

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **NOV 25 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Bolton High School

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number 2101 Vance Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of

state LA code 22 county Rapides Parish code 079

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Rapides Parish School Board (318) 487-0888

street & number P. O. Box 1230

city, town Alexandria N/A vicinity of state LA 71301

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rapides Parish Courthouse

street & number 701 Murray Street P. O. Box 952

city, town Alexandria state LA 71301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title LA Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records LA State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent

good **S VM**

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Bolton High School (1926) is a three story neo-classical masonry building with limestone facing. It is located in a residential area of southern Alexandria. Despite a few alterations and a 1967 cafeteria addition, the building easily retains those features which make it an important example of its style in Rapides Parish.

The plan is axial with a central entrance lobby leading to the main office area. The overall building consists of three main parts; a broad frontal section, a broad rear section which is linked to the front by a service court, and a large rear auditorium. The service court is open at the sides on the ground level and can be entered on either side by means of a broad archway. Most sections of the building have a central corridor leading to classrooms.

The entire exterior is styled in a severe neo-classical manner. The rusticated first story is surmounted by a colossal piano nobile. Each bay of the piano nobile is defined by Doric pilasters with groups of schoolroom sash windows sandwiched between them. The piano nobile is surmounted by a strong but plain entablature and a slight parapet. The five part entrance facade has a central Ionic columnar pavilion and a pair of relatively plain end pavilions. The parapet is raised slightly over the pavilions.

The interiors are relatively plain. A noteworthy exception is the arcaded lobby, with its full Doric entablature, coffered vaults, marble wainscotting, and elaborately molded cornice.

Changes made since the building's construction include the refitting of some of the classrooms and bathrooms, the replacement of the original bronze front doors with glass, and the construction in 1967 of a one story rear cafeteria addition. These changes we feel should be regarded as minor given the total scope of the building's original architectural fabric. Also, it should be pointed out that the rear addition has a minimal visual impact.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1926 **Builder/Architect** Architects: Favrot and Livaudais,  
New Orleans

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criterion C

Bolton High School is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is Rapides Parish's largest and most imposing example of the neo-classical tendency of the early-twentieth century known as the "American Renaissance." Exemplary features include the building's quiet lines, severe classicism, and five part pavilion articulation.

There are only a few other period neo-classical buildings in Rapides Parish and they are mainly relatively small commercial structures. The Bentley Hotel is an exception to this because it is large and opulently styled. But unlike Bolton High School, the Bentley is not fully articulated with classical features. The Bentley's front colonnade is its only exterior classical feature. There is no all encompassing modular piano nobile such as at Bolton High School.

Bolton's local preeminence as an example of the "American Renaissance" is important for Rapides Parish. This style was regarded in its day as the final maturity of American architecture. It was generally thought that American architecture was at last taking its place with the architecture of the older countries of the Western World. So, taken in this light, Bolton can be seen as the most urbane and sophisticated early-twentieth century building in the parish.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Standing Structures Survey, Rapides Parish, LA State Historic Preservation Office.  
Ashe, Douglas. Architectural and Historical Sketch of Bolton High School. Typescript  
in National Register file, LA State Historic Preservation Office.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres

Quadrangle name Alexandria, LA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	5	5	1	8	2	0	3	4	6	2	0	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to enclosed sketch map, Boundaries were cut tightly around the rear and sides of the school in order to exclude ancillary non-contributing elements, A large area was included in front to take in the broad frontal axial vista which complements the building's neo-classical design.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

ASSISTED BY OWNER

name/title National Register Staff

Division of Historic Preservation

organization State of Louisiana

date October 1983

street & number P. O. Box 44247

telephone 504-342-6682

city or town Baton Rouge

state LA 70804

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Robert B. DeBlieux*

Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 18, 1983

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Wm. DeBlieux*

date 1/9/1984

Keeper of the National Register

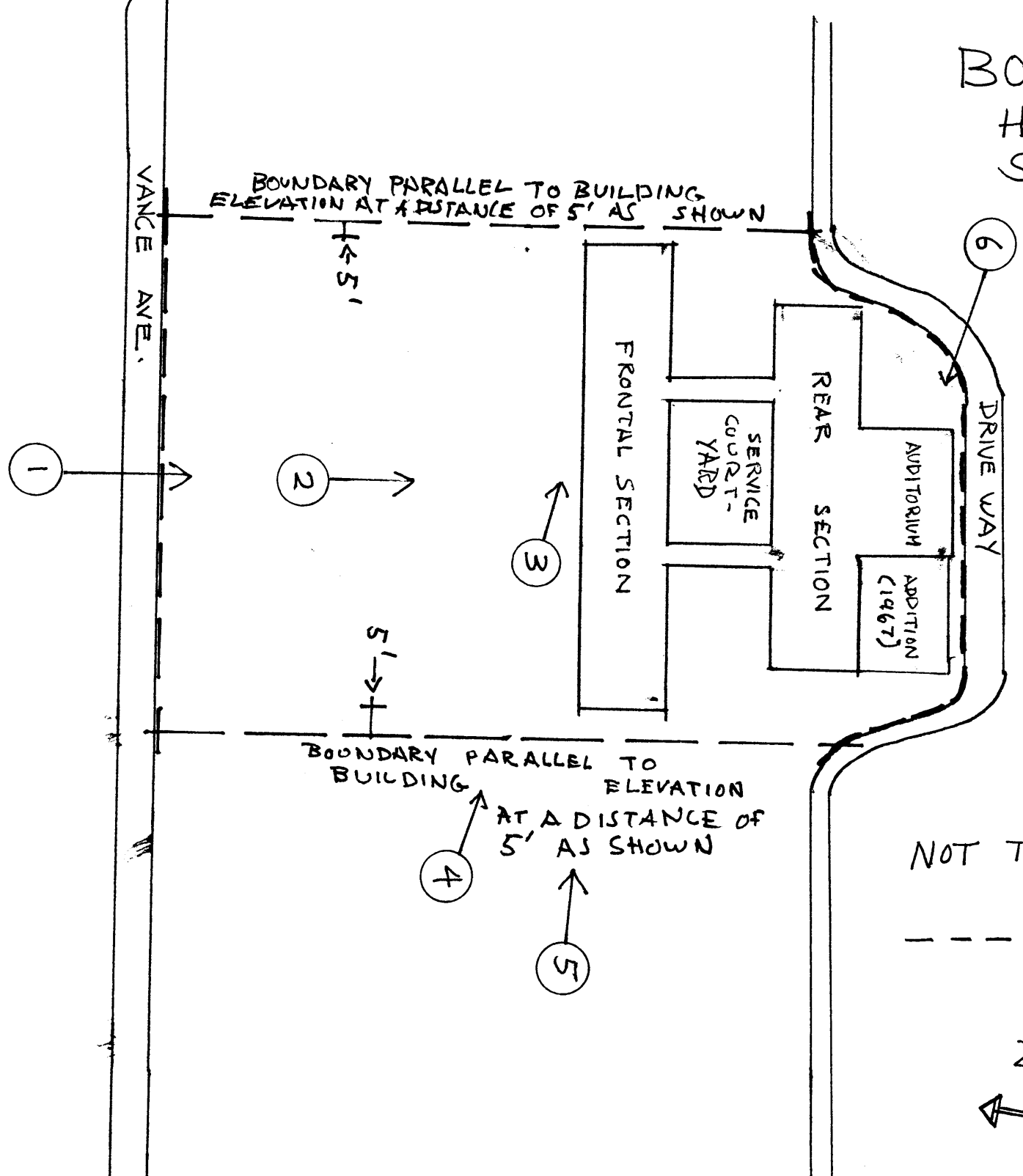
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

# BOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

Alexandria,  
Rapides Parish,  
Louisiana



NOT TO SCALE

--- boundary line

