

**NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES**  
**Thursday, June 16, 2022 - 11:00AM**  
**State Library of Louisiana**  
**701 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Turry Flucker called the June 16, 2022, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:02 AM. In addition to Mr. Flucker, members present included Ava Allmont, Guy Carwile, Lynn Lewis, Peggy Lowe, Martha Salomon, Dr. Matthew Savage, and John Sykes.

Krystal Cox announced that Emily Ardoin was unable to attend the meeting and welcomed the audience and committee members. Mr. Flucker then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Lynn Lewis so moved and Peggy Lowe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Flucker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December's meeting. John Sykes so moved and Lynn Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After this item, 4 nominations were presented to the committee.

Murray Henderson Elementary School, Orleans Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, nomination preparer

Located at 1912 L. B. Landry Avenue in the Algiers community of New Orleans, the Murray Henderson Elementary School was constructed in 1958 and 1967 in the International Style. Algiers, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, is part of the greater New Orleans area, but has historically developed and functioned as its own distinct community. The school sits on 3.21 acres and is dotted with small trees and shrubs amongst the school buildings. The school's campus sits between mid-century homes to the north and contemporary homes to the south and east. The campus consists of three buildings that function as a single unit: an administration building (1958) and two classroom buildings (1958 and 1967). The 1958 administration building and classroom building are 1.5 stories and connect to the 1967 classroom building via connected covered walkways intended to unite these three buildings. Together, these buildings form a modified "H"-shaped layout. All three breezeway-connected structures are brick on slab with steel window bays that run in series and feature flat roofs with minimalist eaves supported by the exposed steel or wood brackets. This style was incredibly common for mid-century school buildings as it was inexpensive and resulted in quicker construction times during a period when there was an immense need for schools to house a quickly growing school age population. A 1981 fire caused damage to the 1958 classroom building that resulted in the original window openings being infilled with brick. Outside of this infill and minor classroom floorplan modifications, the Murray Henderson Elementary School retains the majority of its original features and has a high degree of integrity. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing in the National Register.

Designed as part of the 1952 Long-Range Public School Building Program, the Murray Henderson Elementary School is locally significant under Criterion A, in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Education. It is a prime example of a surviving school purposefully designed as part of the last big public school building program in Orleans Parish focused on building new segregated schools to avoid desegregation. Following World War II, a rapidly growing student population in New Orleans spurred the Orleans Parish School Board to develop an extensive building program which proposed 76 new schools - 23 for white students and 53 black students. The resulting 1952 Long-Range Public School Building Program sought to address school overcrowding and eliminate the platoon system of attendance, especially in the expanding neighborhoods of Gentilly, New Orleans East, and Algiers. Built just two years before the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* and six years prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Murray Henderson is a prime example of an elementary school built specifically for black students to avoid integration. The period of significance for the school is 1958 to 1975, encompassing the years that the school was constructed through desegregation.

Guy Carwile gave suggestions for technical corrections to the nomination. Peggy Lowe asked what year the school was vacated. Ms. Richardson responded that it was vacated in the 1990s. Frank Richerand asked if the building will remain a school. Ms. Richardson responded that it will be converted to apartments. Al Morris and other members of the development team gave more details about future plans for the property, construction history of the buildings, and repairs completed after minor damage in Hurricane Ida and vandalism.

Lynn Lewis then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Guy Carwile seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Folsom Branch Library, St. Tammany Parish

Presented by Jerry Laiche, co-nomination preparer

The Folsom Branch Library is located near the historic center of the village of Folsom, Louisiana east of Highway 25 at a transition point between the main commercial highway and a quiet residential neighborhood. The library is a small, simple one-room wood frame building of no particular style with wood siding, windows, and some original library furnishings on a concrete slab foundation. The entrance faces Broadway Street. Built circa 1940 as a tool shed, the building was converted to a one-room library in 1949. The library has a good degree of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity of setting is somewhat diminished by the loss of an adjacent house historically associated with the library; however, the overall setting is similar to the period of significance.

The Folsom Branch Library is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education. The period of significance begins in 1950, when it was converted to a library, and ends in 1972, the current 50-year cut off. The building served as the first and only public library in the village of Folsom for several decades, beginning in 1950, when it was established as the Folsom branch of the St. Tammany Parish Library. The library provided educational opportunities not available elsewhere in Folsom and served as the library for nearby Folsom Elementary School in its earlier years. It remained Folsom's only public library until 1987, when a new Folsom branch library was built a quarter mile away.

Jerry Laiche gave an update on the opening of the new library and museum in the library building. Guy Carwile commented on the resurrection ferns on the roof of the building and noted potential negative impacts on the building. He also made recommendations for technical corrections for the nomination and asked if the building would continue to be used as a museum. Mr. Laiche responded that it would. Peggy Lowe suggested including one of the artist renderings of the building in the nomination. Frank Richerand spoke about the importance of the building within St. Tammany Parish and its status as a landmark. He also noted the importance of the listing for Folsom, a small town where few historic buildings remain.

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

The committee paused for a lunch break at 11:50AM. Turry Flucker called the meeting back to order at 12:05PM.

#### Luther V. and Josie N. Settoon House, Livingston Parish

Presented by Laura Ewen Blokker, nomination preparer

The c. 1898 Luther V. and Josie N. Settoon House is a one-and-half story, side-gable Folk Victorian house clad in drop novelty weatherboards and set on brick piers with a ribbed metal roof, from which two interior brick chimneys rise. The stylistic character is derived from the turned posts and sawn brackets of the full-width attached front porch. The house is set on a residential street within the small town of Springfield, Louisiana, one block off of the main street. The corner property rises up from the street level and a very old live oak stands on the front corner. On the adjacent property, which comprises the other corner of the small block, stands the most historic building in Springfield, a two-story brick National-Register-listed former bank, courthouse, and store constructed in 1835. Thus, the immediate setting of the house conveys its historic period of significance. Meanwhile, more modern twentieth-century buildings across the street and on adjacent blocks

distinguish the Settoon House as one of the rare exemplars of historic architecture within the context of Springfield. The property retains excellent integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, location, feeling, and association.

The Luther and Josie Settoon House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a unique example of a Folk Victorian house in the context of Springfield, Louisiana. Although this ubiquitous style exists throughout the United States, it is unique in the context of Springfield, where no other building represents the style so characteristically. The building exemplifies the one-story, side-gabled roof subtype of the style. It has a basic massed center hall plan with a symmetrical facade featuring restrained decorative elements including turned columns with flat jigsaw cut trim. Together the post-railroad folk housing form and the decorative detailing are a quintessential expression of the Folk Victorian style. The date of construction is estimated to be 1898, when Luther V. Settoon became the full owner of the property, and this is the period of significance.

Guy Carwile asked about future plans for the house. Clark Forrest responded that it might be used as a private residence or a bed and breakfast. Mr. Forrest also noted the importance of the nomination within Springfield. Guy Carwile gave suggestions for technical corrections to the nomination. Martha Salomon also noted a technical correction in the nomination. Dr. Savage asked how long the building had been unoccupied. Clark Forrest responded that it had been vacant for several years. Dr. Savage also asked about the date of the kitchen and bathroom. Ms. Blokker noted that the kitchen was located in the 20<sup>th</sup>-century addition and the bathroom is likely from the same time period. Dr. Savage asked if the house originally had an attached or detached kitchen. Ms. Blokker responded that this is unknown. Martha Salomon asked if the ell was part of the original house. Ms. Blokker responded that the framing below the house indicates that it is.

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

Hammond Historic District AD, BI II, BD I, Tangipahoa Parish  
Presented by Krystal Cox, co-nomination preparer

Krystal Cox noted that this nomination was presented to the committee at a previous meeting and was being presented again after corrections to the boundaries and the nomination. The proposed historic district of Hammond encompasses approximately 19 blocks located in the geographical center of modern Hammond. The selected boundaries encompass the downtown business section, which features commercial and civic buildings dating from 1880 to 1970. As such, these resources, representing numerous forms, feature elements of several styles, all of which add to the eclectic, yet cohesive, appearance of the historic district. The earlier resources consist primarily of two-story, brick buildings featuring brick ornamentation, while many of the post World-War II buildings are one story-structures featuring restrained elements of mid-century modern architecture. Despite the eclectic mix, however, the district as a whole represents a cohesive collection of simply-styled, commercial vernacular, low-rise buildings. The railroad corridor, which runs through the center of downtown along Cate Street, dominates the district, indicating the essential role it once played in the development of this area. Hammond's oldest buildings, those dating to the late 19th century and the turn of 20th century, cluster tightly together on the east side of the broad and open railroad corridor and along East Thomas Street, which runs perpendicular to the railroad and conforms to the grid pattern of the original 1860s street layout. The buildings constructed between the two world wars occupy the west side of the railroad corridor and the blocks along West Thomas Street. The later buildings, constructed post-World War II, spread out both east and west of the original historic district's boundaries. Altogether, 106 resources contribute to this district. The expansion of the district from its original boundaries is necessary because the 1980 National Register nomination does not reflect the contribution of many post-1930 buildings to the commercial development of Hammond. The expanded district also includes a contributing resource that is not a building; it is a monument, erected in 1908 to honor a Hammond Resident who died while saving a child from being struck by a train.

The Hammond Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture, commerce and entertainment/recreation for its role in the development of Hammond from 1880 to 1971. The period of

significance begins in 1880, the date of the earliest resources, which were constructed about 10 years before the city was chartered. These buildings were constructed along the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad line which cut a swath through the isolated settlement, bringing with it groups of enterprising newcomers. Once these earliest buildings became established, the remainder of the town spread out in all four directions from the railroad corridor, resulting in a 15-block jagged square comprised of dozens of late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings. The area was the commercial and social center of life in Hammond for several decades thereafter as it continued to spread toward the west and south along the main downtown streets.

The period of significance ends in 1971, fifty years ago as of the writing of this nomination. Downtown Hammond remained active as the central business district and center for local entertainment throughout the 1970s. Although the Columbia Theater had closed as early as 1972, the Ritz Theater was still showing movies as of 1977 and businesses continued to operate and invest in the district. In fact, seven of the 56 buildings to be included as part of this boundary increase were constructed during this decade. By the dawn of the 1980s, however, the area became stagnant as business shifted west and south from downtown along US Highways 190 and 51. The 1977 completion of Hammond Square Mall, which was immediately accessible from Interstate 12, construction of shopping centers along the two major multi-lane highways, and addition of dual-screen cinemas conveniently located within these shopping centers, contributed to a lack of foot traffic in downtown Hammond, effectively ending its reign as the main commercial area in the city.

Guy Carwile asked who designed the Columbia Theater; Ms. Cox responded that she did not know. Mr. Carwile also recommended that building inventory numbers be added to the photo log in addition to the street addresses. Guy Carwile then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Lynn Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 PM.