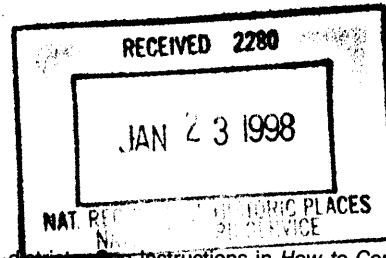


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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 an 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 Keeny Hall, Louisiana Tech University

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Keeny Circle, Louisiana Tech University N/A not for publication

city or town Ruston N/A vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Lincoln code 061 zip code 71272

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 1/14/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Date
State of 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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 2/20/98

Keeny Hall
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

"The 1930's Building Boom at
Louisiana Tech University"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education / College

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education / College

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt

other concrete

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keeny Hall, Louisiana Tech University, Lincoln Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

Keeny Hall (1936) is a three story brick collegiate building occupying one side of the old quadrant on the Louisiana Tech campus. Stylistically, it represents the latter phase of the American Colonial Revival. Despite the almost total modification of the interior and the replacement of the windows, the building easily retains enough character-defining elements to be recognizable to a student from the historic period.

Keeny Hall takes its architectural cue from large Colonial era public buildings such as the dorms at Harvard and the College of William and Mary. The building rests on a half raised basement which becomes a full story in the rear as the ground falls away. It consists of a three story main block under a massive hip roof, two story hyphen wings and two story end pavilions. The facades of the end pavilions are set at right angles to the main facade. The main block culminates in a pedimented pavilion which contains a huge round head window lighting the main staircase. This window is set above the principal entrance, which takes the form of a Roman Doric aedicule motif surmounted by a curving broken pediment with an urn at the center. Either side of the entrance is a small door surmounted by a decorative cast tablet featuring an open book resting upon a bed of laurel branches. The tympanum of the pediment is stuccoed and features a brincade pattern. The overall effect of the entrance pavilion is to provide a strong vertical element in a building that would otherwise consist of row upon row of more or less equally spaced six over six windows.

Keeny Hall's most striking feature is its tall octagonal English Baroque cupola crowning the hip roof of the main block. It consists of a rusticated base with a clock, a shaft with square head louvered panels and an ogee molded dome. The dome is surmounted by an overscaled weathervane.

Other noteworthy "Colonial" features include the modillion cornice on the main block, the segmental pedimented side entrances, the balustrades flanking the front entrance steps and the brickwork. The building's brick is in varying shades from red to brown. This gives the surface a rich textured effect similar to that found on real Colonial brick buildings where burned headers were used.

The interior of Keeny Hall is (and was) given over to hallways, offices and classrooms. Modernized during the 1980s, it contains nothing of architectural note. The other change made at that time was the replacement of all the six over six windows with new window units which have snap-on glazing bars in a six over six pattern. Despite these alterations, the building would be easily recognizable to someone from the historic period. Character-defining features such as

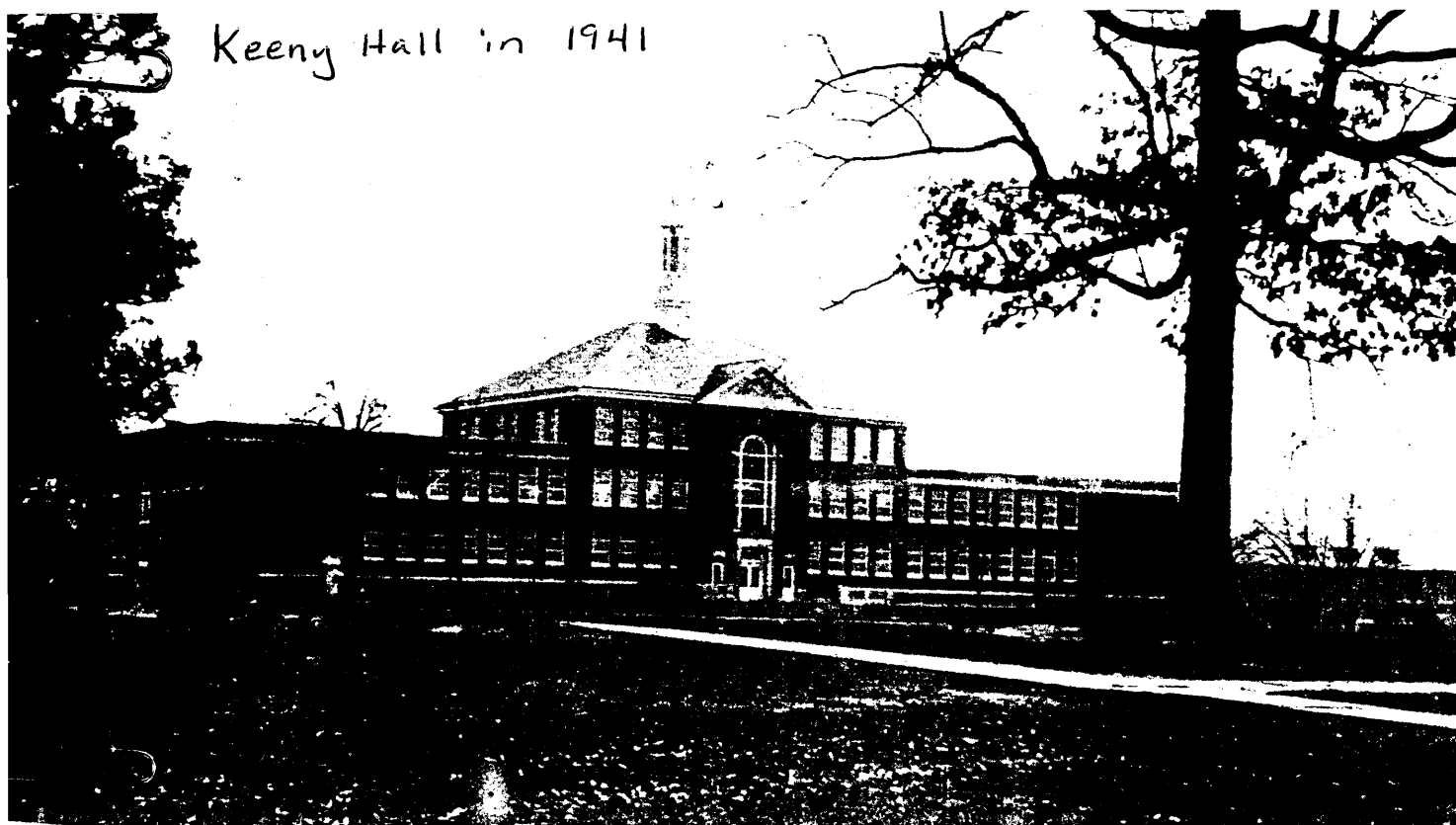
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keeny Hall, Louisiana Tech University, Lincoln Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 2

the cupola, the massing and fenestration, the distinctive entrance pavilion and the textured "Colonial" brick survive. Hence the building retains its historical integrity and its National Register eligibility.



8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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 N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

education

Period of Significance

1936

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiferth, Architects
Neild, Somdal & Neild, Associate Architects
Caldwell Bros. & Hart, Contractors

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Keeny Hall
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property @ 6.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	5	3	3	2	0	0	3	5	9	8	7	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 (assisted by Phi Alpha Theta, Louisiana Tech)

organization Division of Historic Preservation date September 1997

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone 504-342-8160

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Louisiana Tech University, Office of the President

street & number P. O. Box 3168 telephone 318-257-3785

city or town Ruston state LA zip code 71272

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keeny Hall, Louisiana Tech University, Lincoln Parish, LA

Section number 8 Page 1

Keeny Hall is of local significance in the area of education because it is an important component of a critical chapter in Louisiana Tech's history, the great construction boom of the 1930s which increased the physical plant by one-third, including numerous major buildings such as Keeny. See the multiple property form "The 1930s Building Boom at Louisiana Tech" for a fuller statement of significance.

Additional Historical Background:

Keeny Hall was built in 1936 to replace "Old Main," which had been destroyed by fire in January of that year. In addition to its local significance in education, the building is of historical interest because of its association with the famous Louisiana Scandals of 1939 -- widespread scandals which ended in prison terms for many high ranking individuals, including Governor Richard Leche, for whom Keeny Hall was originally named. The building was renamed in the early 1940s for J.E. Keeny, who had been Tech's president from 1907 to 1926. A 1945 history of the university notes that the name was changed after the death of Keeny, although one can't help but believe it also had something to do with the fact that the building's namesake was dishonored. The building appears in yearbooks as Leche Hall until 1940, when it is simply labeled "Administration Building." It appears in 1945 as Keeny Hall.

One of the many charges made against Leche involved "irregularities" in the construction of the Tech administration building. In September 1939 the Lincoln Parish grand jury indicted Leche along with four others on "a charge of increasing the original accepted bid" for erecting the administration building. The other four were Leon C. Weiss, F. Julius Dreyfous and Solis Seiferth, the building's chief architects, and Monte E. Hart, a member of the contracting firm of Caldwell Brothers and Hart. The state board of education had paid \$291,482 to Caldwell Brothers and Hart, \$27,000 more than the bid on which the contract had been awarded. An additional \$5,000 was paid for "unauthorized expenditures." In October 1939 Summa Caldwell of Caldwell Brothers and Hart wrote a check to Louisiana Tech for the \$32,000 in question. The check was placed directly in Tech's building fund instead of the state building fund.

Note: Political significance is not being claimed for Keeny Hall because it is one of a number of buildings surviving in Louisiana which are associated with the 1939 scandals, with one not being any more or less important than another. For example, Caldwell Brothers and Hart was also investigated for alleged kickback schemes in a huge building program at LSU in Baton Rouge.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Keeny Hall, Louisiana Tech University, Lincoln Parish, LA

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

Bibliography: See multiple property cover form bibliography.

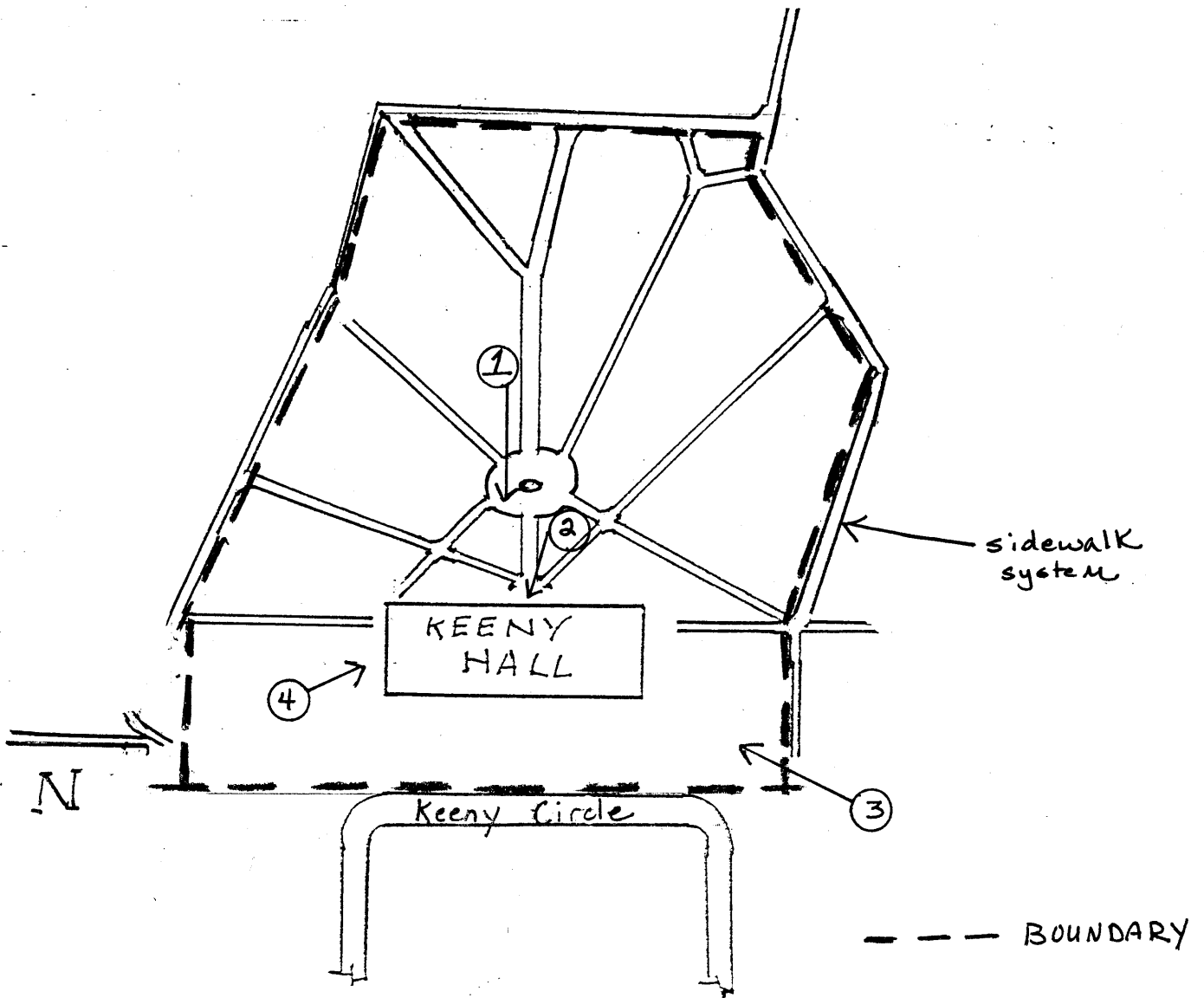
Boundary Description: Please refer to enclosed sketch map.

Justification: Boundaries were chosen to encompass the nominated building and the historic quad in front. Keeny Hall is the focal point of the quad, and it seemed appropriate to nominate this land as part of the historic setting of the building.

KEENY HALL (LA TECH UNIVERSITY)

RUSTON

Lincoln Parish, LA



SCALE 1" = 150'