

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lecompte High School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1610 Charter Street N/A not for publication

city or town Lecompte N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Rapides code 079 zip code 71346

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker August 14, 1992  
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date  
LA Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Entered in the **National Register** Date of Action

Delores Jones 9/22/92  
Signature of the Keeper

Lecompte High School  
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
EDUCATION/library

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival  
Beaux Arts

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof Other: tar and gravel  
other concrete  
stone

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Lecompte High School, Rapides Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

The 1924 Lecompte High School is a three story brick building in the Neo-Classical style. The architect-designed structure stands on the edge of a large, school yard located within a residential neighborhood in the Rapides Parish community of Lecompte. The school has undergone surprisingly few alterations since its construction; hence its National Register eligibility remains intact.

The school's front entrance opens directly onto wide stairs which ascend to the second floor hallway. A balconied auditorium is located behind this hallway. Otherwise, classrooms line the halls on all three levels. The building's facade is organized in a five part symmetrical plan. The structure has a slightly projecting central pavilion, two projecting end pavilions, and two hyphen-like connectors. Each side elevation features a central projecting pavilion. This plan of advancing and receding planes reflects the influence of the Beaux Arts style. However, the structure's important decorative features are Neo-Classical. These decorations are formed of stone, cast concrete, brick and plaster, and include the following:

- 1) the classically treated entrance, which ranks as the building's climactic architectural feature. Carved from stone, its design is that of an overscaled Palladian motif, in which a central arch is flanked by rectangular panels. The arch, which is decorated with floral patera and surmounted by an anthemion, springs from an entablature supported by Tuscan columns. These columns frame the entrance's double doors. The entablature also extends over the panels. Bas relief carving is found on the entablature and within the arch. The latter also features a roundel with the initials "LHS."
- 2) a brick parapet which culminates in a shallow broken pediment above the central pavilion. The pediment anchors a flagpole and is flanked by balustrades.
- 3) the use of plaques in many locations. Stone plaques are found on the building's entablature, above its front entrance, and within the shaped parapet. All of them are carved in some manner. Two feature writing, one exhibits a carved book, and the others display bas relief patera within molded lozenges. Unornamented cast concrete plaques are also found on the parapet. Cast plaster plaques featuring books are found above the auditorium's stage doors.
- 4) a cast concrete watertable and two cast concrete belt courses which encircle the building,
- 5) cast concrete rustication on the first story of the central pavilion and the first story of the pavilions on the side elevations, and

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Lecompte High School, Rapides Parish, LA

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- 6) flat arch brick lintels above all windows. The lintels on the building's third floor feature keystones.

The glazing pattern of the school's windows is also of interest. While all of the upper sashes and the lower sashes on the first floor contain multiple panes, each lower window sash on the second and third floors has one large pane of glass. The window sills are of cast concrete.

The school has experienced only a few minor changes since 1924. Work done on the exterior includes the repair of the flat tar and gravel roof, the replacement of many broken window panes, and the addition of metal drain pipes on the rear elevation. These were installed by chopping away segments of the upper belt course. Changes to the interior include:

- 1) the removal of a partition between two basement story rooms and the installation of built-in bookcases in the enlarged space to create a parish branch library,
- 2) the partial dismantling of the third floor home economics kitchen and the use of the removed cabinets to create kitchen facilities on the ground floor, and
- 3) the addition of extra doors in the two ground floor restrooms and the installation of fire doors between the hallways and stairwells located on each side of the auditorium.

All of these changes are relatively minor and do not impact the integrity of the building. The removal of the one classroom wall is the only change to the school's original floorplan. The original restroom doors remain intact and the new restroom doors are hidden by virtue of their locations in narrow side hallways. The fire doors are not major visual intrusions. Most importantly, the building's facade remains entirely intact. As Lecompte's only monumental architectural landmark, the Lecompte High School is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

Non-Contributing Element

A two-story brick gymnasium with a one-story office wing also stands within the school grounds. Connected to the school by a covered walkway, the gym does not appear to be fifty years old. Therefore, it is being counted as a non-contributing element for the purposes of this nomination.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1924

**Significant Dates**

1924

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Scott Yeager, Sr., Architect

W. J. Quick, General Contractor

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Lecompte High School  
Name of Property

Rapides Parish, LA  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property @ 6.2 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 5 |   | 5 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 0 |   | 3 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 0 |  
Zone      Easting                      Northing  
2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  
Zone      Easting                      Northing  
4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  
 See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

PLEASE REFER TO ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP

**Boundary Justification** Boundaries follow property lines of the parcel of land upon which the school is located.  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date June 1992

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Lecompte

street & number P. O. Box 649 telephone (318) 776-5488

city or town Lecompte state Louisiana zip code 71346

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lecompte High School, Rapides Parish, LA

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The Lecompte High School is locally significant in the area of architecture because of its status as a landmark among the community's surviving historic buildings.

Located on Bayou Boeuf, Lecompte was founded in the mid-nineteenth century as a shipping point and commercial center for southern Rapides Parish cotton planters. However, virtually all of the community's surviving historic buildings date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This collection, as verified by the Rapides Parish Historic Structures Survey, consists of 103 structures. Located alongside the bayou, the town's vernacular commercial buildings consist of a row of simple one-story metal warehouses and a handful of undistinguished, free-standing, one and two story stores. With but few exceptions, the town's historic residences are one and one-and-a-half story frame cottages which are either fairly basic examples of their style or unstyled. Against this background, the Lecompte High School is a distinctive visual landmark. It is quite large and impressive in scale. As perhaps the town's only architect-designed historic building, it makes its own high style design statement. Thus, the school is a grand and monumental landmark when compared to the smaller, vernacular cottages and businesses which surround it.

Historical Note

The building continued to function as a school until around 1970. It then stood vacant for a number of years. In 1991 the Rapides Parish School Board donated the building to the town, which then leased the structure to the "Save the School" organization. "Save the School" is gradually restoring the structure, which it operates as a community center and meeting hall.

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Lecompte High School, Rapides Parish, LA

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

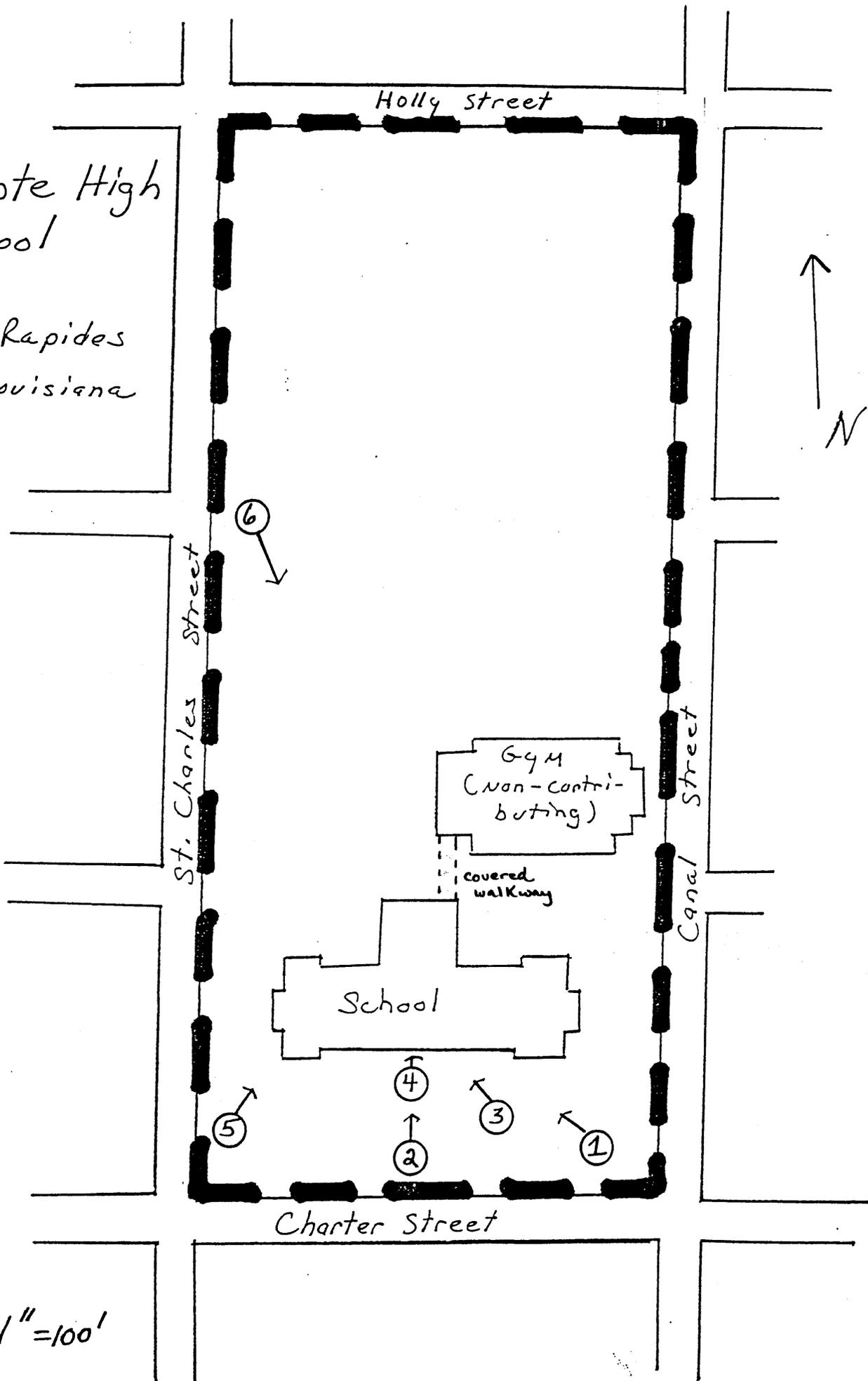
Site visit by National Register staff.

Historic Structures Survey of Rapides Parish, Louisiana Division of Historic  
Preservation

Lecompte Culture, Recreation and Tourism Commission, Lecompte: Plantation Town  
in Transition, Baton Rouge: Venture Productions, Inc., 1982.

Lecompte High School

Lecompte, Rapides Parish, Louisiana



Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary:  