

Louisiana National Register Review Committee Meeting

December 6, 2018, 11:00AM
Capitol Park Welcome Center
702 N. River Rd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

Chairman Lynn Lewis called the December 6, 2018, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:02AM. In addition to Mr. Lewis, members present included Ava Alltmont, Tarah Arcuri, Dr. Robert Carriker, Guy Carwile, Turry Flucker, Peggy Lowe, Dr. Brian McGowan, Martha Salomon, Dr. Rebecca Saunders, John Sykes, and Dr. Matthew Savage. The entire committee was in attendance.

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

Nicole Hobson-Morris welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and did a general announcement concerning updates within the Division of Historic Preservation. She also announced that Jessica Richardson, the National Register coordinator, will be leaving her position in January.

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

Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator, welcomed the audience and committee members to the meeting. She also introduced all of the committee members.

Under New Business, 7 nominations were presented to the committee.

West Monroe Historic District, Ouachita Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator

Located on the banks of the Ouachita River in northeastern Louisiana and on the north side of the 1882 railroad bridge that sparked its development, the Downtown West Monroe Historic District comprises 88 resources set along gridded streets in an approximately 27-acre area in the southeastern part of the city. Most of the resources are one- or two-story commercial buildings built between 1900 and 1960. The pre-1950 buildings are concentrated in the downtown core, where they are closely spaced or adjoining. The northern and western edges of the historic district contain mid-20th-century commercial buildings that are more widely spaced to accommodate onsite parking. The district also contains resources associated with the cottonseed oil mill and railroad freight operations that fueled the economic development of downtown West Monroe. Of the sixteen non-contributing buildings, eleven are historic buildings that have been altered and five were constructed after 1968, which marks the end of the period of significance.

The Downtown West Monroe Historic District is locally significant in the area of commerce for its role in the economic development of West Monroe from 1882 to 1968. The period of significance begins in 1882, when the completion of a railroad bridge across the Ouachita River placed the town along a rail line leading east to the Mississippi River. Within twenty years of the arrival of the railroad, the town had a small commercial district that centered on Commerce Street, Trenton Street, and Natchitoches Street and existed alongside a cotton yard, a cottonseed oil mill, and sawmills. Between 1900 and 1940, downtown West Monroe was the commercial center of the growing town, and the business district expanded to fill much of the two-block area along Trenton Street, as well as portions of Cotton Street and Wood Street. After 1920, movie theaters, automobile-related businesses, and regional chain stores joined downtown West Monroe's locally owned stores and restaurants. After a brief spate of construction in the 1950s and early 1960s along Natchitoches Street near the 1949 City Hall, commercial development in downtown stalled in the face of competition from stores in new commercial areas that developed at the intersections of major roadways in the city. The period of significance ends in 1968, when the completion of Interstate 20 made it easier for motorists to bypass

downtown West Monroe, marking the beginning of a period of economic stagnation in the downtown area that would last for nearly twenty years.

Bruce Fleming, who oversees the local historic district commission in West Monroe was in attendance and stated that they are very much in support of the nomination. Guy Carwile asked if a Sanborn maps showing the relationship of downtown to the river could be included in the nomination to help explain the development of the district. Jessica Richardson said that can be done.

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

Tyrone Plantation, Rapides Parish

Presented by Sarah Mason, nomination preparer

Tyrone Plantation consists of a large 19th century plantation home remodeled in the Craftsman style and surrounding property. Originally built in the Greek Revival style, the home was erected in 1843 as the residence of George Mason Graham, one of the founders of Louisiana State University who is credited with getting the university off the ground, on his cotton plantation on Bayou Rapides. It was remodeled in 1915 in the Craftsman style by Charles E. Robinson, who owned local lumber mills during the timber boom in Central Louisiana. The property is located in a rural, agricultural setting along a bend in Bayou Rapides, just west of the northwestern city limits of Alexandria and directly southwest of England Airpark and Alexandria International Airport. It is located on Bayou Rapides Road, a road that historically follows the bayou, which is also part of Louisiana Highway 496. The house is composed of a brick-walled first floor, supporting cypress beams and floor joists which support the upper two floors, composed of wood frame construction with wood and vinyl siding on the exterior. The house exhibits Craftsman details on the exterior and primarily the upper two floors of the interior. Tyrone represents the economic impact of the lumber boom in Central Louisiana during this time period as the second owner of the home who remodeled it in the Craftsman style in 1915 owned lumber companies which undoubtedly provided the fine material and income for the remodel. While this property is unique in its combination of the remnants of its 1843 construction and its reconfiguration in the Craftsman style, it is an overwhelming example of a large scale Craftsman residence, the remodeling of which gave the mid-19th century plantation home of an important figure in Louisiana history new life. The building retains a high degree of integrity on the exterior and interior and is thus eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Tyrone Plantation is of local significance in the area of architecture because it is a rare and unique example of large scale Craftsman architecture as fitted to an 1840s raised center hall plantation home, and has retained a great degree of integrity as a Craftsman "farmhouse." It can also be interpreted as a native form of Craftsman architecture only seen in Louisiana, typically witnessed in New Orleans, as a "raised basement" Craftsman home, due to its brick ground floor below the upper two floors. It is an example of how the simple design of a large, modestly styled plantation home, constructed with high quality local materials found on site, lent itself to the Craftsman style and spirit. Tyrone is also of statewide significance in the area of archaeology due to its high potential for yielding information about the layout, landscape, and daily activities of plantations in Central Louisiana that were established along Bayou Rapides. Very little professional archaeological investigation has occurred on former plantations in Rapides Parish and the investigation done at Tyrone's surrounding yard presents an opportunity to educate the community on materials used on plantations in the area, as well as the use of bayous as a means of transportation due to the relationship between the plantation, the road, and the landing. It also could further substantiate the presence of Union soldiers at Tyrone during the Red River Campaign, and the occurrence of the skirmish as Confederate troops were being driven back by Union troops and skirmishes occurred at well-known plantations along Bayou Rapides. It also has the potential to provide insight into life on Tyrone in the wake of the Civil War as Graham continued his cotton plantation under the sharecropper system, struggling to hold onto his property. The periods of significance for Tyrone are 1843-1915 under Criterion C and 1842-1966 under Criterion D.

Judge Rae Swent, her brother, and sister were in attendance (Judge Swent owns Tyrone and all three grew up there). Dr. Saunders mentioned revisions to the archaeology section that she has already discussed with

Sarah Mason. She also asked if some of the photos submitted with the nomination could be added to the state site form to help provide more information as the current site form is lacking some. Guy Carwile asked for clearer plans of the second and third floors to match those of the first floor. He was also very interested in the slave cabin that was moved from Tyrone to the Rural Life Museum as it was briquette entre poteaux and bousillage, which is a very unique combination of construction materials and is worth mentioning. Lynn Lewis asked if anyone knows the exact location of the underground vaults. Dr. Saunders said as far as she knows, no one knows their exact location.

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

1939 St. Bernard Parish Courthouse, St. Bernard Parish

Presented by Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator

Since its completion in 1939, the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse has been an important landmark in the city of Chalmette as the seat of the St. Bernard Parish Courts in southeast Louisiana. This sturdy, linear, four-story reinforced concrete building is a perfect example of Depression-era, restrained Art Deco. It is the only remaining Art Deco building in the Parish of St. Bernard. Built under President Franklin Roosevelt's Public Works Administration (PWA) by a highly respected and prolific architectural firm Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth of New Orleans, the St. Bernard Parish Courthouse retains many original features on both the exterior and interior. Overall, it has retained a high degree of architectural integrity in its setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse is significant under Criterion A at the local level under politics/government as it has served as the seat of government for the parish for 90 years. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse was funded by the Public Work Administration (PWA) agency, created in 1933 by President Roosevelt Administration as part of the New Deal, to provide jobs and stimulate a dismal national economy annihilated by the Great Depression of 1929. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse represents the herculean task of a federal government faced with dire economical challenges in the 1930s. Its construction symbolizes the hopes of a generation struggling immensely but it also speaks of the unity between local and federal governments working in tandem to pull out of a national economical collapse and looking towards a bountiful future. Its relevance as a public and local government building is also notable as it personifies the dedication and resilience of the St. Bernard Parish residents who, while struggling to put food on the table, still had the foresight to embrace the construction of a civic building for the betterment of their parish. Such construction projects had been highly encouraged and supported by the Louisiana Governor Huey P. Long. The St. Bernard Parish Courthouse is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an outstanding example of Art Deco style within the city of Chalmette and the parish of St. Bernard. It is the only surviving Art Deco structure in the Parish. The building streamlined appearance and overall subdued design typifies the later Art Deco Style of the 1930s. This architectural style has also been referred to as Streamline Moderne, and PWA Moderne.

John Sykes asked if the new name added in honor of Jack R. Rowley should be added as an "other name" on the form. Jessica Richardson stated that yes, it should. Guy Carwile asked that the wording in the nomination that lists the foundation as granite be changed to a concrete foundation with a granite veneer.

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

Bogalusa Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, Washington Parish

Presented by Claire Cothren, nomination preparer

The Bogalusa Coca Cola Bottling Plant was built in 1931 by Dye and Mullings Builders of Columbus, Mississippi for the Mills family of Bogalusa. Local businessman John Claude (J.C.) Mills, along with family members, founded the Bogalusa Coca Cola Bottling Company in 1910. The original bottling company building was a two-story wood frame structure on the same site as the current brick building, which was completed in 1931. The building is based on a design for "Standard Plant No. 3" found in the "Coca-Cola Bottler's Standards" publication of 1929. It is a two-story red brick building with a low hipped roof and a one-story rear

wing with a flat roof. The bottling plant is located on the corner of Shenandoah Street and Huron Avenue in what was once a mostly residential neighborhood composed of families employed by the Great Northern New Orleans Railroad Company. The Bogalusa Bottling Company operated in the building for fifty-four years, until it was sold to the Baton Rouge Bottling franchise in 1985. The site consists of the original main bottling building, an original brick garage, two non-contributing concrete block walls, a steel post and beam roof structure which creates a central covered courtyard, and a large non-contributing metal building at the rear of the property. All additions to the site and original buildings are easily reversible. This property is worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic places at a local level because it retains a high degree of integrity in location, materials, design and association with the development of Bogalusa and Coca-Cola Bottling Plants across America.

The Bogalusa Bottling Company building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A: History and C: Architecture. The building is representative of the economic and industrial development of Bogalusa during the 20th century and was significant to Bogalusa's economy. It also is a reflection of the development of Coca Cola's standardization of its brand as bottling franchises rapidly spread across the United States in the 1930s. Architecturally, the Classical Revival building is locally significant as it is one of the few architecturally notable buildings remaining in Bogalusa retaining a high degree of integrity. It is also a prime example of a Coca-Cola bottling plant from this era of Coca-Cola's catalog of prototypical plant construction. Local significance has been chosen because the building was a local, family run institution which was highly regarded in the community during the seventy-five-year operation.

Turry asked about the basement of the building and what it was used for. Claire Cothren stated that they assume it was used for storage, but is currently full of water. John Sykes asked if the photo used on the first slide of the presentation could be included in the nomination as it is a really good historic photo of the building. Guy Carwile asked who the architect of the building in Bogalusa was. Claire responded that as far as they know, the contractor served as the architect as well. Guy noted that the standard plans indicate that Pringle and Smith out of Atlanta designed the stock plans so it may be worth adding their name to the nomination. Peggy Lowe asked what the future of the building is. Claire stated that the city was working on lots of funding options for the building and getting it listed on the Register will help open it up to more funding.

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

David L. and Jeanette Ross May House, Acadia Parish
Presented by Carolyn Borne, nomination preparer

The David L. and Jeanette Ross May House (herein referred to as the May House) is a frame dwelling situated on a large corner lot six blocks from the Acadia Parish Courthouse in downtown Crowley. Built c. 1935¹, the bungalow style house retains many original features on the exterior and interior including 2/2 and 1/1 wood windows, original half width front porch, multi lite entry doors, wood door and window frames, picture rail, wood floors, built in cabinetry in Mr. May's former office, multi lite French doors, five panel interior doors, terrazzo floors (from a mid-century update done by the Mays), glass door knobs, and several original light fixtures. The only alterations to the house include vinyl siding over the original siding; interior cosmetic updates of paneling in Mr. May's office and the hallway and ceiling tiles; and the enclosure of the rear back porch in the 1950s for a den for the Mays. This was done during the period of significance. The house would most definitely be recognizable to Mr. and Mrs. May, as well as anyone from the community who came to the May house for meetings and social gatherings, and thus, the house is eligible for listing on the National Register.

The David L. and Jeanette Ross May House is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of ethnic heritage: black as it was the home of two of the most significant African American educators and leaders in Crowley at a time when segregation was alive and well. David and Jeanette May were longtime educators and were involved in many other organizations related to African American education as well as social organizations supporting the African American community in Crowley. The house was not only their home, but

¹ The 1940 US Census notes that David and Jeanette May were living at the same residence as they were in 1935. In the 1930 census, Jeanette and David are married, but residing with her father at a residence on Avenue G in Crowley. Thus the circa date of 1935 is being used for the house. It was built sometime between 1930 and 1935.

it was also Mr. May's office. He was one of the first two African American alderman elected in the state in 1954 and his home served as his office during his terms as alderman and beyond. The period of significance for the house is 1935-1968, encompassing the years the Mays lived in the house through the 50 year guideline. The Mays continued to live in the house until their respective deaths in 1984 and 1997.

Guy Carwile asked how the construction date was decided as it wasn't on the 1930 Sanborn, but it was on the 1940. Jessica Richardson said that she used the Sanborns and city directories as best she could, but the State Library didn't have ones that were early enough to nail down an exact date. Based on the architectural details, a date of c. 1935 was decided upon.

Dr. Saunders then moved that the nomination be recommended to the SHPO and Turry Flucker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

St. Scholastica Priory and Cemetery, St. Tammany Parish

Presented by Gabrielle Begue, nomination preparer

St. Scholastica Priory, located north of the City of Covington, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, is a rural, 16-acre site comprising 4 contributing resources: 1) a 35,300-square-foot priory constructed in 1964-65 as a new motherhouse for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica in Louisiana; 2) a 4,800-square-foot wood-frame cottage originally constructed c. 1900, expanded c. 1940s, and adapted for the sisters' educational mission in 1960; 3) a small, early 20th-century wood-frame pool house associated with the cottage; and 4) a cemetery established by the Benedictines in 1965. These 4 resources are situated in a woodland clearing off LA HWY 1081/Stafford Road characterized by groves of mature trees, lawns, and gravel access roads. The priory is an expansive, 1-story Mid-Century Modern building consisting of a central section and two U-shaped wings constructed of brick-faced concrete and steel and containing a chapel, kitchen, dining room, meeting rooms, offices, 63 bedrooms for nuns and novices, and interior courtyards. It has been vacant since 1988, and asbestos abatement performed c. 1990s necessitated the removal of some interior finishes. The cottage and pool house served in recent years as a private residence and are also currently vacant. The cemetery consists of approximately 50 grave markers dating from the 1890s through the 1990s. Because of its overall high degree of integrity, St. Scholastica Priory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

St. Scholastica Priory is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of religion and education as the primary historic site associated with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica in St. Tammany Parish, where they served for a century as leaders in parochial education. The priory property, which consists of the priory building, cottage, pool house, and cemetery, embodies the culmination of the sisters' presence in the parish, when they were at peak growth as a religious order and at their most active as educators in the community. The period of significance begins in 1960, when the sisters began adapting the property to serve their mission, and ends in 1968, the 50-year cut-off.

Brenda Lapiccola, the owner of the property, was in attendance and stated that they are trying to preserve the retreat nature of the property and rehab the buildings in to a senior living community. Guy Carwile asked why the architect was from Austin, Texas. Gabrielle stated that they have not been able to figure out that connection. Guy also asked how the owners are handling adding space for the units. Ms. Lapiccola stated that they are adding little bumpouts to the rear elevations to create more space in each unit. These bumpouts will be designed in a manner so that it is clear they are new and they will not detract from the historic character of the building.

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

Laurel Street Fire Station, East Baton Rouge Parish

Presented by Gabrielle Begue, nomination preparer

Laurel Street Station (Fire Sub-station No. 1), located at 1801 Laurel Street in the Mid City neighborhood of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, was completed in 1925 as one of four highly celebrated fire stations that the City of Baton Rouge constructed in response to the needs of its rapidly growing and

modernizing metropolis. The property is located at the corner of Laurel and N. 18th Streets on a roughly 0.18-acre parcel that includes a large paved parking lot to the east added after the period of significance. Designed by the office of New Orleans architect William T. Nolan, the 2-story, Mediterranean Revival–style station resembles a private residence to harmonize with its residential surroundings and provide comfortable quarters for its firemen, a trend that came to define fire station design nationally in the 1910-20s. It served as a fire station until 2011 and is currently vacant. The building's exterior remains virtually unchanged since its construction except for the replacement of the two engine rooms' original wood double doors with modern overhead garage doors. The interior retains several original features, including its distinctive layout consisting of a living room, kitchen/dining room, and 2 engine rooms on the 1st floor, and a dormitory and locker room upstairs. Interior alterations reflect efforts to modernize the facility in the 1960s and 1980s and include new staircases, interventions related to the installation of air conditioning, and a limited number of new partitions. Because of its high degree of integrity, the Laurel Street Station is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Laurel Street Station (Fire Sub-station No. 1) is eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an important example of a residential-style fire station in East Baton Rouge Parish. Prior to its conversion into a municipal department in 1914, the Baton Rouge Fire Department comprised volunteer fire companies reflecting 19th-century trends in fire station design, firefighting techniques, and equipment. Laurel Street Station was completed in 1925 as part of a highly celebrated fire station building campaign that ushered the new fire department into the 20th century. Most notably, this campaign included the construction of three residential-style fire sub-stations, which embody a key stage in the evolution of fire station design nationwide and represent, at a local level, the landmark changes taking place in fire service during this period. Today, Laurel Street Station most successfully reflects this history by virtue of its high integrity and overall design. The period of significance is 1925, when Laurel Street Station was placed in service.

Lynn Lewis asked if the architectural style of the fire house would have fit within the neighborhood. Jessica Richardson stated that it was merely a popular style, among other styles, at that time. John Sykes added that none of the neighborhoods that had these fireplaces were planned so you had a variety of architectural styles in them. Sam Sanders with Mid-City Redevelopment was in attendance (they own the building) and stated that they are very excited about this opportunity and want to step up and use the fire house as their offices. John Sykes commended Gabrielle on her work with the nomination and added a bit of trivia that could be helpful to the nomination. Lewis Grosz was an architect for Noland and came to Baton Rouge as an emissary of Nolan and liked it so he stayed. He designed several major buildings downtown and advertised himself as the architect of all four fire stations. On some of the plans, his initials "LG" can be seen in the lower corner of the plans, but John didn't notice them on this building. It might be worth noting that he may be the architect of the Laurel Street Fire Station. Guy Carwile noted how great Noland's command of the revival styles was particularly in the brackets as they almost have an institutional quality like a train station that really helps elevate the building.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45PM.