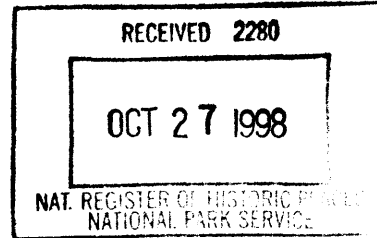


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



1424

**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 any 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 Golden Meadow High School

other names/site number Golden Meadow Junior High School

2. Location

street & number 630 South Bayou Drive NA not for publication

city or town Golden Meadow NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Lafourche code 057 zip code 70357

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 10/20/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker Date
Deputy SHPO, Department 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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):

Erson H. Beall Signature of Keeper Date of Action 11-23-98

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.)

Table with columns for Contributing and Noncontributing resources, and rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Education

Sub. School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Education

Sub. School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, walls Brick, roof Metal, other Ceramic Tile

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" next to the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X 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 NA

(Mark "X" next to all that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Favrot and Livaudais

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

NA

- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Golden Meadow High School

Name of property

Lafourche Parish, LA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 765460 3253930

2 _____ _____

3 _____

4 _____

__ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(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 August 1998

street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lafourche Parish School Board, Floyd Benoit, Jr., Communications Specialist

street & number P. O. Box 879 telephone (504) 446-5631

city or town Thibodaux state LA zip code 70302-0879

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Classical Revival style Golden Meadow High School stands on the west bank of Bayou Lafourche in the Lafourche Parish community for which it is named. The symmetrical facade of the masonry building features a two-story central block with a one-story wing extending from each side. One story classroom wings also extend along each side of the two-story section, and three small wings are located at the rear. (See attached sketch and photos.) The school's National Register eligibility has not been compromised by the alterations it has received since its 1931 construction.

Designed by New Orleans architects Favrot and Livaudais, the polychrome brick school exhibits a number of Classical architectural elements. The most pronounced is the treatment of the central block's facade, which is articulated as a temple. It features a large pediment with a raking denticulated cornice. Below the pediment is an entablature with a denticulated frieze. Two pairs of colossal pilasters with Doric capitals (framing the entrance) and two sets of exaggerated quoins (one set located on each corner of the central block) give the appearance of supporting the entablature and pediment. Two sets of vertical strips subdivide the pediment into three parts; the pediment's middle section is pierced by a large oculus decorated by voussoirs. Classical features found on the rest of the building include the presence of a more simple entablature which encircles the building and the placement of quoins (also exaggerated) on each major corner of the structure.

Although not specifically associated with the Classical Revival style, other interesting architectural motifs are found on the building. Within the facades of the two, one-story wings, for example, glazed green ceramic tiles are used to outline decorative panels of polychrome brick laid in a grid of diamond shapes. Identical ceramic tiles cover the face of the central block's pediment. Cast iron is used in balustrades located beneath the central block's first floor windows, a screen decorating the opening to the central block's recessed front entrance, and within the oculus. Finally, a high concrete watertable encircles the building.

The school's floorplan is somewhat unusual. It is organized around a large auditorium which fills almost all of the central block. On the first floor, an entrance and offices for the school's administrative personnel fill the space between this auditorium and the building's front wall. Each of the previously mentioned one-story sections is filled by three large classrooms which open directly into the auditorium, with the result that the latter serves as a circulation space as well as a meeting area. Two additional classrooms are located in small one-story wings which adjoin the main block at its rear corners (see attached drawing) and one additional room is found within one wing on

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the front of the building. The second front wing formerly contained a classroom, but it has been subdivided to provide additional office and storage space for the school's staff. On the second floor, a balcony outlines three sides of the auditorium (omitting only the side where the stage is located), creating a mezzanine space. Two classrooms are located on the main block's second floor. These fill the area above the first floor entrance and offices and open to the mezzanine. Original doors and subdivided transoms survive on the interior, as do the wooden floors in the building's offices and auditorium.

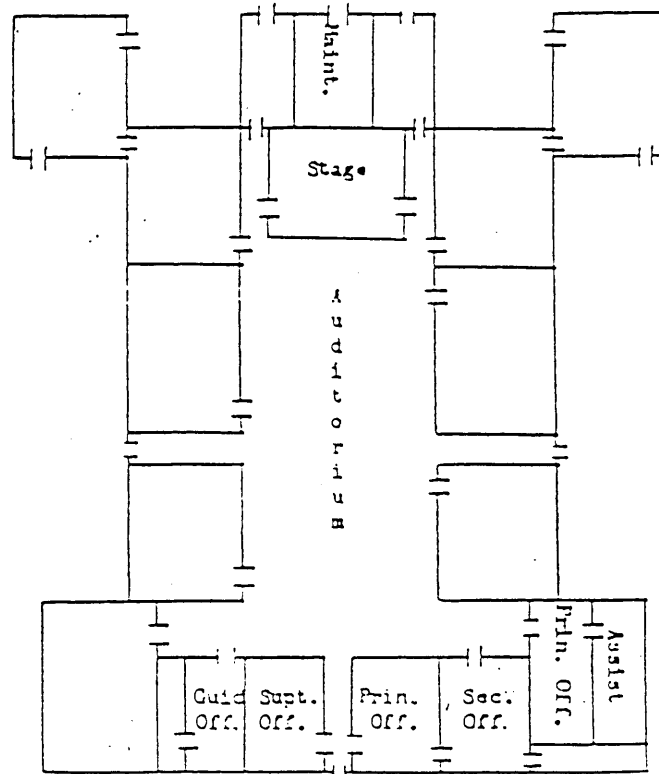
In addition to the previously mentioned subdivision of one classroom, other alterations to the school include the replacement of its original multi-pane, double-hung windows with one-over-one windows; the loss (due to hurricane damage) of the original slate roof and its replacement with a standing seam metal roof; the installation of floor and ceiling tiles in most classrooms; the loss of the auditorium's seats; and the construction of covered breezeways connecting the rear and one side of the building to additional structures constructed in the 1950s. (Note: The boundaries of this nomination are being cut so as to exclude these structures.) In addition, the building was cleaned, its mortar repointed and its wooden trim painted in the spring of 1996. Although the loss of the roof and windows is regrettable, there is no doubt that former students of the school would recognize the building if they were to visit it today. As the symbol of the "coming of age" of education in the Golden Meadow area, the high school is a strong candidate for National Register listing.

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Golden Meadow High School



First Floor Plan

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Golden Meadow High School is locally significant in the area of education because its 1931 construction represents the "coming of age" of education in the southern tip of Lafourche Parish.

Although a few settlers arrived in the area which would become Golden Meadow as early as 1842, the French Acadian community did not experience serious growth until after 1900. Part of the reason for this slow progress was the extreme remoteness of the site. Lower Lafourche Parish, where Golden Meadow is located, is a major wetlands area bordering the Gulf of Mexico. The settlements here are far apart and separated by vast expanses of swampland. Thus, until the construction of the first dirt road in 1903 (necessitated, in part, by the damming of Bayou Lafourche at its juncture with the Mississippi River in Ascension Parish), almost all transportation took place via boat on Bayou Lafourche. Despite the difficulties of its location, the village had obtained two stores and a "meat handling" facility by 1913. A major growth spurt occurred in 1915 after a hurricane struck Leeville, a town sited on the bayou even closer to the coast than Golden Meadow. After the storm some Leeville residents moved northward, settling in Golden Meadow. By 1917 the town had an ice plant and a factory for packaging shrimp. Additional factories followed within a few years. A hotel was open by 1921, a movie theater and a bank by 1922, and a post office by 1923. The first resident doctor arrived in 1928. Until the discovery of oil in 1938, Golden Meadow's economy was based on farming in the summer and hunting and trapping in the winter. Although many former fishermen became oil field workers or established businesses which service that industry, fishing has remained an important contributor to the town's prosperity. The community incorporated in 1950.

Like other villages facing the problems of life in a remote wetlands area, Golden Meadow was slow to provide adequate educational opportunities for its children. In fact, the first school in lower Lafourche Parish was not in Golden Meadow but in the Cheniere area (a community well below Golden Meadow on Bayou Lafourche). This establishment opened some time before 1893 but was destroyed by a hurricane in that year. Apparently much of the community was destroyed as well, for some of its residents moved northward to Leeville. There another school opened. This private school offered the first five grades, and its teacher charged each student a quarter a week for the privilege of attending. A second hurricane in 1915 destroyed this school. As mentioned above, a number of Leeville residents then migrated northward to Golden Meadow.

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The first educational facility actually located in Golden Meadow appears to have been a one room school (perhaps located in a dance pavilion). Students were required to pay one dollar a month to attend and had to furnish their own desks and chairs as well. Later the Woodmen of the World Hall (located on the upper floor of a local grocery store) provided shelter for a somewhat larger school whose teacher focused primarily on reading and math. By 1918 a new four-room public elementary or grammar school had opened. However, it lost its principal in that year when he was drafted by the military for service in World War I. The next principal was Loretta McCabe, who moved from New Orleans to Golden Meadow to take the position. Under her leadership the school prospered, expanding its services to include grades one through seven and adding new classrooms to the facility. However, education for most Golden Meadow area children ended at this point. The closest high schools were at Cut Off and Larose--both considered far away at a time when roads were poor. In addition, most parents could not afford the "extravagant" cost of boarding their children near the Cut Off and Larose facilities.

The 1931 opening of Golden Meadow High School, constructed as the result of a 1930 bond election, changed all that. Like those of other communities whose educational endeavors were maturing at the time, the school board built a "modern brick building" which provided a number of amenities. In addition to a large auditorium and offices for administrative staff, the new school offered twelve classrooms. Grades one through ten were taught until 1933, when official high school accreditation was obtained. This accreditation added the eleventh grade to the curriculum, and the first class graduated in 1934. (A twelfth grade was not added until c. 1948.)

The opportunity to obtain an advanced education made a major difference in the lives of local children. According to former student Mrs. Lou Pitre, until Golden Meadow opened, children would drop out of school before the seventh grade. They felt there was no need to bother with education since there was no further instruction available. Thus, the very existence of the new building encouraged children to stay in school and to excel at their studies. As bus transportation became available children from as far away as Galliano and Leeville were able to attend. The school provided opportunities for athletic competition in basketball almost as soon as it opened, and a band was organized in 1939. Importantly, many of the area's French speaking children learned to speak English at the Golden Meadow School. There can be no doubt that the school expanded the horizons of its students by providing opportunities they might otherwise have never received. Thus, as the symbol of the "coming of age" of

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education in Golden Meadow and lower Lafourche Parish, Golden Meadow High School is an outstanding candidate for National Register listing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“History of Golden Meadow High School,” typescript; copy in National Register file.

Interviews with Mrs. Lou Pitre, Mrs. Jean Rowe, Mrs. Micki Pitre, and Mr. Ellis Terrebonne, former students of Golden Meadow High School; recorded on videotape in May 1997. Copy of tape housed in Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation’s National Register office.

Rome, Jeanne, “A History of Golden Meadow,” in Michot, Stephen S. and Doucet, John P., editors, *The Lafourche Country II: The Heritage and Its Keepers*. Thibodaux, LA: Lafourche Heritage Society, 1996.

Site visit by National Register staff.

Untitled typed manuscript concerning history of Golden Meadow High School; copy in National Register file.

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Boundary Description:

See attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries follow property lines on two sides of the school in order to illustrate its relationship to Bayou Lafourche and include part of its historic setting. The boundaries are cut close to the building on the other two sides to exclude non-contributing elements standing only a few feet from the historic building.

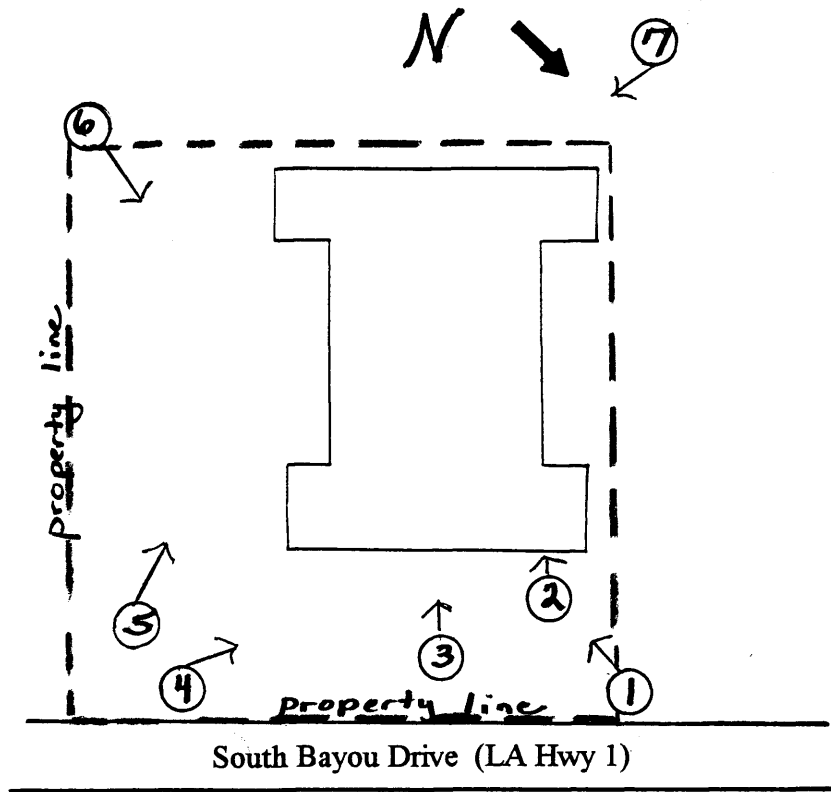
NOTE:

U.S.G.S. topo map incorrectly depicts Golden Meadow High School and the nearby non-contributing elements as one building.

Golden Meadow High School

Golden Meadow, Lafourche Parish, LA

Scale: $1'' = 100'$ Boundary: - - - -



Bayou Lafourche