### **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

MAR 23 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

State/Federal Agency Certification   Port Allen High School	·			
2. Location  Street & number	1. Name of Property			
2. Location  Street & number	historic name Port	Allen High School		
street & number 610 Rosedale Street   N/A   not for publication				
street & number 610 Rosedale Street   N/A   not for publication				
state Louisiana code LA county West Baton Rouge code 121 zip code 7076 state Louisiana code LA county West Baton Rouge code 121 zip code 7076  3. Classification  Ownership of Property    Category of Property   Number of Resources within Property   private   Duilding(s)   Contributing   Noncontributing     public-State   Site   Site   Sites     public-Federal   Structure   Sites     public-Federal   Structure   Sites   Sites     public-Federal   Structure   Sites     public-Federal   Structure   Sites     public-Federal   Sites   Sites     N/A   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   O  3. State/Federal Agency Certification  As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this     X   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 80. In my pipino, the property   Meets   December 1	2. Location			
State   Louisiana   Code   LA   County West   Baton   Rouge   Code   121   Zip code   7076	street & number	610 Rosedale Street		
3. Classification  Ownership of Property	city, town	Port Allen	N	/A vicinity
Ownership of Property    Divide   Divide   Dividing(s)   Contributing   Noncontributing	state Louisiana	_code _ LA _ county West Ba	ton Rouge code 12	zip code 70767
Ownership of Property    Divide   Divide   Dividing(s)   Contributing   Noncontributing	3 Classification			
private		Category of Property	Number of Resou	rces within Property
Dublic-local   district   distr				, ,
public-State   site   sites   sites   structure   chief   structure   structure   chief   structure   chief   structure   chief   structure   chief   structure   chief   structure   structure   chief   structure   structure   chief   structure   chief   structure   structure   chief   structure   stru		<del></del>	<del>_</del>	
public-Federal	•			
Object	<b></b> :		<del></del>	
Name of related multiple property listing:    Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register	public-rederal			
Name of related multiple property listing:  Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		object		•
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this in monimation 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 in meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.    March 17.1989   Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, State Historic Preservation Office Pate				
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this		erty listing:		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this     nomination   request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in th     National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.     In my ppinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.   see continuation sheet.     March 17.1989	N/A		listed in the Natio	onal Register
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this     nomination   request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in th     National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.     In my ppinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria.   see continuation sheet.     March 17.1989	1 State/Federal Agency	Certification		
State or Federal agency and bureau  5. National Park Service Certification  , hereby, certify that this 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:)	Dept of Culture, Re State or Federal agency and b	creation and Tourism  oureau  meets does not meet the Nationa		
5. National Park Service Certification  , hereby, certify that this 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:)				Date
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  determined not eligible for the National Register.  removed from the National Register.  other, (explain:)	State or Federal agency and b	ureau		
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  determined not eligible for the National Register.  removed from the National Register.  other, (explain:)	5. National Park Service	Certification		
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  determined not eligible for the National Register.  removed from the National Register.  other, (explain:)	, hereby, certify that this prop	perty is:		
other, (explain:)/	See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the Register. See continuation determined not eligible for	National On sheet.	Entered in the National Regi	ne Lster 4/20/8
Circulture of the Vocana		Register.		
		, Signati	re of the Keeper	Date of Action

	, -		
<del></del>	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION - School		
Materials (enter categories from instructions)			
foundation	concrete		
walls	concrete		
roof	tar		
other			
	foundation walls roof		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Port Allen High School (1937) is a one-story Modernistic cast concrete structure with a two-story central pavilion and third story frontal tower. The school stands well back from the nearest road in the middle of a large, shaded educational complex on the northeast side of Port Allen. Its only significant alterations are the addition of a porte-cochere and the covering of windows on the building's western elevation. Thus, the school retains its National Register eligibility.

The building's plan is basically symmetrical, with two one-story classroom wings projecting from opposite sides of the central block. A one-story pavilion terminates each wing, and a combination auditorium/gymnasium is joined to one end pavilion through a small lobby. Each classroom wing is divided by a hallway, while the central block houses a lobby, school office, restrooms, teacher's lounge, and twin staircases. The second floor of the central pavilion is one large open space; the third floor tower is merely an enclosed shell.

The school is constructed of cast concrete painted to present a gleaming white facade. Although the building is essentially horizontal, its stepped back central block culminates in a striking octagonal tower which soars above the structure below and reflects the geometric emphasis of the Modernistic style. Bold superimposed corner pilasters on both central block and tower, as well as a reeded vertical rectangular tower panel, reinforce the verticality and geometry of the design. The central block is further noteworthy for the fleur-de-lis. stylized pelicans, and stylized magnolia (all symbols of Louisiana) which decorate its facade at the point where it thrusts upward to form the tower. A bas relief roundel with book is centered between the pelicans and symbolizes the function of the building. A fluted panel stands above the main entrance, whose paired doors, transom and sidelights consist of rectangular panes held in place by brushed aluminum muntins. Other sections of the facade also display decorative geometric elements. Corner pilasters are used to emphasize the end pavilions and the gymnasium. Horizontal bands of cast concrete resembling streamlined rustication top the classroom wings, and rectangular indentations featuring bas relief octagons and chevrons are centered above the windows of each end pavilion. A bas relief figure of a basketball player decorates the area above the gym's outside door. Casement windows arranged in groups of five allow ample light into the spaces within each classroom wing. Similar windows in the central pavilion are paired. The tower is windowless.

#### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

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

Port	Allen	High	Schoo	1,	West	Baton	Rouge	Parish
Section	numbe	er	7	Pag	ge	1		

its lobby is noteworthy as a continuation of the structure's Modernistic styling. Marble in two shades of gray sheaths the walls in a geometric pattern, and large granite block pilasters frame the front entrance. Two circular light fixtures suspended from the ceiling illustrate how the Modernistic style also influenced the design of building accessories.

#### Assessment of Integrity:

Through the years a series of minor alterations have been made to the school. These include construction of a porte-cochere whose cantilevers pierce the cast concrete on the building's west side, enclosure of the windows on the same side, erection of covered walkways surrounding the school on the three minor elevations, replacement of floor and ceiling tiles in the lobby and hallways, and a rewiring project in which conduits were nailed directly to the interior walls. Additions to the school were made by erecting separate, free-standing buildings. Therefore, none of the changes has seriously altered the building's integrity, and the facade remains entirely intact.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property nationally	perty in relation to other properties:  statewide X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B X	;	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE DF DG	N/A
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Architecture	Period of Significance 1937	Significant Dates 1937
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder Bodman & Murrell,	Architects
		and Hart Contractors

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Port Allen High School is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is an outstanding example of the Modernistic style and is probably the only early twentieth century architectural landmark within the context of West Baton Rouge Parish.

The parish is largely rural in nature, and with the exception of a handful of pre-twentieth century plantation houses and the 1937 high school, its building stock is unimpressive. As the parish seat, Port Allen is the only urban area large enough to have developed any architecture of distinction. Yet the town lacks a defined central business district, and the vast majority of its buildings are nondescript structures from the early twentieth century. Its few public buildings, all erected since 1950, are scattered throughout the small community. Thus, the very existence within the parish of a high style Modernistic structure reflecting the tastes of the 1920s and 1930s seems all the more remarkable.

The high school does, indeed, reflect the tastes of the high style architecture of the 1930s. It is conspicuous for its dramatically massed central block and tower, its stylized decorative elements incorporating symbols of Louisiana, its essentially unaltered state, and its parklike setting. The school may very well have been influenced by the recently completed Modernistic state capitol skyscraper across the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge.

800	continu	uation	choot
See	contini	uation	SDAAT

9. Major Bibliographical References	
Site visit and windshield survey of West Bat	ton Rouge Parish by National Register staff
Building cornerstone.	
	Con combination about
Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A	See continuation sheet
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	X State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of propertyapproximately 1.25 acres	
Acreage of propertyapproximatery 1.29 acres	
UTM References	
A 1.5 [617:211:2:0] [3:317:113:6:0]	B
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
¢ L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L	
	See continuation sheet
Worked December 2	
Verbal Boundary Description	
Please refer to enclosed sketch map.	
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
·	L. d
Boundaries do not follow property line becar campus complex with many modern buildings.	The boundaries out warm alonely to the
side and rear of the school in order to exc	
pide and lear of the school in order to exc.	TWGO WOODIN CONDUINCTION.
	See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title National Register Staff	7.1
organization <u>Division of Historic Preservation</u>	date February 1989
street & number P. O. Box 44247	telephone 7080/
city or townBaton Rouge	state <u>LA</u> zip code <u>70804</u>

Port Allew High School

West BatoN Rouge Parish LA

Scale: 1" = 50'