, and many original interior and exterior appointments. A civic building built in 1956-1957, it is set on an intact parcel near the center of Hammond, Louisiana two blocks outside of the National Register listed Hammond Historic District and is surrounded by several large trees.

¹² At this time, the church is only being listed under Criterion C. It is likely the nomination can be amended in the future to include Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: Black as it is significant within the African American community. However, at this time, the author has not been able to gather concrete, firsthand evidence of the building's role as a meeting space, etc. If, at a later date, more information is found to support its significance under Criterion A, the nomination will be amended to reflect that.

Miller Memorial Library is significant at the local level under Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as a notable example of Mid-century Modern architecture in Hammond, Louisiana. Largely unaltered, its unique design incorporates elements of New Formalism creatively adapted to a comparatively small civic building. The period of significance is its date of construction in 1956-1957. The building's architect, John Desmond, is a noted Louisiana mid-century architect who could quite easily be considered one of the state's master architects with further scholarly research and recognition.

John Sykes expressed his concern with the statement -In 1952, when Desmond opened his practice, he had the first architectural practice in the Florida Parishes of Louisiana. Mr. Hausladen said he would check on the source. Ms. Salomon indicated there were a number of other architects like A. Hayes Town. She agreed it needed to be checked.

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

Baton Rouge Electric Company (BRECO), East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Gabrielle Begue, nomination preparer

The Baton Rouge Electric Company (BRECO) public utilities complex at 1509 Government Street in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, includes three contributing buildings: a power plant constructed in 1915-16 and converted into an operations center in the late 1930s, a service building constructed in 1930-31, and a small c. 1930s garage. The property is oriented to face Government Street to the south and is bordered by South 15th Street to the west, Spain Street to the north, and a revoked portion of South 16th Street to the east. The buildings were designed and built by Stone & Webster, Incorporated, a prominent Boston-based engineering services company that built and owned or managed utility companies and streetcar systems throughout the United States. The property is currently vacant. As is the nature of industrial sites, the BRECO complex underwent some modifications as it was adapted to evolving technologies and the needs of the expanding community. Nevertheless, the property remains clearly identifiable as an early 20th-century historic public utilities complex and remains eligible for National Register listing.

The Baton Rouge Electric Company (BRECO) public utilities complex is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of industry for its association with the history of electric power in Baton Rouge and the city's explosive growth during the first half of the 20th century. It is the primary historic site in the parish associated with electric power. The power plant on the site was Baton Rouge's primary electric generator from 1915 until 1930, at which time the city's demand outgrew the plant's capacity, and the Government Street property became the utility company's operational headquarters, a role it played for more than fifty years. During that time, the site was not only integral to the city's power system, but also served as the public face of the utility company for generations of Baton Rougeans. The period of significance begins in 1915, when the power plant was built, and ends in 1967, the fifty-year cut-off.

Dyke Nelson (architect), site owner/developer addressed the committee members to give a quick overview of the tax credit project associated with this nomination. The project will include living, dining, shopping and an entertainment venue. Mr. Sykes asked if the FBI tower will remain in place. Mr. Nelson said yes it will remain in place.

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

Delisted Properties: Epps House, Avoyelles Parish; Sunny Meade, Jefferson Parish; Salles Residence and Office, Lafayette Parish; Booker T. Washington High School and Auditorium, Orleans Parish

Presented by Nicole Hobson-Morris, Division of Historic Preservation Staff

Epps House, Avoyelles Parish

The property was added to the National Register on April 12, 1984. It was listed at the national level for its significance under Criterion A: History in the areas of literature and social/humanitarian because of its close association with the famous slave narrative *Twelve Years a Slave*. Edwin Epps was the main character, Solomon Northup's, master for the last ten years of his twelve year enslavement and the Epps House figures very prominently in the book.

According to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Sadly, this is the case for the Edwin Epps House because it was moved from its 1984 listing location to Alexandria in 1999. Originally located on the north bank of Bayou Boeuf near Holmesville, the Epps House was in a deteriorated state and the owner was planning on demolishing it. Thus, a local preservation group moved the house 3.5 miles to Highway 71 in 1976 for development as a museum. The setting was not ideal as it went from rural to more commercial, but the house was listed because of its strong connection to *Twelve Years a Slave*. The Epps House was and still is the only extant structure directly associated with the book.¹³ In 1999, the Epps House was moved again, this time to the campus of Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA). It was moved there to become the centerpiece of a plantation complex at LSUA. The house was completely dismantled and reconstructed at the new site.¹⁴

Per National Register Bulletin 15, while discussing Criteria Consideration B: Moved Properties:

“One of the basic purposes of the National Register is to encourage the preservation of historic properties as living parts of their communities. In keeping with this purpose, it is not usual to list artificial groupings of buildings that have been created for purposes of interpretations, protection, or maintenance. Moving buildings to such a grouping destroys the integrity of location and setting, and can create a false sense of historic development.”¹⁵

Moving the Edwin Epps House to a fake village setting on the campus of LSUA negatively impacted the house's integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Furthermore, extensive renovation work was done on the house due to its deteriorated condition. Per a July 2013 letter from the Division of Historic Preservation's National Register Coordinator to the Alexandria Historic Preservation:

“As we discussed, the house is no longer part of the National Register because it has been moved from the site upon which it stood when listed in 1984. Unfortunately, it does not appear possible to re-list the house at its new location. The major replacement of materials which took place at that time has changed the dwelling's appearance so much that it looks like a replica rather than a real historic building. Additionally, there is some concern about the new location on the campus of Louisiana State University at Alexandria. Although the building's immediate setting is open, one cannot miss seeing the numerous modern buildings nearby. And, the house has been moved from one parish to another.”¹⁶

Today, this same determination would come into play as well as the thinking on recreated villages of historic buildings has not changed. The Edwin Epps has lost its integrity of location and setting and along with those, the integrity of feeling and association. Furthermore, the extensive use of replacement materials has affected the building's integrity of materials (see the pictures that follow on pages 5-7 to see the Epps House as it was moved from its original location to the listing location in 1976, renovated thereafter, and then moved again in 1999 from Hwy 71 in Bunkie to the campus of LSUA in Alexandria).

This additional documentation serves to officially delist the Edwin Epps House from the National Register of Historic Places as no official delisting paperwork has ever been filed for the property.

¹³ National Register of Historic Places, Edwin Epps House, Bunkie, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, National Register #84001255.

¹⁴ Eloria Newell James. “Historical Edwin Epps House under reconstruction at LSUA.” *Sunday Advocate*, Baton Rouge, LA. September 26, 1999, pg. 10B.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources. “National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criterion for Evaluation.” 1990; pg. 29.

¹⁶ Patricia Duncan. “RE: Edwin Epps House, Rapides Parish, LA.” Letter to Ms. Megan Lord. July 1, 2013.

Sunny Meade, Jefferson Davis Parish

Sunny Meade, built in 1899, is a two story, wood frame, Queen Anne Revival-Eastlake residence originally constructed in Jennings, Louisiana. It was set on a large town lot in an older section of Jennings and had only received one noticeable alteration since it was constructed (enclosure of a rear gallery). Sunny Meade was listed under Criterion C at the local level because "it was undoubtedly the most important Victorian residence remaining in the town of Jennings."¹⁷ The nomination even noted that "it is the Victorian residential landmark of Jennings."¹⁸

However, the house was moved from its original location, which eliminates that level of integrity, which qualified the house for the National Register of Historic Places. A letter in the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) file from June 1, 1989, states that the house was being disassembled and moved from Jennings to Scott in Lafayette Parish (a move of 35 miles to the east). A second letter, from January 21, 1998, states that our office was going to help the new owner re-list the property (since once a property is moved, it is technically not listed anymore). This letter stated that, at the time, we needed the owner to fill out the application and resubmit it to our office. It does not appear that this information was ever received. Our file also has a pamphlet for the home in its new use as a bed and breakfast. Lastly, there are photos in the SHPO file of the building being moved in pieces - the cupola and top story were removed; the upper floor was dismantled into individual wall pieces; the first floor was moved as a unit; the porch was removed and rebuilt at the new site.

The original site was within a residential area of Jennings with a 60' setback from Cary Avenue (see attached maps). The new site where the house sits today is much more rural. The original setting, a residential neighborhood, included houses of similar age and style (most of which are still standing in Jennings today) on each side of Sunny Meade as well as across the street. The new location is to the southwest of the city of Scott in a more rural and open location.

According to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Sunny Meade has lost its integrity of location and setting as it no longer sits in a typical city residential setting, but rather in a rural setting. It is no longer surrounded by other residential structures, including structures on each side of contemporary age and style, but rather is surrounded by large pieces of open land and smaller, lower density, contemporary types of housing. One can assume that the integrity of materials has been diminished some as undoubtedly, some original materials were lost in the move, disassembly, and reassembly.

While moving a National Register property from its original site in effect delists a property per 36 CFR 60, this document serves to officially remove Sunny Meade from the Register because of a loss of integrity.

Salles Residence and Office, Lafayette Parish

The property was added to the National Register on July 19, 1984. It was listed at the local level for its significance under Criterion C: Architecture because it formed the parish's only Italianate complex (consists of 2 buildings).

According to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Sadly, this is the case for the Salles Residence and Office because it was moved from its original location in downtown Lafayette to a new location called Acadian Villiage, which is located on 32 acres of land and is a recreational site designed to look like a typical 1800's Cajun village. It features a collection of 11 historic buildings as well as new construction to replicate historic buildings. The move to a village setting removed the Salles Residence and Office's integrity of location,

¹⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Sunny Meade, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana, National Register #85000837.

¹⁸ Ibid.

setting, feeling, and association. Per National Register Bulletin 15, while discussing Criteria Consideration B: Moved Properties:

“One of the basic purposes of the National Register is to encourage the preservation of historic properties as living parts of their communities. In keeping with this purpose, it is not usual to list artificial groupings of buildings that have been created for purposes of interpretations, protection, or maintenance. Moving buildings to such a grouping destroys the integrity of location and setting, and can create a false sense of historic development.”¹⁹

According to a letter in the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation’s file from October 5, 1988, the owner at the time was notified that due to the move, the properties were no longer listed on the National Register. While this is true per National Park Service guidance, no official delisting paperwork was ever filed.

Per the same letter, it appears that the owner was interested in relisting the building at its new site. It does not appear that any paperwork was filed to do so at that time. Seven years later, in 1995, a letter was sent to the same owner whereby it was written:

“I have obtained a verbal ‘reading’ from our National Register reviewer in Washington concerning whether the Salles Residence and Office would be a viable Register candidate in the new location. As you know from our various conversations, a move causes a property to be automatically removed from the Register. Unfortunately, the reviewer’s reaction was much as I expected and had forewarned you. A moved building can be listed on the Register if the National Park Service feels that the new setting is appropriate; however, they do not feel this to be the case with the Salles Residence and Office and the Acadian Village. As I explained in our various phone conversations and on-site, the Park Service invariably has serious problems with a building moved to a recreated village setting.”²⁰

Today, this same determination would come into play as well as the thinking on recreated villages of historic buildings has not changed. The Salles Residence and Office has lost its integrity of location and setting and along with those, the integrity of feeling and association.

This additional documentation serves to officially delist the Salles Residence and Office from the National Register of Historic Places.

Booker T. Washington High School, Orleans Parish

The property was added to the National Register on July 17, 2002. The Booker T. Washington School and Auditorium were listed at the local level of significance as a milestone in the development of secondary public school education for blacks in New Orleans. The much lobbied for high school, with its state-of-the-art vocational educational facilities, was the first public high school in the city built specifically for blacks. Built through the WPA for about one-quarter of a million dollars, Booker T. compared more than favorably with white schools of the time. Booker T.’s auditorium was of great significance in the life of the city’s African-Americans because in a segregated world, it was the only large venue for black events. It was, in effect, the equivalent of a municipal auditorium for the black community.

According to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1)], a property may be delisted if it has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed. Unfortunately, this is the case for the school and auditorium, which lost its significance and integrity when the majority of the school building was demolished between 2011 and 2016. Furthermore, proposed work for the reconstructed school and the auditorium significantly negatively impacts the property’s historic integrity as it involves all new construction surrounding the only extant portion of the school, the entrance, and exterior work for the auditorium.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources. “National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criterion for Evaluation.”1990; pg. 29.

²⁰ Donna Fricker. “Salles Residence and Office, Acadian Village, Lafayette Parish.” Letter to Ms. Virginia Young. September 27, 1995.

Booker T. Washington's historical plan consisted of a quite large three story school and an attached, also quite large, auditorium. Both buildings were veneered in dark brown brick. Relief is provided on the school with cast-concrete accents painted an off-white. Built in 1942 in a severe Art Deco style with funding by the Works Progress Administration, Booker T. is located in a lower income African-American neighborhood just north of a section of New Orleans known as Central City. Immediately to the rear of the campus is a large public housing project, separated from the school property by only a concrete block wall. At the time of listing, the campus had been altered very little since its opening in September 1942 and it easily conveyed its local historical significance.

Today, Booker T. has lost its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and setting as only a very small portion of the main school is standing and proposed work for the auditorium involved replacing all of the exterior brick with modern brick materials.

John Sykes noted that he thought the committee was presented with the delisting of Epps and Salles Residence in the past and asked that Ms. Hobson-Morris check on this.

John Sykes moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Dr. Saunders seconded. The motion to delist the four properties passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.