

NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES
Thursday, May 25, 2023 - 11:00 AM
State Library of Louisiana
701 N 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dr. Robert Carriker called the May 25, 2023, regular meeting of the National Register Review Committee to order at 11:01 AM. In addition to Dr. Carriker, members present included Ava Alltmont, Guy Carwile, Lynn Lewis, Peggy Lowe, Brian McGowan, Martha Salomon, Dr. Rebecca Saunders, Dr. Matthew Savage, and John Sykes.

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

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

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

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

Lincoln Beach, Orleans Parish

Presented by Mia Kaplan, nomination preparer

Lincoln Beach holds a local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic/Black Heritage for its contribution to the overall history of public recreation and leisure in the City of New Orleans. The period of significance begins when the park first opened in 1941 and terminates when it closed in 1965. Places which were once designated for use by Black people during the Jim Crow era have a historical significance for their role in fostering the development of Black culture in New Orleans. Lincoln Beach presents a significant opportunity to preserve African American history and culture as a historic site, and residents still vividly remember, can easily recognize, and associate with the site as a former public beach and amusement park.

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Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Dr. Matthew Savage asked for clarification on the history of the amusement park. Ms. Kaplan explained that the amusement park opened in 1954 but closed a few years later in 1965 after Hurricane Betsy and has been vacant ever since. Guy Carwile asked for clarification on the redevelopment plans. Ms. Kaplan deferred the question to an official with the City of New Orleans present to address during the public comment period. Mr. Carwile also suggested numbering the images provided within the nomination presented to the review committee. Martha Saloman requested visual clarifications on the location of the beach. Dr. Rebecca Saunders explained that the area is of great archeological significance and asked about efforts to maintain that sensitivity to the area for preservation.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comment. Sharon Robles, Project Manager for the City of New Orleans, read a letter of support from the New Orleans City Mayor. Ms. Robles then explained several of the redevelopment project plans already in place as well as addressing Dr. Saunders archeological concerns. She explained that plans for the beach will be phased, so that the beach can open as soon as possible. Guy Carwile asked if there

is a plan to restore the beach to an amusement park and Ms. Robles responded that the master plan will address that in the future. Dr. Matthew Savage asked how the park will maintain its history through the redevelopment process. Ms. Robles responded that the master plan includes incorporating features like a living history museum to tell the story of the Jim Crow Era beach. Peggy Lowe questioned how involved the City of New Orleans will be in the maintenance of the beach once the project is completed. Ms. Robles explained the city's measures. Several members of the public with the New Orleans East Matters Coalition shared their personal stories and connections to the beach, as well as their support for the nomination.

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

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

Hollygrove Historic District, Orleans Parish

Presented by Gabrielle Begue

The Hollygrove Historic District is a mixed-use, working-class urban neighborhood occupying approximately 500 acres northwest of the downtown core of New Orleans in Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The district, which contains 1,669 total resources, is bounded roughly Airline Highway (north), South Carrollton Avenue (east), South Claiborne Avenue (south), and Monticello Ave (west). Developed on former infilled swampy land between 1914 and 1925, Hollygrove's earliest resources date from the 1910s with larger spurts of construction from the mid-1920s through 1941 and in the 1950s-60s. The district began as part of the City of Carrollton prior to its annexation to the city of New Orleans in 1874, and then slowly grew as a suburb as the city of New Orleans grew. Historically, the demographics of the district have been working class citizens, primarily Sicilian immigrants and African Americans. As low-lying drained swampland prone to flooding and crisscrossed by railroad tracks, the area was undesirable to most other residents of New Orleans. However, Hollygrove gave the more marginalized communities the opportunity to purchase and own their own land and property. After World War II and white flight to more suburban areas in the Civil Rights era, the district became primarily African American and remains so to this day.

The district is laid out in a typical grid-like pattern though it also features some distinctive landscape features as there were two major rail lines through the district. One was converted to Earhart Boulevard in the 1960s and 1970s and the other, located roughly three blocks north of Earhart Blvd, was removed, but still remains clearly visible when looking at an aerial of the district. Most buildings are sited at their front lot lines and the streetscapes are generally low-rise and dense in character despite the demolition of some historic fabric due to disinvestment and blight. The majority of the district consists of single and double dwellings interspersed with institutional buildings such as churches, a school, two parks, and corner store businesses, but its commercial corridors, including primarily Earhart Blvd and S. Carrollton Avenue, are also prominent features that played an important role in the district's history of development. The most common residential types are bungalows and shotguns, and the most common architectural style is Craftsman. Most houses are 1 story and are usually wood-frame construction covered with wood weatherboards. Typical alterations include enclosed porches, replaced windows and/or doors (usually within existing openings), and replacement cladding materials. Most commercial and industrial buildings are brick or CMU construction, and typical modifications include replacement doors/windows within existing openings and, to a lesser extent, modified openings. Despite these modifications and some loss of density, the district retains sufficient historic integrity as a whole and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Hollygrove Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A: History in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Ethnic Heritage: European for its association with the African American and Italian immigrant experience in New Orleans. It is also eligible under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development for its association with early suburban growth of the city of New Orleans by filling in former swamps, particularly for these two underserved communities. Both groups were historically marginalized and discriminated against in New Orleans, particularly during the early to mid-twentieth century. During this period,

Jim Crow laws enforced racist segregation practices against African Americans, and thousands of poor Italian (primarily Sicilian) immigrants arrived in the city looking for better opportunities but were confronted with discrimination of their own. The ample and affordable, albeit undesirable, land in Hollygrove afforded these groups an opportunity to own their own property at a time when divisive housing practices were rampant. Despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, segregation practices continued well into the 1970s, particularly against the African American population in New Orleans. Originally part of the large McCarty Plantation, the land that makes up Hollygrove was purchased by the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company in 1831 to construct railroad lines through the area. Low lying and swampy, it was initially part of the New Orleans' suburb of Carrollton but remained undeveloped until the 1910s and 1920s, when all of Hollygrove was graded and made accessible for construction. The period of significance spans from 1909, when the earliest resources within the district were built and Italian and African American residents began to populate the area, to 1973, the current 50-year cut off.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Brian McGowan asked how post Katrina and general gentrification have affected the area. Ms. Begue differed to a local resident and real estate developer, Mr. Paul Irons, to answer that question during public comments. Guy Carwile noted that the LHRI numbers and photographs should be cross referenced and again that it would be helpful to the review committee if the photos were numbered.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Paul Irons, Real Estate Developer addressed Brian McGowan's previous question stating the importance of active economic investments and redevelopment of previously abandoned properties. Nathan Lott, Advocacy Coordinator for the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, expressed his support and explained the long term history of Hollygrove and its importance of listing on the National Register. Ms. Begue mentioned the letter of support was received from the Hollygrove neighborhood association.

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

Mills, Kennedy, & Hopkins Additions, Lafayette Parish
Presented by Kelly Sellers Wittie, nomination preparer

The Mills, Kennedy, and Hopkins Additions (Additions) comprise the mixed-use neighborhood north of Lafayette's commercial downtown. Together these developments extend from West Congress/West Second Street north to the railroad tracks, and west from the tracks to South St. Antoine Street. The area is largely residential but contains railroad-related commercial entities, such as wholesalers, along the tracks; scattered commercial storefronts, especially along its larger thoroughfares; a school; two large-scale bread bakeries; a cemetery; churches; and the iconic Evangeline Maid bakery sign, a brightly-colored billboard with a spinning loaf of bread. The residences are generally modest on generous lots; larger residences are located along the downtown border. In style and form, most residences reflect the trends of the early twentieth century including Craftsman and Victorian. Common alterations include synthetic siding and replacement windows and doors. Historically, the neighborhood was home to persons of diverse ethnicities and economic classes. It was the location of Lafayette's earliest African American elementary school, Paul Breaux Primary (no longer extant) and is the site of St. Paul the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, the city's first African American Catholic parish.

The Mills, Kennedy, & Hopkins Additions are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level in the areas of Community Planning & Development, Ethnic Heritage, and Social History. These Additions north of downtown are among Lafayette's earliest residential developments and the area represents a significant step in the growth of Lafayette from the small community of Vermilionville with its surrounding plantations to a modern city. Persons of various ethnicities populated the generally mixed-use neighborhood common to Lafayette and a mix of economic statuses. Despite these differences, the architecture of the neighborhood is a cohesive set of early- to mid-twentieth century modest dwellings and commercial ventures.

Ms. Wittie added that two letters of support were submitted by the Lafayette Consolidated Government. Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile noted the importance of labeling the photos in correspondence with the photo log for the review committee. Dr. Carriker asked for clarification on the contributing vs non-contributing status of the historic Evangeline Bread sign. Ms. Wittie explained that the sign was completely deconstructed and then reconstructed across the street from its original location well outside of the period of significance.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. James Rolf, of Rolf Preservation Works, spoke in support of the preservation efforts of the Lafayette Consolidated Government and the number of projects that his firm works on in the city.

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

Camp Claiborne Regimental Chapel/Davidson Memorial, Lafayette Parish

Presented by James Rolf

Located at 710 Jefferson Blvd in Lafayette, the Camp Claiborne Regimental Chapel (Davidson Memorial Methodist Church, herein referred to as Davidson Memorial), was constructed in 1941 as a World War II-era regimental Colonial Revival chapel at Camp Claiborne in Rapides Parish. When Camp Claiborne was closed and deconstructed in 1946-47, all of the buildings at the camp were either dismantled and moved or sold for scrap. Of the 12 original chapels constructed in November of 1941 on site, two remain today – Davidson Memorial and Clarence Baptist Church in Clarence, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. Today, the church sits on an angled trapezoidal lot bounded by Jefferson Blvd to the northwest, Ransome Street to the northeast, and neighboring properties to the southeast and southwest. A side addition was added to the rear of the southwest elevation, after the chapel was moved to this location, in 1952. A secondary, auxiliary classroom building was constructed in 1966 to the southwest of the main church building. This auxiliary building is considered non-contributing to the National Register nomination for the chapel. The chapel itself retains a high degree of integrity including almost all of the original details found on the chapel plans from the Quartermaster General (who designed all army chapels) as well as those seen on original photos of the chapels on site at Camp Claiborne. The main alterations of note include the application of vinyl siding over the original wood and the addition at the rear of the southwest elevation. The windows used on the addition are 1/1 double hung wood windows, which helps to differentiate it from the original 1941 chapel and its multi-lite windows. The chapel retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Camp Claiborne Regimental Chapel (Davidson Memorial Methodist Church) is significant on the local and statewide level under Criterion C: Architecture, as an excellent representation of building technology used in World War II military mobilization construction and as a surviving example of a 700 series CH-1 regimental chapel. As stated above, the chapel retains a high degree of architectural and historical integrity, despite having been moved over 70 miles in 1947. The period of significance for the chapel is 1941-1947, encompassing the years that the chapel was constructed at Camp Claiborne and moved to Lafayette.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. John Sykes asked for clarification on the total number of chapels at Camp Claiborne and the number of regimental chapels built within the entire state. Mr. Sykes suggested looking at the Harding Field Chapel as another possible comparative example. He also asked how each chapel was distinguished from one another in terms of religious use. Mr. Rolf explained that every chapel was multi-religious including several features such as the stage that contains cabinets that held multi-religious artifacts. Guy Carwile requested a better understanding of the construction drawings and Mr. Rolf explained that each chapel had a standard set of plans with minor alterations per locational need. Mr. Carwile asked what the future plans for the chapel were and Mr. Rolf explained that it will be repurposed as a dance school that will maintain the historic integrity of the chapel. Mr. Carwile also mentioned again, numbering the photos to match the photo log. Dr. Rebecca Saunders suggested noting the chapel was moved

from its original location earlier in the nomination. Dr. Carriker questioned how the chapel was moved and suggested adding a section that addresses this question.

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

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

Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation, Acadia Parish
Presented by Nicole Hobson-Morris

This is a proposal to add 10 buildings (9 contributing and 1 non-contributing) to the Crowley Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1982 with a period of significance ending in 1931. This boundary increase is predicated on additional documentation to the district updating the period of significance to 1966. The existing National Register district includes commercial and residential buildings and is generally characterized by one- and two-story commercial buildings with some larger landmark commercial buildings from the early to mid-20th century. The main thoroughfares in Crowley are N. Parkerson Avenue and Hutchinson Avenue. Western, Northern, and Eastern Avenues border each side of the town. North Parkerson Avenue has always served as the historic commercial thoroughfare in Crowley. As the 20th century entered the 1950s, commercial growth on North Parkerson grew north past the Acadia Parish Courthouse. By 1966, when Interstate 10 was completed, businesses began to move to be adjacent to the interstate. This meant that there is a logical gap in historic construction between North 7th Street and the interstate in terms of historic commercial architecture.

The Crowley Historic District Boundary Increase I is significant in the area of commerce as supporting resources which tell a continued story of development on the main commercial thoroughfare in Crowley's historic core. The boundary increase represents the economic and architectural growth of Crowley between 1931 and 1966 along North Parkerson prior to when development moved to the newly opened Interstate 10. There are multiple resources showing that the commercial businesses north of the courthouse are significant in showing the city's continued growth until commercial development moved to a distinctly new area.

The Crowley Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1982 under Criteria A: History, in the areas of agriculture, commerce, and community planning, and C: Architecture for its large collection of late 19th to early 20th century architectural styles. The period of significance for the district was 1887-1931, encompassing the years that Crowley was first created through that 50-year guideline. The listed district includes the commercial district and the two earliest residential districts (though it is key to point out that there are structures dating to the early and significant years of Crowley in West and North Crowley outside of the existing district).

Additional documentation has been submitted expanding the period of significance through 1966 based on the city's development. The end of the new period of significance is 1966, which is when Interstate 10 (which runs from the west to east coast of the United States) was completed on both sides of Crowley and development began to grow towards the new interstate. This boundary increase will aim to include more historic commercial buildings in the city that help to tell the story of Crowley's continued growth through 1966.

The purpose of the addendum is to update the period of significance for the Crowley Historic District, which was listed on the National Register in 1982, and has not been evaluated since that time. The district includes commercial and institutional buildings. The current period of significance (POS) ends in 1931, following the Register's then 50-year guideline. The present submission will bring the period of significance up to 1966, which is documented as a logical end to the POS based on Crowley's developmental history. As part of the update, a new inventory is provided as well as a new district map. By updating the POS to 1966, the contributing/non-contributing status of 147 buildings changes (22 from contributing to non-contributing, 91 from non-contributing to contributing 23 detached outbuildings that weren't originally counted, 1 site not originally counted, and 10 objects not originally counted). Since the listing of the Crowley Historic District in 1982, intensive survey done in 2022 revealed that the district retains a high degree of integrity and numerous historic

commercial and residential buildings. The resurvey also confirmed that the existing period of significance, 1887-1931, needed to be expanded to include more of the historic resources within the district boundaries.

This additional documentation will add additional historical background information to supplement the original nomination as well as to provide information as to why extending the period of significance to 1966 is logical based on the city's development. The end of the new period of significance is proposed to be 1966, which is when Interstate 10 (which runs from the west to east coast of the United States) was completed on both sides of Crowley and development began to grow towards the new interstate.

Dr. Carriker asked committee members for questions and comments. Guy Carwile requested a second look at the photo log and numbering the photos in correspondence with the log. Mr. Carwile asked for clarification on the boundary increase which includes an expansion of the period of significance updating contributing vs non-contributing status of resources within the existing boundary.

Dr. Carriker opened to public comments. Claire Dore, Archivist and Historic District Commission chair addressed concerns regarding a particular building's non-contributing status that became the driving force for the historic district update. Mayor of Crowley was also present in support of the nomination.

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

Closing Announcements:

Ms. Hall announced that the next National Register Review Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2023. She also reminded committee members to complete all mandatory trainings by September 30, 2023.

Adjournment: 1:35 PM