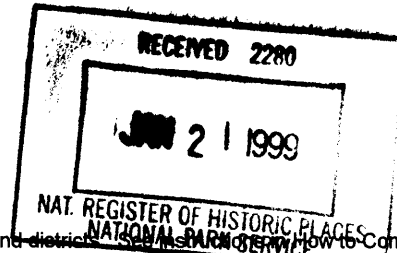


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 General Beauregard Equestrian Statue

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Esplanade Avenue and Wisner Blvd NA not for publication

city or town New Orleans NA vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Orleans code 071 zip code 70124

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 X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker 1/11/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Date
Deputy SHPO, Dept. 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 2/18/99
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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	
—	—	buildings
—	—	sites
—	—	structures
1	—	objects
1	0	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. Recreation and Culture

Sub. Monument/marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat. Recreation and Culture

Sub. Monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NA

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation NA

walls NA

roof NA

other Granite, Bronze

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

Section 7 Page 1

The General Beauregard Equestrian Statue stands within a circular plot of ground situated at the foot of Esplanade Avenue between Bayou St. John and the entrance to New Orleans City Park. The monument consists of a sizable granite base from which the bronze statue, depicting Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard astride a prancing horse, rises. The memorial was built in stages, with the base being dedicated on May 28, 1913 and the statue on November 11, 1915.

The landscaped space containing the statue is divided into a series of concentric circles. Its outer edge is defined by a low concrete curb outlining a low planting bed. This bed is crossed by short sidewalks which connect the adjacent street to a circular sidewalk separating the previously mentioned plantings from a low concrete retaining wall. The wall encloses a slightly raised bed containing ground cover, flowers, a hedge of moderate height and, in the center, the monument itself.

The ensemble stands a total of 27 feet in height. Its dark gray granite base is 10 feet tall and rises from a one-foot foundation. The bronze equestrian statue is 16 feet in height.

The base's shape consists of two long, straight sides and two ends, each of which features a large convex curve. Because of the treatment of the upper portions of the base (the upper portions of the straight sides are stepped and the upper portions of the curved ends slant inward in a concave curve), the surface area of the flat plane forming its top is slightly smaller than that of its bottom. The boldly molded and well-detailed statue connects to the base through three of the horse's four legs. (The fourth leg is raised and advanced to simulate movement.) General Beauregard is depicted wearing a Confederate uniform, coat and cap. Hamilton Basso, an early biographer of the general, has described Beauregard's likeness as "... a grotesque affair of a giant man ... looking melancholy and stoop-shouldered ...". Interestingly, the bronze image does not bear a close resemblance to Beauregard, who was actually slight in stature.

The monument's bas relief inscription, located on one of the base's curved ends, reads as follows:

G. T. Beauregard
1818-1893
General C.S.A
1861-1865

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

(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.
X 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)

Other: Cultural History

Period of Significance

1913-1948

Significant Dates

1913, 1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Statue: Alexander Doyle

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 15 780790 3320390

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 Byname/title National Register Stafforganization Division of Historic Preservation date November 1998street & number P.O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 342-8160city 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 New Orleans City Park Improvement Associationstreet & number 1 Palm Drive telephone (504) 482-4888city or town New Orleans state LA zip code 70124**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.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1

The General Beauregard Equestrian Statue is of statewide cultural significance as one of three major Louisiana monuments representing what is known by historians as "the Cult of the Lost Cause." The other two statues, both also located in New Orleans, depict Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis. Statues of this type are tangible symbols of a state of mind which was powerful and pervasive throughout the South well into the twentieth century (and some would say even today).

The Cult of the Lost Cause has its roots in the Southern search for justification and the need to find a substitute for victory in the Civil War. In attempting to deal with defeat, Southerners created an image of the war as a great heroic epic. A major theme in the Cult of the Lost Cause was the clash of two civilizations, one inferior to the other. The North, "invigorated" by constant struggle with nature, had become materialistic, grasping for wealth and power. The South had a "more generous climate" which had led to a finer society based upon "veracity and honor in man, chastity and fidelity in women." Like tragic heroes, Southerners had waged a noble but doomed struggle to preserve their superior civilization. There was an element of chivalry in the way the South had fought, achieving noteworthy victories against staggering odds. This was the "Lost Cause" as the late nineteenth century saw it, and a whole generation of Southerners set about glorifying and celebrating it. Glorification took many forms, including speeches, organizations such as the United Daughters of the Confederacy, reunions, publications, and holidays such as Lee's birthday. A particularly popular form of veneration was the memorial, of which the north-facing Confederate soldier was the most common type. Examples of these statues are found in parks and courthouse squares throughout the South. The Cult of the Lost Cause continued to dominate Southern cultural history in the early twentieth century, and it is indeed still alive and well today.

Although Robert E. Lee was the centerpiece of the cult, another integral component was the veneration of other Civil War generals. The latter were often memorialized by citizens of their native states. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was born at Contreras Plantation, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana on May 28, 1818. Highlights of his career in the U.S. Army before 1861 included his graduation from the Military Academy in 1838, service in the Corps of Engineers, two brevets for gallantry during the Mexican War, and appointment as superintendent of West Point. On January 28, 1861 (only six days after receiving the latter assignment) he resigned his commission in order to join the Confederate army. The following month he was appointed as the Confederacy's first brigadier general. The high point of his Civil War

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United States Department of the Interior
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CONTINUATION SHEETSection 8 Page 2

service was probably his command of the Southern forces at Charleston, including his responsibility for ordering the bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Beauregard's defeat of federal forces in this battle made him the Confederacy's first hero. His other important contributions to the war effort included commanding roles in the battles of First Manassas (June 1861) and Shiloh (April 1862), command of coastal defenses in Georgia and South Carolina (September 1862-April 1864), direction of the defense of Petersburg ((June 1864), and command of the Military Division of the West (October 1864). After the war Beauregard settled in New Orleans, where he was active in business, civic and political endeavors.

The effort to commemorate General Beauregard can be traced to a meeting of the New Orleans chapter of the United Veterans of the Confederacy (UVC). Meeting on the evening of February 21, 1893 (Beauregard had died earlier in the day), the group decided to form a separate association to raise funds for ". . . the erection [in New Orleans] of a monument commemorative of the patriotic deeds and noble achievements of the great Louisiana soldier and General, . . ." They incorporated the Beauregard Monument Association two days later. The initial contributions of UVC members and other Louisiana citizens (who joined the association through a series of graded memberships) were insufficient to build the proposed monument. Although the Ladies Confederate Memorial Association, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Louisiana Historical Society, the City Park Association, and a Tennessee UVC camp all either took part in fund raising efforts or made outright donations, acquiring the needed monies proved to be a difficult and slow process. Over the years fund raising activities included a sham battle, an "entertainment and musical," a "Tournament Festival" held in the local fair grounds, and public appeals through newspapers and circulars. For example, the following quote from a speech appeared in the newspaper coverage of a 1908 ceremony dedicating a bust of General Beauregard for display at the local Confederate museum:

"Louisiana cannot afford to be behind her sister States in thus honoring her gallant son, one of the full generals in the Confederate Army. For us it is enough that Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was a great soldier; that he is ours; that it is our duty to see that his monument is erected, and that speedily."

A useful fund raising strategy was the decision by the association's executive committee to invest in premium bonds of the city of New Orleans, a move which netted \$5,000 for the memorial project.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Because of the funding difficulties, the monument was erected in stages. The site was donated in 1907 and dedicated on May 28, 1908. On December 15 of the latter year the association contracted with New York sculptor Alexander Doyle to make the statue. Citing his acquaintance with and respect for General Beauregard, Doyle quoted the association a "low" price of \$15,000 for the work. The organization approved his design on May 28, 1912 and shortly thereafter contracted with the Albert Weiblen Marble Company of New Orleans to create the statue's foundation and pedestal. This work cost \$5,900, with the pedestal being dedicated on May 28, 1913. Two years later, on November 11, 1915, the completed statue was dedicated at an elaborate public ceremony.

Each of the Beauregard memorial's construction milestones received extensive press coverage. Samples of the speeches made at these gatherings reflect just how strongly the citizens of New Orleans clung to the Cult of the Lost Cause. Said former governor and Civil War veteran Francis T. Nicholls via letter to the audience at the 1908 site dedication:

"General Beauregard's military genius, his characteristic Creole courage, and his brilliant services to the Southern Confederacy from Fort Sumter to the close of our struggle, have won him enduring fame to which no word of mine, however sincere, no monument we can raise, however beautiful, can add one tithe."

"It is particularly and specially fitting and right," Nicholls continued, "that Louisiana should pay this permanent tribute to the great soldier, who has left to her the glorious legacy of his military skill, devotion and achievements."

Said Judge John St. Paul at the same occasion: "Well, indeed, may they worship at at ([sic] his shrine, for he was one, and not the least, of that galaxy of heroic men whose glorious deeds have placed their age and the struggle in which they took part among the grandest that adorn the annals of all times."

Note Regarding Period of Significance:

The fifty year cutoff was used to end the period of significance. However, the General Beauregard Equestrian Statue continued to have the symbolic value described above well past the fifty year cutoff. In fact, the deification of Southern heroes such as Beauregard and Robert E. Lee has continued to the present.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basso, Hamilton. *Beauregard: The Great Creole*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933.

Beauregard Monument Association, *Beauregard Monument Association; organized in New Orleans, LA., February 21st, 1893: incorporated February 23rd, 1893, to raise funds for the erection of a monument commemorative of General G. T. Beauregard, C .S. A.* New Orleans: n.p., 1917.

Conrad, Glenn R., General Editor. *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography, Volume I: A to M. Lafayette*, LA: Louisiana Historical Association, 1988.

Foster, Gaines M. *Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South*. Oxford University Press, 1987.

New Orleans *Daily Picayune*, May 29, 1908; November 15, 28, 1913; November 12, 1915.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries follow the curb line of the circular plot of land (owned by the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association) upon which the statue stands, said circle being created by the intersection of Wisner Blvd. on the north, LeLong Avenue on the west, Carrollton Avenue on the south, and Esplanade Avenue on the east.

NOTE: The U.S.G.S. topo map incorrectly shows the plot of land upon which the statue stands as being square in shape; its actual shape is that of a circle.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

This plot of land has been directly associated with the General Beauregard Equestrian Statue since the site's dedication, as noted in Part 8.