

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
JUN 4 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Arsenal Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC: Powder Magazine *was there*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: State Capitol Drive (P. O. Box 44121, Capitol Station)

CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22 COUNTY: East Baton Rouge CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State of Louisiana

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 44095, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge STATE: Louisiana

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of Clerk of Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Municipal Building, 300 North Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge STATE: Louisiana

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Baton Rouge by Robert W. Heck; City Parish Planning Commission

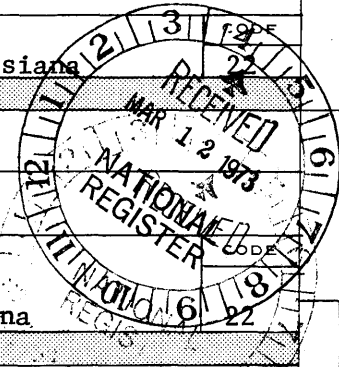
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: City Parish Planning Commission (Community Revewal Program)

STREET AND NUMBER: 805 St. Louis Street

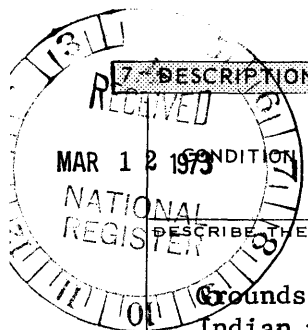
CITY OR TOWN: Baton Rouge STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22

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DESCRIPTION		(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		
(Check One)			(Check One)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site							

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Arsenal Museum is located on the Louisiana State Capitol Grounds between the site of the old Baton Rouge Post cemetery and an Indian mound.

The cemetery is located on the east side of the Arsenal or Powder Magazine. It encompassed 4.11 acres when shown on a Plan of the Grounds of the Barracks and Arsenal made on June 20, 1839, by A. Crawford, Surveyor. Due to the lack of a public burial ground in Baton Rouge for Protestants, some civilians were buried here with the permission of the Post Commanders. A survey of the cemetery made by H. and W. G. Waller, Surveyors, April 19, 1850, attributed 10 acres to the cemetery, but almost half of it was subject to overflow from Bayou Gracie, located to the north and east of this property. In connection with the construction of the New State Capitol in 1931, this cemetery was abandoned and the bodies removed from the identifiable grave sites. During the contouring of the Capitol grounds thirteen additional caskets were located and reburied.

The Indian mound north of the Old Arsenal building is the one remaining mound of the two or three which were originally found on the Capitol grounds. It was used as a part of the Post Cemetery, probably for officers. There has been some erosion along the path used by visitors going to the top to view the two cannons placed there in 1940 by the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They were placed there to commemorate the Battle of Baton Rouge in 1779, the only Revolutionary War battle fought outside the thirteen colonies.

The Old Arsenal, more properly known as a powder magazine, was constructed in 1838. The original specifications are in the National Archives, Washington, D. C. and point out the magazine's similarity to one constructed at New Orleans Barracks (now Jackson Barracks) in 1832-1835. The specifications read:

Specifications of the several Artificers work required to be performed in the erection and completion of a building at Baton Rouge for a Magazine 105 feet long and 35 feet wide 12 feet high above ground. The foundations to be 3 feet deep and 10 feet 6 wide to be filled in between the floor joists with charcoal, the walls above ground to be 4 feet 6 in. thick the joints on the external of the wall to be struck and the internal joints to be drawn smooth and white-washed, the ceiling to be of cemicircular (sic) brick groins as per plan, the floor to be 2 in. thick laid on joists 14 by 4 in. which are to be placed not more than 2 feet apart from centre the floor to be fastened down with copper nails, there are to be 5 strong doors covered with copper and to have copper fastenings, the roof to be framed with queen posts and braces as per plan with projecting eaves and to be covered with Slate fastened with copper or composition nails, and the whole to be done in a Substantial and workmanlike manner.

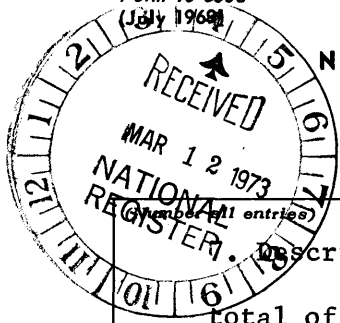
The present building largely conforms to specifications. There is only one door located on the west side, and today it is iron barred. The north end of the building has three small barred windows, two below and one above; the south end has only two windows. On all four sides of the structure there are ground level and waist level air vents, a

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Description (cont'd)

total of 6 on the west side, 4 on the south end, 8 on the east side, and 4 on the north end.

The building is constructed of brick covered with plaster. It is 106 feet 6 inches long and 36 feet 3 inches wide. Fifteen feet tall, it has 4 foot thick, slate-covered roof. The walls are 4 feet 6 inches thick. The interior is one main room with a small partitioned section on the southern end dating from 1961 which contains offices and a rest room.

A series of 2 foot 2 inch square piers support the groin vaulted brick ceiling, which was constructed of curved brick: the eight pillars in the centerline of the building are aided by the eight pilasters on each side of the structure. Display cases were built into the arches between the the pilasters during the 1961 renovation, and it is here that much of the Museum's collection is exhibited. There are also display cases in the center space of the room.

The original 1838 floor was replaced in 1850 when the foundation developed moisture problems. The interior walls were at least partially covered with panneling as early as 1861 as evidenced the Civil War inscriptions still preserved.

The Magazine is surrounded by a ten foot high, 18 inch thick wall which is located 20 feet 2 inches from the east and west walls and 25 feet 2 inches from the side walls. It, too, is plaster covered brick. The only gate in the wall is directly opposite the door in the west wall of the building. A brick walk has been laid in the courtyard between the wall and the building. The bricks used were taken from the ruins of "The Cottage," an historic pre-Civil War plantation mansion at Conrad Point on the Mississippi River in East Baton Rouge Parish.

8. Significance (cont'd)

water.

A letter from Major Lear to Lt. W. A. Thornton dated June 15, 1838, shows that the construction of the magazine was then above ground, but a shortage of workmen and materials, along with the death of the supervisory officer, had slowed the work. The magazine is shown on a survey of the grounds on June 20, 1839 by A. Crawford, Surveyor.

The original appropriation for the structure was \$5,700.00, although the total estimated cost was \$29,432.14½. Its capacity was from 2500 to 3000 barrels of powder.

The post was captured by the State of Louisiana in late January, 1861, and then turned over to the Confederacy when Louisiana joined on March 21 of that year. On May 9, 1862, the Federal gunboat Iroquois appeared at Baton Rouge and took possession of the town without resistance. The post formed a strong point for the Federal troops which engaged in the Battle of Baton Rouge on August 5, 1862:

8. SIGNIFICANCE

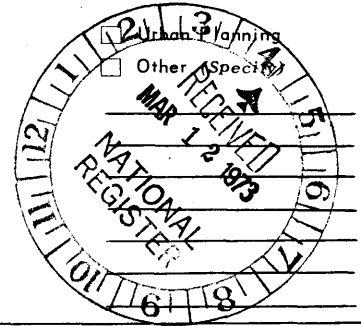
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1838-1879

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Arsenal Museum is the last remaining powder magazine of the Baton Rouge military post. Built in 1838, it served the post while it was the main Ordnance Depot for the southwest United States.

It is located on land acquired on May 27, 1819 for the expansion of the Baton Rouge post. The United States paid Fergus Duplantier \$13,500.00 for the 200 arpents (168 acres). The post had its beginnings in 1779, when the British erected a large dirt fort there in the summer of that year. In September it was captured by the Spanish, under the personal command of Governor Bernardo de Galvez. Through the years the post has been under control of the English, Spanish, French, State of Louisiana and the Confederacy. It was not under United States control until 1810, when it was received from the Republic of West Florida.

After the United States took control of the post in December, 1810, it served as an assembly point for troops going to the Creek War in 1813-1814 and to the Battle of New Orleans in 1814-15. A major expansion of the post was made in 1819-1823 when new barracks were built (four remain today in an excellent state of preservation) and a large Arsenal Depot was established to serve the southwestern United States.

The Cemetery site was used for Post burials from 1819 to the Civil War. Ninety-one soldiers died at the Post in the year 1819 alone (yellow fever took 50 that September), but non-permanent markers were used for their graves. Later sites were not marked any better, so subsequent removal to a national cemetery has not been possible.

The Powder Magazine known today as the Old Arsenal Museum was the third one to be constructed for the Post, and the only one of the original four remaining. In a visit to the post in 1827, General E. P. Gaines suggested a magazine be built farther from the barracks and that all of the magazines should be surrounded by a high, thick brick wall. In the event of an explosion, the force would then be directed upward. Specifications for the structure were forwarded to Col. George Domford, commanding the Ordnance Department at Washington, D. C., by Brevet Capt. William S. Newton, in charge of the Ordnance Depot at Baton Rouge with his letters of September 22 and 23, 1836. After their approval, the plans were returned to Baton Rouge and cannot be located at this time. Col. Domford wrote to Major W. W. Lear in Baton Rouge on December 4, 1837: "The site selected by Col. Foster and yourself designated in the plot of the public grounds at Baton Rouge, for the erection of the magazine which was transmitted to this office in your letter of the 29th July last, have been approved by the Hon. Secty of War." This site was almost on the edge of the land that was not flooded by high

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Casey, Powell A. "Baton Rouge's Historic Powder Magazines," Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, January 7, 1973.
 Casey, Powell A. "It Really Was a Pentagon," Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, August 6, 1972.
 Cunningham, Edward. "Old Arsenal Has Another Birthday," Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate, June 16, 1963
 Davis, Edwin Adams. Louisiana: A Narrative History. Second Edition. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1965.
 Conveyance Book J-G, Clerk of Court, East Baton Rouge Parish
 Ordnance Dept. Correspondence file, 1836-38, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 27' 27"	91° 11' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 15/673400
 3370700

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. James A. Tucker, Mrs. C. Irving Dameron and Mrs. George Simon

ORGANIZATION: **Baton Rouge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution** DATE: **Feb. 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1165 North Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Baton Rouge** STATE: **Louisiana** CODE: **22**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Jack Brown*
 Director, Department of Art,
 Historical and Cultural
 Title Preservation

Date March 9, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/4/73

ATTEST:
Robert M. Utley
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/30/73

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8. Significance (cont'd)

breastworks thrown up around what are now the Capitol Grounds incorporated the magazine. The Magazine was occupied by Federal troops from the Michigan 6th Regiment, as evidenced by the writing still visible on the west wall.

The post remained under U. S. Government control until June 6, 1879, when the United States troops moved out leaving an ordnance-sergeant caretaker. The magazine was rented to private companies for powder storage.

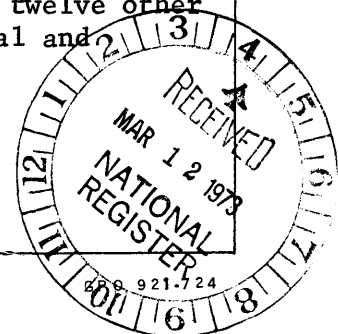
Through the influence of General William T. Sherman, its first president or superintendent, Louisiana State University was able to lease the abandoned post from the Department of Interior in 1886. By Act of Congress in 1902, the University was given full title to the grounds. L. S. U. used the magazine as a dormitory and then a veterinary hospital; books may have also been stored here. Between 1925 and 1932, the University gradually moved to its new campus south of Baton Rouge, and in 1932 the New State Capitol Building on the old post grounds was occupied. It was not until January 11, 1951, that full title to all of the post property was given to the State.

Huey Long, mastermind behind the New State Capitol, had one powder magazine torn down and attempted to have this one demolished, too, to provide space for a sunken rose garden. Interested citizens managed to stop his plans, and were also effective in blocking construction of a new Welfare Building on the site. The two earlier magazines had long since disappeared.

Prior to World War II the Arsenal was used as National Guard quarters and as a State Police pistol range and storeroom. It was then abandoned.

Interest developed in 1949 for the establishment of a museum in the building and in 1956 the Daughters of the American Revolution asked the State Legislature to furnish funds to renovate it. In January, 1960, the Baton Rouge Chapter, D. A. R., under the leadership of Mrs. James A. Tucker, began to actively work toward this end. The combined efforts of the Louisiana Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the State Tourist Development Commission, the Board of Liquidation of the State Debt, and the Baton Rouge City-Parish Council, aided by many individual contributions, refurbished and cleaned up the structure. The Old Arsenal Museum was opened to visitors on July 1, 1962 with the theme "Louisiana Under Ten Flags."

Also, in 1962 the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 437 creating the Arsenal Museum Commission to oversee the Museum. By Act 425 of 1972, the Arsenal Museum Commission was combined with the Old State Capitol Memorial Commission, the Louisiana State Museum and twelve other State agencies into a new State Department of Art, Historical and Cultural Preservation.



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8. Significance (cont'd)

Pot sherds found in the vicinity of the Indian mound indicate it is of the Troyville-Coles Creek Periods (AD 450-AD 1100). It is assumed that excavation of the mound would further pinpoint which of the two periods would be applicable. The Troyville Period was a transitional period characterized by spectacular mounds with extensive associated earthworks, while the Coles Creek culture with its shell middens and earth mounds is also known from a more widespread area. The two periods also have different pottery forms. Both cultures were based on agriculture, gathering, hunting, and fishing.

Some of the bodies of soldiers buried in the post cemetery area were recovered about 1930 when construction excavation uncovered them. Others were recovered because their metal caskets were located by metal detectors. Still others, particularly those in the vicinity of the Powder Magazine have not been located. As this portion of the State Capitol grounds has been landscaped, there are no foreseeable plans for doing archaeological research there. It is assumed that such research would uncover the remains of bodies buried in wooden caskets, probably in uniform as they were from the Military Post, but without enough metal objects with them to register on a metal detector. Some Protestant civilians were buried on the post as there was no Protestant cemetery in Baton Rouge for many years, but this was probably from an earlier period in the Post's history than the 1819 cemetery.