

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Turner's Hall

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 606 O'Keefe St. N/A not for publication

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of congressional district 2nd - Lindy Boggs

state Louisiana code 22 parish Orleans code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Turngemeinde Partnership in Commendam Gerald L. DeBlois & John M. DeBlois,
General Partners

street & number P. O. Box 24189

city, town New Orleans N/A vicinity of state LA 70184

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Conveyance, City Hall

street & number 1300 Perdido Street

city, town New Orleans state LA 70112

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Turner's Hall is located on the corner of O'Keefe and Lafayette Streets in the western end of the New Orleans central business district. It is immediately encompassed on three sides by parking lots.

Its boldly asymmetrical design consists of a series of large public rooms on three floors. The main block consists of a ballroom space and a gymnasium. However, the interiors are not significant because they have been largely gutted. Despite appearances to the contrary (i.e., the several floor levels and the two major blocks), the building was constructed at one time.

The brick and stucco structure was designed in the grand Italianate manner. It has several features which seem to deliberately break the normal rules of classical articulation. These include:

1. The base of the main block where heavy Doric pilasters terminate beneath a nonexistent entablature. The area where the entablature ought to be is pierced by mezzanine windows.
2. The base of the secondary block which is articulated with what appears to be the upper half of a set of Doric pilasters.
3. Above the colossal piano nobiles of both blocks where the entablature has an unusual treatment. There is a chunk of pulvinated frieze over each pilaster. Between these chunks are groups of flat modillions.

The building is surmounted by a heavy balustrade with paneled blocks over each pilaster. There is a crest over the central portion of the balustrade in the main block. The piano nobile of the main block is articulated with greatly elongated round head arches.

The two sides of the building which do not face streets are not stuccoed and are not articulated in any manner. Evidently they were not meant to be seen.

Assessment of Integrity:

Changes in the building since construction include the boarding up of most of the windows and the virtual gutting of the interior. Neither of them has affected the hall's grand exterior articulation, which is the basis of its significance.

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

Turner's Hall (1868) is a monumental, classical style, three-story, brick and stucco structure located in the New Orleans central business district. The interior has been gutted, but this does not threaten the building's architectural significance, which is based upon the exterior.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1868 **Builder/Architect** William Thiel, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C

Turner's Hall is locally significant in the area of architecture as an important part of the architectural heritage of the western portion of the New Orleans central business district. This area has more than its normal share of parking lots. Some of the extant buildings are grand, but most of these date from the turn-of-the-century or later. The area has a scattering of mid-nineteenth century survivors, but most of these are relatively simple three-story Greek Revival townhouses. Turner's Hall is undoubtedly the most pretentious mid-nineteenth century survivor in the area, being the largest one as well as the only one with more than three or four modular bays and colossal pilaster articulation.

Historical sketch:

Turner's Hall was constructed for and by the Society of Turners (or Turngemeinde), an organization which, according to a newspaper article on the dedication of the building, was established in Germany at the end of the eighteenth century. Its goal was to provide physical, moral, and mental training for the young men of Germany. The Society was founded in New Orleans in 1849 and drew its membership almost exclusively from the city's German immigrant population. The group occupied the present structure until 1879, when they moved to a new location elsewhere in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chain of Title, Conveyance Records, New Orleans.

New Orleans Central Business District Historic District Landmarks Commission Nomination Form on Turner's Hall.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. .19 acre

Quadrangle name New Orleans East, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=24000

UMT References

A

1	5	7	8	2	3	8	5	3	3	1	6	5	1	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 sketch map.

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

name/title Turngemeinde Partnership in Commerdam Gerald L. DeBlois & John M. DeBlois,
General Partners

organization N/A date September 1981

street & number P. O. Box 24189 telephone (504) 837-6456

city or town New Orleans state LA 70184

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. DeBlieux
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 9, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Bruce Van Arsdale
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/2/82

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*
Chief of Registration

date 11/1/82

PHOTO #1

TURNER'S HALL NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

PHOTO #2

PHOTO #3

PHOTO #4

PARTY WALL

O'KEEFE ST.

127' 10"

LAFAYETTE ST.

TURNER'S HALL

56' 7"

PARKING LOT

ADJACENT BUILDING

PARKING LOT



SITE BOUNDARIES ENCOMPASS THE HALL, WHICH TAKES IN THE LOT UPON WHICH IT STANDS. THERE IS NO SETBACK, EXCEPT FOR THE SIDE-WALK. BLDG. FACADES PARALLEL THE STREETS.

SCALE 1" = 30' APPROX.

