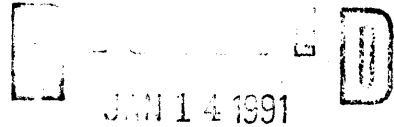


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Louisiana State Exhibit Building  
other names/site number Louisiana State Museum, Shreveport

2. Location

street & number 3015 Greenwood Road N/A  not for publication  
city, town Shreveport N/A  vicinity  
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71109

3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 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.  See continuation sheet.

Jonathan Fricker January 10, 1991  
Signature of certifying official Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Louisiana Date  
Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Melona Byers* 2/20/91  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

*for* Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/museum  
& CULTURE  

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/museum  
& CULTURE  

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival  
Moderne  

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls limestone  

---

roof tarother granite  

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Louisiana State Exhibit Building is a very severe, monumental, neo-classical museum building which also displays elements of the Modernistic taste. Virtually unaltered since its construction in 1937, the museum is set in a fenced off area adjoining the Louisiana State Fairgrounds southwest of downtown Shreveport. Constructed of smooth limestone and trimmed in polished granite, the building is chiefly noteworthy for its unusual shape and configuration. The facility is now maintained by the Louisiana State Museum and is known as the Louisiana State Museum, Shreveport.

The museum is set in a fenced off lawn with axial approaches on three sides. The perimeter of the grounds is marked by sections of Modernistic ornamental steel fence. The fence is not continuous, but instead is placed in sections to highlight the front, rear and side entrances to the property. Gaps between the ornamental fence sections have been filled in with ordinary chain link fence.

The building has a five-part plan with a great circular central section, a pair of hyphen breezeways and a pair of flankers. The east flanker contains a museum gallery and meeting room; the west flanker contains an auditorium. The central section is approached via a broad, low flight of granite steps set between a pair of monumental planters. The main entrance takes the form of a giant projecting portico flanked by diminutive side wings. The portico bears the name of the building and the state seal, while the wings bear the names of Louisiana's 64 parishes. The entrance portico features two polished granite columns which are so severe that capitals and bases are omitted from the design. The three entrance doorways are set in a high granite dado. Above the dado is a huge central window flanked by a pair of frescoes executed by Conrad Albrizio. The frescoes are large enough to occupy both the rear and side walls of the portico, thus giving them a curious turning the corner configuration.

Beyond the portico is the museum space itself -- a continuous, grand, circular corridor with dioramas on one side and a display wall on the other. The museum corridor forms a ring which encircles a courtyard with an ornamental pool at the center. The pool is fenced off with a decorative Modernistic railing. All of the museum's windows look into the courtyard. Because there are no windows looking outward, the exterior of the museum has a stark appearance. The rear elevation of the circular portion of the building features a small projecting entrance without columns. This is surmounted by a slightly raised parapet with the state seal and the name of the building.

 See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Louisiana State Exhibit Building, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

Section number   7   Page   1  

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The museum corridor is two stories high, but the second level is set back, which gives the exterior a two stage appearance, rather like a drum with a smaller drum on top. This adds to the building's powerful geometric massing. Most of the exterior is devoid of ornament, but the upper portions of its various sections are accented with a system of heavy horizontal molded strips. Molded strips are also used on the ceiling of the museum corridor to echo the curve of the walls. They also form a multiple concentric paneled effect on the ceiling of the entrance foyer. The dioramas in the museum corridor are contained within a high wooden dado which is decorated with horizontal strips of brushed aluminum.

Each of the previously mentioned frescoes consists of a single monumental figure set next to a collage-like collection of scenes from industry and agriculture. Because the monumental figures are set against the back wall of the entrance portico, they show through between the columns. While they are in still poses, other figures in the frescoes are in the midst of action -- cutting cane, drilling for oil, timber harvesting etc. All the figures have similar characteristics -- being larger than life, unsmiling, and exhibiting a kind of stylized muscularity. The fresco on the left side of the portico depicts southern Louisiana while the one to the right depicts the northern part of the state.

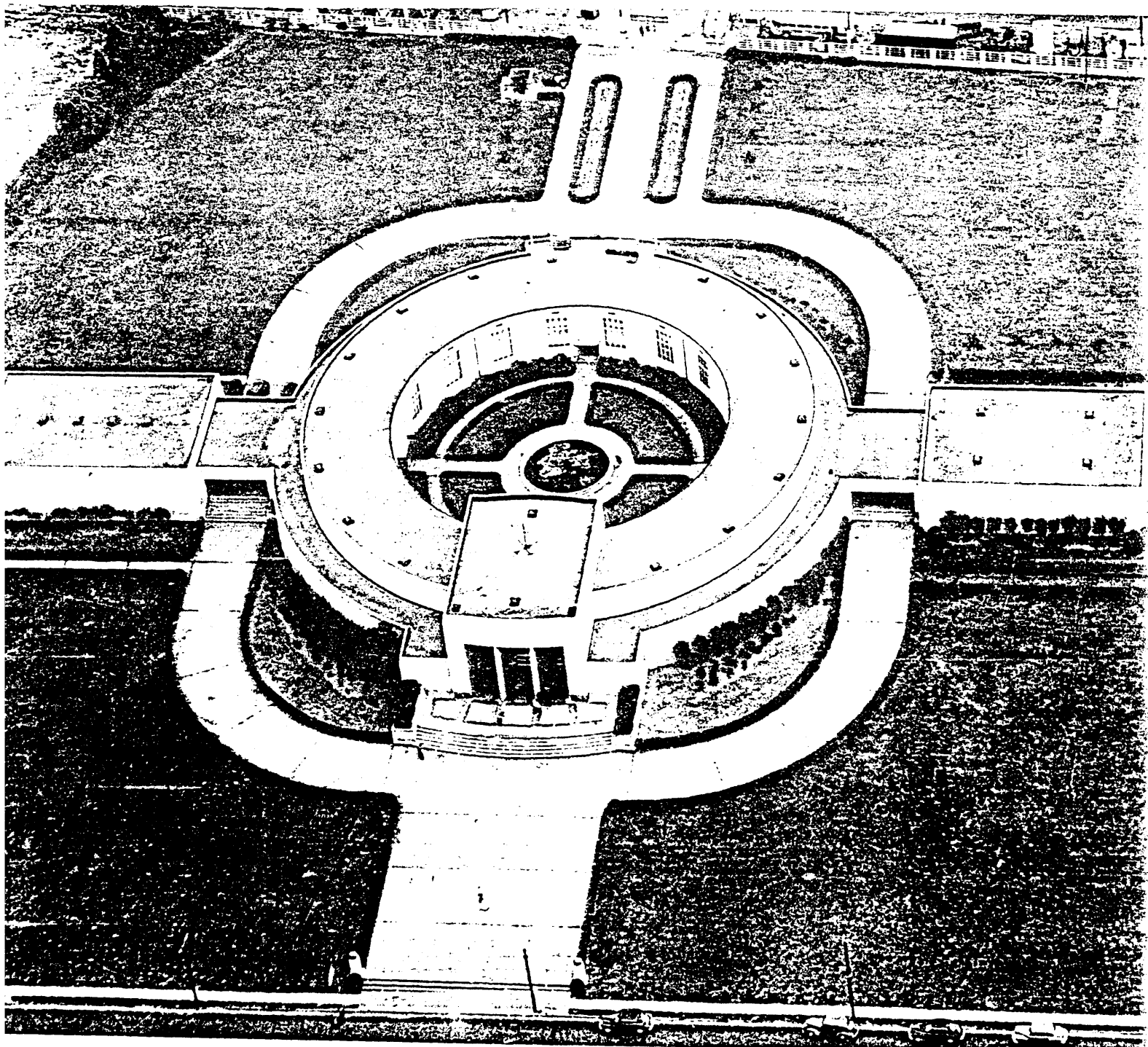
The only noticeable alterations to the museum property are the previously mentioned chain link fence sections and the installation of bollards along the sidewalk.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Louisiana State Exhibit Building, Shreveport, Caddo Parish  
Section number 7 Page 2

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AERIAL PHOTO TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION OF BUILDING

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
1937

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
1937

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Architect: Neild, Somdal & Neild  
Contractor: A. J. Rife Construction Co.  
Frescoes: Conrad Albrizio

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

The Louisiana State Exhibit Building is of local significance in the area of architecture as a special component of Shreveport's important and impressive collection of historic twentieth century buildings.

Louisiana's third largest city was founded in the 1830s, and although noteworthy buildings survive from the Victorian era, it is in the twentieth century styles that Shreveport truly excels. Due to a major oil boom in the area, the city experienced explosive growth in the early twentieth century. As a result, the vast majority of the city's thousands of historic buildings date from this period. This prosperity is particularly evident in the numerous major commercial, public and institutional buildings from the late teens and particularly the '20s, not to mention the various "mansions" in the Fairfield area. Although the Depression years were obviously leaner, Shreveport excelled then in the various modern styles (most notably, the International Style).

It is within the foregoing context that the Louisiana State Exhibit Building should be viewed. For the reasons noted above, Shreveport's overall identity as a significant cultural resource is dependent upon its historic twentieth century architecture. This is what makes Shreveport special. To a large extent this importance is established by approximately forty first rank major buildings, of which the Exhibit Building is one. Among this group of stellar properties, the Exhibit Building is particularly important because of its unusual form and plan. Most of the other landmarks feature fairly conventional forms and floor plans with some sort of applied architectural treatment. By contrast, the Exhibit Building has a striking, highly individual form. In effect, the entire building is a work of art.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bercier, Carolyn A. "The Frescoes of Conrad Albrizio." M. A. thesis, Louisiana State University, 1979.

Tablet bearing date of construction, architect, etc.

Extensive staff knowledge of Shreveport's historic architecture.

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property @ 6 acres

UTM References

A 

1	5
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4	2	6	2	4	0
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3	5	9	3	7	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to attached property plat map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow property lines, as per attached plat map.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title National Register staff  
organization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1990  
street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160  
city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: State of Louisiana, Division of Administration  
P. O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

# LOUISIANA State Exhibit Bldg, Shreveport, Caddo Parish

